



# Stafford Family Services

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**Judy K. Gardner, LMFT** Executive Director

MINUTES – STAFFORD FAMILY SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.

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*Judy K. Gardner*  
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MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Steven Moccio, Lt. Duncan, Judith Mordasky (non-voting today)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Mackenzie Murdock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carol Davis, Cheryl Vail, Mary Mitta – First Selectman

STAFF: Judy Gardner, Brenda Henderson

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. Introductions were made. Mr. Moccio will be representing the Board of Education until a replacement for the Director of Pupil Services is found.

II. The Minutes of the December 5, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved (Duncan, Murdock second).

III. Ms. Henderson presented the third quarter report. There are now 9 contracted per diem clinicians after 3 interns graduated and were hired. There are 5 interns and that number will increase to 7 in September. Ms. Gardner noted that SFS can bill for clients seen by interns if they have Medicaid, United Healthcare, Oxford or Connecticare insurance. 141 new cases have been opened since July, 2019. Private insurance revenues are already at \$20,000 and co-pays collected are \$4,000, both higher than last year. Medicaid revenues are down somewhat and this may be related to more people also being on Medicare and not being able to bill Medicare for services and then you can't bill Medicaid. Lt. Duncan asked how many new clients have substance use involvement and the estimate is about 25 have a substance abuse diagnosis and an additional 25 are using marijuana for sleep or inconsistently so they are not diagnosed with a substance use disorder. Ms. Murdock noted that there is less vaping in the high school.

IV. There were no critical incidents or client grievances to review.

V. Lt. Duncan gave an update on SCADA activities. He reported that there were 6 overdose deaths in Stafford in 2018 and 5 in 2019 but not all were Stafford residents. They are still looking for the main supplier of opiates to people in this area. There is not as many resources focused on marijuana use and arrests but the Police still test for DUI if there is an accident. Lt. Duncan serves on a statewide DUI Committee looking to combat marijuana use while driving and State troopers are being trained by interviewing actual

users that are arrested to assess drug use indicators (eyes, pulse, breathing patterns). Ms. Gardner reported that it is likely that recreational marijuana will be legalized this year and Mr. Moccio noted that the focus is on the revenue that will be generated, not treatment issues. Mr. Henderson asked if a lot of people are being caught on the border buying marijuana in Massachusetts and Lt. Duncan stated that they have not caught many. The Principal at the high school is looking to bring in another speaker for drug use prevention and Lt. Duncan mentioned the Drug Story Theater that came last year but noted that it is not helpful to have the same presentation each year because the students have seen it. Loki tee shirts were given to students at West Stafford and Staffordville and over 2,000 shirts have been distributed in the past 4 years. Ms. Mordasky asked about efforts to have both students and parents attend programs and presentations and both Lt. Duncan and Mr. Moccio noted that many attempts have been made and it is difficult to get the parents to attend.

VI. Ms. Gardner reported that increases in the budget have been requested for additional hours for the APRN and for security cameras. She stated that there will likely be a reduction in funding from DCF for the Youth Services Bureau because the Town of Somers is applying to have their own YSB and Somers' population has been included in the formula to award funds in the past. We are hoping to have the Somers YSB director see clients at SFS under Ms. Gardner's supervision so they can expand their programming. Lt. Duncan noted that other towns should be contacted regarding the services SFS provides for their residents without cost to those towns.

VII. Lt. Duncan reported that there has been increased attention on the domestic violence issue in Stafford as we rank 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State by percentage of population for DV cases. Efforts at the middle and high schools on healthy relationships continue, mostly coordinated by The Network. The new Director, Karen O'Connor, told Lt. Duncan that their DV shelter is full and they are housing families at hotels. Ms. Mordasky noted that DV is a learned behavior and Lt. Duncan reported that they are starting a new program for boys involved in athletics at the high school called "Coaching Boys to Men" to help teach boys to behave in a safe and respectful manner to their partners. They are trying to find a similar program for girls. There were 3 cases of people under the age of 18 charged with DV and the Saturday day shift is when 24% of the incidences that lead to Police involvement occur.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. (Moccio motion, Murdock second).

These Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

  
Judy Gardner