

Community Services Board Meeting Minutes August 19, 2020

Present for Tele-Conference: Rene Snyder, Joe Cevette, Leisa Alger, Ellen Topping, Rosemary Anthony (on the phone), Dr. Michelle Pavillard, Brian Hart

Excused: David Andreine, Lori Murphy, Sean Eagan, Jennifer Emery

Absent: Dr. Mihai Dascalu, Michelle Johnson

Guest: Jeff Eaton., Rebecca Robertshaw

Meeting called to order by Brian. Minutes approved without changes.

Sub-Committee Reports:

➤ **Nomination Committee-** Brian

1. In Jennifer's absence, Brian presented an overview of the responsibilities of the Board, including the process for election, terms of members, and the makeup of the three committees. Brian introduced Rebecca Robertshaw from St. Joseph's Hospital BSU and Jeff Eaton, CEO of Arbor Development, then asked each of them to elaborate on their backgrounds and work experience. There were no questions for either. After being briefly asked to leave the room, Ellen spoke highly of both of them as she has long working history with each. Joe made a motion to approve them as new CSB Board members, and it was seconded by Dr. Pavillard. Motion was unanimously approved before they were welcomed back in the room.

➤ **Developmental Disability-** Leisa

1. **Travel Advisory Impact:** (Who is Essential?) –This topic was discussed at length, but it was more dependent on the services that the agency provided as to how it was being handled. Many of the agencies are requiring staff who travel to quarantine until they have received a negative test result especially considering the vulnerable population we serve.
2. **State Funding Withholds:** OPWDD announced last night and they are going to do 20% withholding for the 4th quarter, and if they have not paid you yet for the 3rd quarter, they will reduce that amount. The withhold may be permanent. Agencies have waited for a while, but now we have to adjust.

➤ **Mental Health Committee-** Brian

1. **Suicide Prevention Walk-** The walk that was postponed to September 26th will be a virtual event that day with individuals encouraged to post positive messages to #chemungsuicideprevention2020

2. **Arnot ER issues:** One local law enforcement agency was reporting that when they are experiencing long delays in handing off mental health pick up ordered individuals, including some two hour delays. Brian has addressed this with the hospital Administration.
3. **Withholds:** In addition to the previous withholds, OMH has asked for a plan to potentiating cut 20% of the full year budget in the 4th quarter. In reviewing the plan with the OMH Field Office it seemed like they believed the LGU would simply through numbers on a piece of paper instead of actually analyzing underspends in programs and trying to minimize impacts where possible as this came to a shock to them.

➤ **Substance Abuse-Brian**

1. **CFR 42 Part 2-** changes took effect last Friday that allows agencies to identify simply the agency instead of also the staff person on a consent form. More importantly, it clarified that if an entity creates in its own documentation information about someone's substance abuse use that is NOT covered by a prohibition of re-disclosure as it would be if they had records from a provider with such information in their records.
2. **Impact of reopening schools:** There was discussion about Trinity just starting to have discussions with the schools about their Prevention programs and how to make them work with the hybrid school plans. In addition, many of the committee members spoke about the concerns they have with regard to potential impact on staff with children trying to arrange for daycare and perhaps not knowing the schedules for their children until the last week. In the CSB this prompted comments about employers not being responsible to solve this issue for their employees as they "can't be the fix", but also recognizing the dilemma it places some employees in who may need to choose family versus employment. Problems also exist with internet and/or hardware issues as not all areas have coverage and not all schools have resources to supply hardware. Brian noted that some districts have plans to create mobile hot spots with their buses.

➤ **Other**

1. Jeff noted that the Association for Community Living has been talking with OMH to inquire about how much PPP funds agencies may have received with the thought that this may be an area that OMH can hold back an equal amount of state funds to offset cuts if need be.

Director's report:

1. **OASAS Withholds:** For several years there has been an underspend of state aid especially in clinic funding, and while OASAS is supposed to reconcile the funds annually, they are many years behind. To complicate matters, last year (2019) they sent an additional \$600,000 in March for (2018) that was not needed nor requested, because OASAS "needed to spend money, and we already had excess." For the remainder of the year, they sent approximately \$260,000 of the 1,000,000 in state aid that should have been allocated for 2019. Fast forward to the present time, when the majority of the state is receiving a 3rd quarter 31% withhold. Chemung is receiving a 22.6% withhold because OASS is sending \$0 for the remainder of the year, and wiping the slate clean in one fail swoop without any reconciliation process. Brian has requested a meeting with Albany to discuss this, as if this is

done, there will be no ability to come back in the future for reconciliation of the previous year's funds, nor will this hold up to acceptable audit practices.

- 2. APS:** After several years of an MOU with the Office for Aging, APS has been brought back under the Children and Family Services Division of DSS. This occurred around the time that the immediate supervisor and a long time caseworker were both retiring. As a result many problems were discovered with documentation and day to day practices that are being quickly modified. It hasn't been an easy process though as OCFS written guidance dates back almost 30 years, but positive strides are being made quickly including with electronic documentation, and right sizing the re-payee services. Several Board members indicated that this was good to hear as they have had less than satisfactory experiences historically.

Next meeting October 21, 2020