



Niagara County Community Services Board
Minutes (DRAFT)
Regular Meeting
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022
Time: 6:00 pm

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

ATTENDANCE:	PRESENT	EXCUSED
Rosamond Siegwarth, Board President	X	
Burt Marshall, 1 st Board VP	X	
Robin Stevens, 2 nd Board VP		X
Peter Butera, PhD, Board Member	X-DoxyMe	
Jaclyn Bieber, Board Member	X-DoxyMe	
Robert Spuller, MSW, Board Member	X-DoxyMe	
Thomas Gerbasi, MD, Board Member	X	
Candace Butcher, Board Member	X-DoxyMe	
Ronald Barstys, PhD, Board Member		X
Stephanie Donovan, Board Member	X	
Suzanne Diez, Board Member		X
Annette Dobrasz, EdD, Board Member	X-DoxyMe	
Richard Abbott, Board Member	X	
<u>Niagara County Mental Health Administration</u>		
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	
<u>Guests</u>		
Avi Israel, President/CEO, Save the Michaels	X	
Julie Israel, Office Manager, Save the Michaels	X	
Joshua Kellick, Program Director, Save the Michaels	X	
Kim Hubert-Bickel, Residential Reintegration Manager, Save the Michaels	X	
Joe Lapi, Executive Director, Save the Michaels	X	
Jessica Petty, Executive Assistant, Save the Michaels	X	
Matthew Thompson, Program Director, Save the Michaels	X	

- 1) Rosamond Siegwarth, Board President, called the Community Services Board (CSB) Meeting to order at 6:04 PM.** Rose welcomed our newest Community Services Board member Legislator Richard Abbott, and our guests from Save the Michaels of the World.

2) The Minutes for the June 27, 2022 meeting were reviewed.

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

Rose asked members to please review the June 16, 2022 Subcommittee Planning minutes, and asked if anyone had any questions regarding the minutes.

3) Membership Committee:

- CSB Membership – Burt Marshall reported he has a perspective applicant interested in joining the Board in September. Lee Ann will send Burt an application.
- 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**
 - Save the Michaels (STM) – 1A Prior Consult 820 Residential Reintegration Program, 12 male beds in Newfane, NY. Myrla Gibbons-Doxey provided an overview to the Board. The proposed site is located at 2600 William Street, Newfane, NY. This program will provide a community living experience. The program also provides a structured therapeutic environment, providing education, childcare, skill development, and reintegration into the community. The need for this program has been demonstrated, and is fiscally viable.

Avi Israel, President and CEO of Save the Michaels of the World also presented to the Board. Save the Michaels finds people the help they need; no one is ever denied services. Save the Michaels provides a safe environment away from drugs, allowing people to regain respect for themselves and learn skills to re-enter the community. Most present employees are Niagara County residents and no employees are solicited from other facilities or agencies.

Burt Marshall motioned to vote on the CON as presented, Stephanie Donovan seconded the motion; the Prior Consult was approved unanimously.

- **EzPar – None**
- **Informational**
 - The Dale Association – Move of Article 31 Outpatient Mental Health program to 89B River Road, North Tonawanda, NY. Laura Kelemen advised the move is completed, and the operating certificate has been obtained.
- **2021 Department Annual Report** – Presented by Cindi Wilkins, Fiscal Administrator.

Dr. Thomas Gerbasi motioned to vote in support of the 2021 Department Annual Report as presented, Burt Marshall seconded the motion; the Board unanimously supported the 2021 Department Annual Report.

- **Corporate Compliance** – Myrla Gibbons-Doxey, Deputy Director advised there are no new incidents to report. There are many changes coming, and Myrla will be providing updates soon.
- **Programs / System Updates, provided by Director Kelemen.**
 - **Opioid Settlement Fund Planning** – Director Kelemen reported she has had recent conversations with Rebecca Wydysh, Chairman of the Legislature and Kevin Schuler, Public Information Officer. The County will receive approximately \$2,000,000.00 in 2022. Approximately \$1.2 million are in restricted funds. Laura and Myrla would like to provide a round table discussion with stakeholders to identify gaps in services and supports to develop a plan on how the funding may be used to address these gaps. They are currently looking to hold the round table discussion on September 16th.
 - **September Suicide Prevention Month Activities** – Director Kelemen reported, we have revitalized the Suicide Prevention Coalition. We have chosen a new logo that will be unveiled soon. There is a flag raising ceremony planned, and the Legislature will recognize Suicide Prevention month.
 - **Transportation/Rural Niagara Update** – Director Kelemen reported, Mental Health Planning and Public Works worked together to arrange for Rural Metro and NFTA to sit down together for discussions on how to better rural transportation routes. They worked together and developed new routes, linking out to Niagara Falls, North Tonawanda, and Lewiston. Riders are now able to pay one fee, and change buses without being required to pay another fee. A new name is also in the process, changing to “Connect Niagara”. They are also working on enhanced graphics to provide an updated look for the buses. When this change is implemented, we will achieve a long standing goal of the Board.
- **Additional Agenda Items** – No additional items to report.

5) **President’s Report** – Rose advised the next meeting is scheduled for September 19th.

6) **Executive Session -**

Burt Marshall motioned to enter into Executive Session; Stephanie Donovan seconded the motion, the Board entered into Executive Session at 7:37 pm.

Richard Abbott motioned to exit Executive Session; Dr. Thomas Gerbasi seconded the motion, the Board exited Executive Session at 7:52 pm.

7) **Meeting Adjournment**

Burt Marshall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM; Dr. Thomas Gerbasi seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned.

Next CSB Meeting Date: September 19, 2022