

## Community Services Board Meeting Minutes October 21, 2020

**Present for Tele-Conference:** Rene Snyder, Joe Cevette, Leisa Alger, Ellen Topping, Rosemary Anthony, Dr. Michelle Pavillard, David Andreine, Lori Murphy, Sean Eagan, Jennifer Emery, Dr. Mihai Dascalu, Michelle Johnson, Brian Hart

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

### Sub-Committee Reports:

- **Mental Health Committee-** Lori deferred to Brian
  1. **Suicide Prevention Walk-** The virtual walk was held last month and individuals were encouraged to post using the [#chemungsuicideprevention2020](#). About a dozen or so did post n Facebook while walking a “Mile in your Shoes” as instructed either at Eldridge Park or elsewhere, but many more commented on the posting itself and the request to post positive messages in support of suicide prevention.
  2. **Budget withholds (All 3 committees):** While OPWDD was the last of the three state agencies to announce 20% withholds, they have all handed down withholds for both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters, and if the Federal government doesn’t provide a stimulus package after the election, then these will become cuts to state aid. If they do provide it, without an extension it will be virtually impossible to spend the funding in the remainder of the year. With the epidemic worsening, the economy will continue in the same pattern, so agencies should prepare going into to 2021 for continued decreased funding, and the impact it will have on funding. This presents a challenging dilemma in that the message from several state agencies has been to continue to provide 1005 of the services despite only receiving 8-0% of the funding.

This is particularly challenging for individuals served in the OPWDD system as guidance from the state has not been to exclude the cut to housing program as it has been with OMH and OASAS, so the end result could result in making some individuals homeless.
  3. **Possible Merger-** The Commissioners of OMH and OASAS are conducting a listening tour in which individuals are encouraged to provide three minutes of comments with regard to the potential merger of the two organizations. While this has been discussed before as rent as 2015, it is likely due to the financial stress created by the epidemic that if it happens, the low hanging fruit will be to change the name, and find efficiencies in the administrative staff. A much bigger lift that would take several years would be to change Mental Hygiene Laws and align the regulations in addition to address front line union staffing issues if they were to down size staffing.
  4. **Police Reform Reinvention-** In response to the incidents both within the state and across the nation of law enforcement struggles in dealing with individuals with disabilities, the Governor has issued an Executive Order requiring all counties to form a committee to

address reform of the local approaches to these issues, and Brian has been asked to join this committee along with representatives from law enforcement, the DA's Office, community stakeholders and the County Executive.

5. **730 Restorations**- Historically counties have paid 50% of the charges and the state has been less than cooperative in provide updated clinical information to the county for individuals placed in the care of the state for restoration to competency to assist in one's defense. However, this year the responsibility for payment changed to 100% on the county, and recently the state agreed to start sharing an update as to the prognosis of the inmates.
  6. **Regulatory update**- Changes have been made to part 599, and one of which allows for the prescribers progress notes to act as a treatment and treatment plan update, however, OMH is not clear how that will work in an electronic medical record that doesn't distinguish a progress note as such.
  7. **Question**- Has there been an increase in the demand for services? Lori indicated that that there has been on inpatient, and Dr. Dascalu indicated that the residents are very busy in the clinic. However, Jennifer indicated that while productivity is up based on the use of tele-medicine, the number of people being seen has not really changed. Brian indicated that his private practice numbers have doubled. Dr. Pavillard indicated that she has noted a great deal of individuals feeling the impact of stress related to both the pandemic and the pending election.
- **Substance Abuse**-Jennifer
1. **CLMHD Committee**-The Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors is change the name of their substance abuse committee formally to the Addiction Services and Recovery Committee in case you see this in any correspondences.
  2. All other items were covered in discussions above from mental health committee.
- **Developmental Disability**- Leisa
1. **CLMHD Data portal**: Noted that Brian had shared that in a recent presentation by OPWDD to the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors (CLMHD), that after several years of not doing a 5.07 plan, they are joining OMH and OASAS in providing data through the CLMHD portal for planning purposes. This data is based on Medicaid claims and includes total expenditures, recipient totals, gender totals... Brian will inquire if this data will be made available to providers as well as this would be very beneficial to everyone.
  2. **Collaborative discussions**- CLMHD, OMH and OPWDD have agreed to come to the table to begin discussions of how to better collaborate in addressing the needs of individuals with co-occurring issues.
- **Nomination Committee**- Jennifer

3. As noted in the agenda, welcome to Jeff Eaton and Rebecca Robertshaw as both were approved as the newest board members by the County legislature.

**Director's report:**

1. **Former Glove House Property:** Brian has been approached by a representative of American Capital who has purchased this property next to the Social Connection Drop in Center on Church St. to discuss possible use for the 8 bedroom home. They are unsure what population they want to serve, or if they want to pursue formal recognition through a state agency. More discussions to follow.
2. **2021- Being Proactive-** Recognizing that the likelihood that COVID-19 is not going away soon, and therefore will continue to have a significant financial impact on the economy in 2021 at least in to the 1<sup>st</sup> if not the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, what should this board be recommending and/or considering with regard to oversight of the system?

The withholds will likely end up being cuts, as for several services (DOH, OPWDD for example) have not been paid going back to 01/2020), so we should be working with agencies to prepare accordingly in 2021. David had received a correspondence from DOH indicating that they recommend that his organization take out loans with no expectation of assistance to pay them nor the interest accrued back, and that his contact with local political representatives were consistent in their messaging indicating that there is nothing that can be done.

**Prepare for the worst, but hope for something less.**

**Next meeting December 16, 2020**