

# ERIE COUNTY MENTAL HYGIENE COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

February 1, 2024

## COMMUNITY

SERVICES BOARD: Joan Baizer, Max Donatelli, Emma Fabian, Pastor George Nicholas, Stephanie Orlando, Elizabeth Smith, BJ Stasio, Charles Syms, Erica Westphal

GUEST: Amy Rockwood, ECDMH Director of Planning and Evaluation

## MENTAL HEALTH

DEPARTMENT: Mark O'Brien, Shannon Stocker

EXCUSED: Terry Alford, Daniel Antonius, Victoria Brooks, Sharon Cavanaugh, Kathryn Coric, Maya Hu Morabito

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### **Approval of Minutes:**

- January CSB Minutes were approved.

### **MH Commissioner Updates:**

- Given the State investments and the approval of the 1115 Waiver, the next 1-2 years could easily be one of the most consequential for behavioral health in the last 20 years.
- The 1115 Waiver (see slide link below) is for the federal government for CMS (Center of Medicaid / Medicare Services) which is under the Department of Health and Human Services and allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make changes to the Federal Medicaid Program. These changes are always done in a 5-year pilot program, which can be renewed. The request was for 5 years for \$17 billion, that went down to \$13 billion, and what got approved was 3 years for \$6 billion. There can be an extension for at least 2 more years, and possibly beyond. The Waiver allows NYS to do a whole host of things.
  - o The term social determinates of health has changed to health related social needs.
  - o In the original proposal from the State was that they were ideally going to have a Health Equity Regional Organization (HERO). One of the big focuses of this waiver was health equity. There will be one HERO for the whole state, but may have some regional components.
  - o Medicaid Hospital Global Budget Initiative is to rescue disadvantaged hospitals that are in danger of closing and will only be in the NY City region.
  - o Links for the 1115 Waiver:
    - [PowerPoint Presentation \(fingerlakes1115waiver.org\)](https://fingerlakes1115waiver.org)
    - [Everything You Need to Know about New York's Newly-Approved \\$6B Medicaid Waiver — HSG](#)
  - o Value Network was founded as a BHCC (Behavioral Health Care Collaborative), is an IPA (Independent Practice Association) and is more BH driven.
  - o WNYICC (WNY Independent Care Collaborative) is made up of community based organizations and they bill for fee-for-service for community based organizations to provide social services, like home delivered meals, falls prevention, etc.
  - o Value Network and WNYICC are both applying to be the Social Care Network.
- OMH funding highlights. American Rescue Plan funds are drying up and will be clawed back, so the State has entered budget negotiations with an April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to submit a budget.

There is an emphasis on beefing up the behavioral health system across the board. RFPs are out to support these programs.

- The social care networks will ramp up once the RFP gets awarded.
- The RPC (Regional Planning Collaborative) has been getting very strong feedback to continue this group, even after the HERO program starts.
- We continue our work to improve what's going on inside and outside of CPEP. We are looking into another CPEP.
- The Erie County Correction Advisory Board – our representative, Michael Raney, stepped down. We then appointed Julianna Everdyke, but she was categorized as a community appointment, not a MH appointment. So, if anyone is interested or has any recommendations for somebody to sit on that advisory board, related to conditions, services, etc. in the jail, please contact Mark.
- There has been a lot of OMH workforce talk with the Governor's office.

### **Subcommittee Updates:**

- MH Subcommittee (Erica):
  - o Last meeting was January 8<sup>th</sup>. Minutes will be sent out.
  - o Sarah Bonk from ECDMH presented as well as Dave Merlo, Managing Director of Restoration Society.
  - o Next meeting will be March 11<sup>th</sup>. Amy Rockwood from ECDMH will present and will answer some of the questions we have. We will address our priorities at that meeting.
- PASS Subcommittee (Elizabeth):
  - o Last meeting was January 25<sup>th</sup>. Minutes will be sent out.
  - o Passed vote to have Alyssa Hamel join this subcommittee.
  - o Yesterday, another candidate wanted to join this subcommittee, but the bylaws say we can't have more than 9 voting members. We don't want to lose some members, but others are not very active. There could be non-voting members – everyone has a voice, but not everyone has a vote.
  - o Will we be posting subcommittee bios on the ECDMH website, like we have for the CSB? Max feels it would show the quality of the folks who are involved. Having the approved minutes posted would be helpful as well.
  - o Next meeting will be February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- IDD Subcommittee (BJ):
  - o Last meeting was January 18<sup>th</sup>. Minutes will be sent out.
  - o 2:00 – 6:00pm on March 21<sup>st</sup> will be a tabling event.
  - o Next meeting will be March 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Chairperson Update:**

- Vote on Dr. Alyssa Hamel joining the PASSS Subcommittee (formerly known as ASA Subcommittee).
  - o Elizabeth motioned, Pastor George seconded, no one opposed, motion passed.

### **Next Meeting:**

- Thursday, March 7, 2024 @ 9:00am. Sheriff John Garcia will present.
- Pastor George asked if we could discuss the status of our Buffalo Public School students' mental health, especially the African American students. They are in crisis and we need to raise awareness about these issues.

- Max met yesterday with David Rust, from Say Yes, and talked extensively about this issue. Maybe we can have someone come talk to us in an upcoming meeting.
- Mark discussed the SMART Initiative (Schools Mental Health Advocating for Resources Together) that includes Erie 1 and Erie 2 BOCES. There has been a huge outreach to get BPS to the table. It's starting to pay off. Right now, at the table, there are about 100 people, including administrators, teachers, families, community based providers, social workers, the County Executive, the Deputy County Executive, Mark, and the state has been there. This has been the focus of building this system of care. There have been multiple outreaches to the leadership at BPS and they are now just starting to come to these meetings.
- If you have other ideas for speakers or topics you would like us to focus on, please let Max know.