

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

June 6, 2024

COMMUNITY

SERVICES BOARD: Daniel Antonius, Victoria Brooks, Max Donatelli, Emma Fabian, Maya Hu Morabito, Stephanie Orlando, Elizabeth Smith, BJ Stasio, Charles Syms

GUEST: Christopher Ramnauth, Veterans Affairs
Amy Rockwood, ECDMH Director of Planning and Evaluation

MENTAL HEALTH

DEPARTMENT: Mark O'Brien, Theresa Maggione, Shannon Stocker

EXCUSED: Terry Alford, Joan Baizer, Sharon Cavanaugh, Kathryne Coric, Pastor George Nicholas, Erica Westphal

Approval of Minutes:

- May CSB Minutes were approved.

MH Commissioner Updates:

- Crisis Stabilization Center from BestSelf probably won't be seen until next year. They are waiting on the DASNY funds, that's the Dormitory Authority of the State of NY, then they can start doing their construction. They had the OMH funds and approval. We hoped to see it this year, but I don't see it happening until March of next year.
- We had our Leadership Meeting yesterday. DePaul has a lot of news:
 - o 150 new Pan-American Apartments, 3 buildings of 50, are being constructed by Delaware and Hertle. A small amount of that is for SUD, some is for mixed use, for anybody, and some of it is for MH folks. They will be a great addition, expected probably around March of next year.
 - o Their McKinley Square SRO (Single Room Occupancy) facility on Main Street in North Buffalo, used to be called Bridgewell. Once those folks move out, they will level that facility to the ground and build a new facility with 80 new beds.
 - o They've just been awarded 14 transitional beds, these are up to 90 days that somebody can stay there, over on Genesee Street in Cheektowaga.
 - o That's all coming in the next year.
- OMH is convening regional meetings across the state to better connect hospitals, not just CPEPs for example, but mostly EDs and particularly inpatients, with community providers, not just from the hospital out to the community, but also from the community to the hospital. These have been issues for a long time. For purposes of our region, the hospitals identified are Niagara Falls Memorial, ECMC, and BryLin. OMH just met with the DCSs (directors and commissioners of MH and the local counties). Yesterday, they met with just the hospitals, then they will put together stakeholder stuff. For our region, this may be tied to the RPCs. Lynda Battaglia, Genesee County's DCS, is taking over as co-chair with the idea of eventually replacing me as chair as I transition out of that from the RPC. We still have a very active group meeting with CPEP. There is a lot of good progress being made.
- The Crisis Continuum had the consultants come in and meet in terms of tying together messages to providers, getting everybody on the same page, a triage tool, and how to get the same message to folks and then take that out to the public.

- We're meeting next week to try to revise the Ambulance Diversion group that was going on. We will have the Medical Director from Buffalo Fire Department, the Medical Director at AMR, plus other key stakeholders. They are all tying back to the same plan of tying the positions together better.
- No real new news in terms of the 1115 Waiver. As of yesterday, the Social Care Network applicant has not been selected. WNYIAC and SNAPCAP / ValueNetwork are the two major applicants in this area. Our belief is, in the next 30 days, somebody will hear something. We will keep you posted.
- The PUNT Foundation, founded by Brian Morman, the former Buffalo Bills punter, who's main mission is a grief center for pediatric cancer, has expanded their mission, and have received \$500k from Assemblyman Monica Wallace to found a grief center. This would be based on the Dougy Center, which is a national best practice for grief. It can be anything from pediatric cancer, losing your child, to the shooting that happened, any loss due to violence. They have a site identified in Lancaster, a former day care center. They don't have the money to buy or lease the building. They are hoping to get that, but they have funding now for 3 years' worth of staffing of it. There will be no charge for anything. I've had a lot of conversations with them, and my hope is that they will get this up and running out there and then, once they get their feet on the ground, they can satellite something in Buffalo where it's more convenient for other folks.
- The DSS Commissioner, Marie Cannon, is leaving her job. She recently got her doctorate, and she has been hired as a CEO of WNY CAO (Community Action Organization). Her position will be posted very shortly. There are two First Deputy Commissioners, and I would expect that at least Karen Rybicki will throw her hat in. It is the biggest department in the County, both budget-wise and expansion-wise. Marie has done a commendable job.
- My position will likely be posted in September. My final day will be January 31st.
- We have a lot of new CSB members over the last year or so, and Jed Wolkenbreit is the Attorney for the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors. He is probably going to retire early next year. There is nobody more knowledgeable about CSBs or DCSs. He worked with and for the State Legislature. A lot of the regulations that were created back in the day, he wrote, so there is a manual for CSBs. There's actually a manual being revised for DCSs. So, we've arranged for him to do a training in November. My suggestion is we make this meeting 1½ hours long, so we can conduct CSB business on top of that.
- \$4.4 M of the \$6 M RFP money from the Opioid Settlement Task Force has been awarded and approval of those contracts are going to the legislature today and we don't anticipate any issues. So, the organizations that have been awarded funding (about 12 of them) have already been contacted. Those recipients will be made public by the Health Dept.

