



**Niagara County Community Services Board**  
**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Date: Monday, September 26, 2022**  
**Time: 6:00 pm**

**LOCATION:** Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Administrative Offices, Shaw Building, Health Department Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 5467 Upper Mountain Road, NY. This meeting was also offered via Webex.

<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
Rosamond Siegwarth, Board President	X	
Burt Marshall, 1 <sup>st</sup> Board VP	X	
Robin Stevens, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Board VP		X
Peter Butera, PhD, Board Member		X
Jaclyn Bieber, Board Member	X-Webex	
Robert Spuller, MSW, Board Member	X-Webex	
Thomas Gerbasi, MD, Board Member		X
Candace Butcher, Board Member		X
Ronald Barstys, PhD, Board Member	X-Webex	
Stephanie Donovan, Board Member		X
Suzanne Diez, Board Member		X
Annette Dobrasz, EdD, Board Member	X-Webex	
Richard Abbott, Board Member	X	
<b><u>Niagara County Mental Health Administration</u></b>		
Laura Kelemen, LCSW-R, NCDMH Director	X	
Myrla Gibbons Doxey, LMFT, NCDMH Deputy Director	X	
Lee Ann Cogar, Confidential Assistant	X	
Cindi Wilkins, Fiscal Administrator		X
Sandra Shawver, Billing Supervisor	X	
Gillian Henry-Game, HCBS Supervisor	X-Webex	
<b><u>Guests</u></b>		

- 1) Rosamond Siegwarth, Board President, called the Community Services Board (CSB) Meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

## 2) The Minutes for the August 8, 2022 meeting were reviewed.

Burt Marshall motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Dr. Annette Dobrasz seconded the motion; the minutes were approved unanimously.

## 3) Membership Committee:

- CSB Membership – We received a new application from Betsy Farkas – Betsy’s application was recommended to the Board by Burt Marshall; Betsy is also well known to Director Kelemen. Betsy is retired from the Child Welfare System, and wishes to stay involved in community mental health. She is currently employed providing telehealth for a private practice. She has spent many years in long-term care and in the foster care/Child Welfare system, and her experience will be an asset to the Board.

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to approve the application as presented, Jaclyn Bieber seconded the motion; the new board member application was approved unanimously.

- Subcommittee Membership – Nothing to report.

## 4) Director’s Report

- **Correspondence was reviewed by Laura Kelemen, Director.**

- **Certificate of Need (CON) and Prior Approval (PAR)**

- **CON-Prior Consult**

- **EzPar**

- **BestSelf** – Deputy Director Gibbons-Doxey reported that BestSelf wishes to establish two satellite clinics in the Lockport School District at Charles Upson Elementary and Emmet Belknap Intermediate Schools. A short PowerPoint presentation was provided to the Board. BestSelf is fiscally viable and has demonstrated a need for these services.

After a brief discussion, the Board tabled the EzPar upon pending receiving more information from BestSelf regarding transportation and supervision concerns, details on how the services will be provided during the summer, and on how crisis situations will be handled.

- **Informational –**

- **Local Service Plan Structure and Timeline for 2022.** Director Kelemen advised NYS has made some changes, moving the deadline to October 31st – We will plan to vote on the Plan during the October CSB Meeting.
- **Recovery Center of Niagara-** Director Kelemen reported the program has been approved by the Behavioral Health Services Advisory Council, and they are working to open the new facility very soon.

- **2021 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Write-Offs** – Presented by Sandra Shawver, Billing Supervisor.

Burt Marshall motioned to approve the 2nd Qtr Write-Offs (Resolution #2022-03) as presented, Dr. Annette Dobrasz seconded the motion; the 2nd Qtr Write-Offs were approved unanimously.

Burt Marshall motioned to approve the 3rd Qtr Write-Offs (Resolution #2022-04) as presented, Dr. Annette Dobrasz seconded the motion; the 3rd Qtr Write-Offs were approved unanimously.

- **2021 HCBS Annual Report** – Presented by Laura Kelemen, Director.
- **2023 Proposed Department Budget** – Presented by Director Laura Kelemen.
- **Corporate Compliance** – Deputy Director Gibbons-Doxey advised there is nothing new to report. We will go over some Corporate Compliance changes during the next meeting.
- **Programs / System Updates, provided by Director Kelemen.**
  - Discussion details from the Opioid Settlement Roundtable – Key Priorities – Director Kelemen reported the County is receiving dollars for very specific funds. These are non-recurring funds. The Legislature feels it is important to ensure the needs for individuals with opioid dependency. During the round table meeting, attendees were broken into groups. We wanted to determine some key items we would like to fund. There were many recommendations from the groups. Some of these recommendations will become priorities in our Local Services Plan. These suggestions included employment and training for individuals in recovery, Narcan training, affordable housing, finding places for someone in recovery to go for entertainment, placing recovery coaches in strategic locations, designing programs for rural support. The next steps are developing a list of recommendations, presenting the suggestions to the Legislature for adoption by resolution, and streamlining a grant application process for funding the identified awards. This information will be provided to the Board for their review and any new suggestions the Board may have.
- **Additional Agenda Items** – No additional items to report.

**5) President's Report – Nothing to report.**

**6) Meeting Adjournment**

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM; Richard Abbott seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned.

***Next CSB Meeting Date: October 17, 2022***