

**ERIE COUNTY MENTAL HYGIENE COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES**

April 4, 2024

COMMUNITY

SERVICES BOARD: Terry Alford, Joan Baizer, Max Donatelli, Maya Hu Morabito, Pastor George Nicholas, Stephanie Orlando, BJ Stasio, Charles Syms

GUEST: Christopher Ramnauth, Veterans Affairs

MENTAL HEALTH

DEPARTMENT: Mark O'Brien, Shannon Stocker

EXCUSED: Daniel Antonius, Victoria Brooks, Sharon Cavanaugh, Kathyne Coric, Emma Fabian, Elizabeth Smith, Erica Westphal

Approval of Minutes:

- March CSB Minutes were approved.

MH Commissioner Updates:

- Resource Center in Dansville will be relocating to Erie County later this year. They are the consultants funded by OPWDD for the CSIDD program (Crisis Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities).
- Opioid funding status – some of the applicants were allowed to submit additional information. They are finalizing their interviews. We re-scored them.
- Erie PATH has around 7.7M hits. This is an app that the County put together. It was initially targeted for kids and families, but we are expanding it to include adults. You can find it at <http://eriepath.erie.gov/> or you can download the app on the Apple App Store or on Android Google Play Store.
- The 1115 Waiver from DOH application response is due tomorrow. This is a \$36M contract which will coordinate a lot of health-related social needs or social determinates of health that will be covered under a Medicaid program but were not previously.
 - o Pastor George added: This roll-out has been disappointing. There is an opportunity to do something impactful here in WNY. Thinking about the needs in the community, if we can't find a pathway to true collaboration so we can maximize our resources for the benefit of the people who need our help, then we will always be behind.
 - o Mark responded saying this is not DISRIP 2.0. The State is driving this, but the County has tried to play a very active role in any way we can. They said health equity is a huge focus here. We 100% agree with what you said. There are no hospitals outside of NYC that will receive any funding. Both organizations applying (WNYICC + Value Network) have said whoever gets it will collaborate with each other. My perspective observing the roll-out has been that there have been a lot of fits and starts. The Federal government did not approve the original plans of the State, so DOH had to come back several times with adjustments. One change was the Health Equity Regional Organization (HERO) is not going to happen now. It's going to be one state-wide thing, just a clearing house, data function, etc. The action will be with the regional social care networks and the managed care organizations.

- Stephanie Orlando said WNYIL is part of Value Network and part of WNYICC. She was part of the meetings where they discussed working together. WNYICC is nationally recognized for building towards social determinants. Value Network and SNAP CAP wanted to start a new company to run something that is meant to do what WNYICC was formed to do. It was unfortunate that Value Network could not see the value in a community-based organization lead network. That is all her personal opinion.
- Mark replied that the County does not have a vote in this; this will be a State RFP. The MH Departments are not listed as potential board members of the social care networks. The Health Departments are, but not the MH Departments. We fought against that huge oversight.
- Mark has had informal conversations with the CEO of Kaleida encouraging them to look at RFPs that are out re: CPEPs. They do not have the footprint right now but they said they will take a look at it. Mark had a more formal conversation with the leadership of Catholic Health System. They said they are undertaking a strategic planning process, and they are looking into creating a CPEP down the road.
- Jane Mogavero, who is the Executive Director of the Patrick Lee Foundation and is on the workgroup Mark pulled together about the Crisis Continuum, said they are going to fund a couple of consultants to do data collection, interviewing different stakeholders around envisioning for the future, etc. Mark suggested to her that it would be an oversight if they didn't get a couple members of this group to be part of the interview process. One of the consultants will be Mike Hogan, former NYS MH Commissioner. They are pulling together a list of names, so whoever from this group would like to be interviewed or put their suggestions in, let Mark know so he can give Jane your email address. Stephanie nominated Kevin Smith to be interviewed. CSB volunteers are Pastor George, Stephanie, Max, and Maya. Mark also suggested to Jane Kelly Dumas who is trying to put together a network of clinicians of color, since we don't want those voices missed.

Chairperson Update:

- Amy Rockwood from ECDMH was going to discuss the Priorities to align them with the Local Services Plan, but she was unable to attend today's meeting. Max discussed with Amy having some sort of a Priority tracking system to document current statuses. What topics would be important to track?
 - BJ said staffing, housing, and accessible transportation (like para and public transit), which are digressing again. The NFTA could provide information on how many people have applied for and use MetGo.
 - Stephanie mentioned it would be helpful to monitor integrated housing and where it is in relation to public transportation to see where the gaps are. We could develop accessible housing where accessible transportation is available. The Rochester Independent Living Center did some type of study around it, but Stephanie does not have details of how they tracked this information. We could just look at where the MH, OPWDD, etc. housing we know of are, then see where they are in relation to the transportation lines.
 - Max said we could probably use self-reports to track the workforce through the DAWNY, MH, and alcohol and drug prevention agencies because they all are reporting workforce challenges.
 - Pastor George talked about significant needs the Buffalo schools have, not exclusively, but especially in black and brown children, related to MH issues. He is pretty certain we do not have the ample support systems in place within the schools to address these prevalent issues. He believes the scope of the problem is more significant than the good people who are doing a lot of good work. He is concerned about behavioral problems

that are often tied to MH and social dynamics, that are related to their life experiences, that make it exceedingly difficult to function in the academic environment. A lot of these kids have not only academic issues, but social and emotional issues, and there has to be a better way to connect these children and families to the services that they need.

- Mark added that the Buffalo Public School Board has been advertising for and holding listening sessions. Mark, the Chief of Police, and the transportation coordinator attended one last week at Peaceprints on East Delavan, but it was not well attended by community folks. We hope to get a better turnout in the future.
- Mark also said that BPS is now at the table for the SMART Initiative (Supporting MH and Advocating for Resources Together). This is all about making schools a hub to bring all these resources together. The Senior County Executive, the Deputy County Executive, Mark, our Children's Services, OMH, Erie 1 and Erie 2 BOCES Superintendent, a number of other Superintendents, teachers, front-line people, and front-line people from the community-based organizations are all there. It is a really good place to have these conversations, and they are happening.
- Pastor George said there are a couple reasons they are not well attended. One reason is, he feels we have to be really intentional about our community engagement, for example, just a couple of weeks ago, we had 450 people at a meeting with Dr. Henry Taylor about how to fix the East Side and the housing issues. We made sure that people knew about the event and that it is their event, not an event for someone else. It is helpful to have their full participation in the creation, location, speaker choices, etc. for the events.
- Joan added that she was on the BPS SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) for many years. There are 2 major obstacles for interested and motivated parents to get to such meetings: transportation and childcare.
- Max asked Pastor George, who has had discussions with David Rust from Say Yes, if it would be helpful to have David come to one of our meetings to discuss some of the issues and challenges to see what might be helpful to move forward. Pastor George agreed and said it also might be helpful to invite some of David's Navigators who are working in the schools, and maybe even ECIDA (Erie County Industrial Development Agency), who give out money each year. Let's look at why so many people need so many services and why it is so hard for them to get access to them.

Subcommittee Updates:

- MH Subcommittee (Erica):
 - Last meeting was March 11th. Minutes will be sent out.
 - Next meeting will be May 13th.
- IDD Subcommittee (BJ):
 - Last meeting was March 28th (rescheduled from March 21st). Minutes will be sent out.
 - Next meeting will be May 16th.
- PASS Subcommittee (Elizabeth):
 - Last meeting was March 28th. Minutes will be sent out.
 - Next meeting will be April 25th.

Next Meeting:

- Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ 9:00am.
 - o BJ present at May's meeting. He will be joined by the Institute for Exceptional Care, who has a National Roadmap for people with IDD to get the healthcare they need.
 - o Max will connect with Pastor George to see if we can get David Rust from Say Yes and Navigators to attend June's meeting.
 - o Max will also be working with Amy Rockwood from ECDMH to try to identify some things that we can have on a dashboard to look at the major issues our County faces in order to make recommendations for our Priorities.