Chairperson Update:

- My term as CSB Chair ends today. (Max is staying on the Board but stepping down as Chair.) I came in at an interim period when I started. The normal annual meeting is in January. We will be able to get more information from Jed in November, and that will be very helpful.
 - o I would like to nominate Stephanie Orlando to replace me as Chair. I've already talked with BJ, who would like to remain as Vice Chair with the idea of eventually taking on the Chair position at some point in the future. As far as voting, there was no announcement ahead of time, but I talked to people informally about it. I have known Stephanie for many years, and I really think she will do a really good job taking over the Chair position. We could do the vote today or at our September meeting. If there is anybody else interested in taking over the Chair position, please provide feedback.
 - o Mark added that the Bylaws allow for a maximum of four 1-year terms at the annual meeting. So, Max, your original term was a part of somebody else's term. So, what you are effectively doing is stepping down and allowing somebody else to finish this term,

- which allows for an election. Normally, under the bylaws, it would be the Vice Chair who would step into that role, unless the Vice Chair declines, which BJ is doing. Basically, we will have a vacancy after today if nobody else is elected, which is not a problem, but when it comes to organizing the September meeting, the question is, who does it.
- Stephanie said she really appreciates this opportunity and looks forward to working with everyone if that's what you would like, and I would be able to step in whenever people are comfortable. I am open to whatever the group would like and feels comfortable with.
 - Max asked if anyone is opposed to doing the election now, only because it would allow me to help prepare Stephanie and work with her to run with BJ to be able to do the transition prior to September. It would allow Stephanie to take over and do the agenda starting in September, along with BJ, Mark, and Shannon.
 - Max called for nominations from the floor. Stephanie nominated herself, Maya seconded. No discussion. Max asked for a vote to have Stephanie Orlando succeed Max as Chair starting in September. No one opposed or abstained.
 - Stephanie is officially Chair starting in September.
 - Max and Stephanie were part of a group in Albany, the Commissioner's Advisory Panel for Special Education. Max was able to help get Stephanie on as a former student in special education. She served in that capacity until after he left. That's where Max first got to know Stephanie. He is excited to be able to continue working with her. He has seen her leadership style grow and he is very confident that she will do a great job.
 - Mark offered his assistance in any way he can as well.
 - Stephanie added that she has been in advisory roles to the government for most of her life, since she started as a teenager. She always really believes in hearing from people and being open. She hopes everyone finds her approachable and if you have ideas, or have things you want to bring to the table, she feels open to it.
- A process is going to have to take place to develop a Dashboard. Max asked Mark to frame the direction he would like to go in for this process. Mark said he will invite Amy to speak freely on it. We work closely with CCNY (Community Connections of NY), and Amy has worked very closely with them on the Erie PATH App. They may have capabilities from a technical aspect, with development of that, as well as looking at the key indicators that would not only be helpful to the CSB, but to the department, which is the ultimate consumer here, to do its job, oversee what we do in the 3 functional areas, as well as in the local services plan.
- Amy added that she is hoping that whatever dashboard we decide to develop, it uses metrics that we actually have access to the data points for. She is looking at this from a very practical way and hoping it can be useful not only to the CSB, but to the department, so we can keep track of what we are supposed to be working on, according to the Local Services Plan.
 - Max forwarded to Amy the ideas (below) from the MH Subcommittee that Erica passed on. The development of each of the three Subcommittees' priorities should be a way to see what the key indicators could be. We would like to have some useful information that we can look at on a somewhat regular basis. Hopefully this will help us see where gaps in services are, where things are regressing rather than progressing, and those kinds of things.
 - Elizabeth, the PASS Subcommittee has started to identify some of the areas that you see as key indicators, correct?
 - Elizabeth replied saying yes, they have prioritized the opioid overdoses and death rates as one of the priorities.
 - BJ, with the IDD Subcommittee, we've started to identify some of those issues as well, right?
 - BJ replied, yes.

- Please feed that information to Amy and copy Stephanie and BJ as well.
- Stephanie asked how the Subcommittee interfaces with the Opioid Taskforce. How much overlap is there and how are we communicating?
 - Elizabeth answered that they do communicate, and Cheryl Moore is bringing a lot of data to the Subcommittee, but we also have active participants in the Subcommittee who attend the County Task Force Meetings as well. We try to bring a report from those Opiate Taskforce Meetings.
- Amy will go through Erica's email and be able to say what data we do or do not have, the likelihood, and the frequency. If the other groups want to do the same, to get a sense of what they would like to look at on the Dashboard, it's a way to start. It can be adjusted over time. Amy won't get to start on this until July, after the Local Services Plan is done.
- Max added that in the future, the Dashboard will eventually be helpful in being able to highlight the areas of the Local Services Plan that are being worked on on a regular basis. Thank you, Amy, for all the work that you're doing on that.
- Max, Pastor George Nicolas, CEO at Buffalo Center for Health Equity, and Kelly Wofford, Erie County Director of Health Equity, had a conversation about some of the unique issues on the East Side, multi-generational as well as the more specific Tops shooting, and the state of mental health on the East Side. Max is going to see if Pastor Nicholas would like to set up an ad hoc meeting for this. As Max moves away from his position, he is going to work with Pastor Nicholas, Kelly, and whoever else might be interested.

Subcommittee Updates:

- MH Subcommittee (Erica):
 - Last meeting was May 13th. Minutes will be sent out.
 - Next meeting will be July 8th.
 - Erica could not attend the meeting, but provided this information beforehand:

I'll save my update on Deanna Schaumloeffel's presentation on diversion services for our next CSB meeting. The group had quite a few questions/comments which are grouped by priority below:

Crisis Response, Diversion, and Community Awareness of Services:

- How many 988 calls result in a higher level of care?
- Do we have measures on the community's awareness of services?
 - Are there measures on how many people reach crisis care who were actively connected to services in the community?
- Is there data on repeat admission(s) to CPEP to help assess whether community supports were effective?
- Do we have information on referral sources, i.e., if we can show that there are new referral sources or more diverse referral sources we can use this a surrogate measure for awareness.
 - The Kirsten Vincent Respite Center captures whether they've seen the individual before so they can assess how many new people they're serving.

Workforce:

- Do we have demographic data on the workforce by program to look at whether the diversity of the agency reflects the diversity of the population being served?

- Is there data on the length of time of vacancies?

Housing:

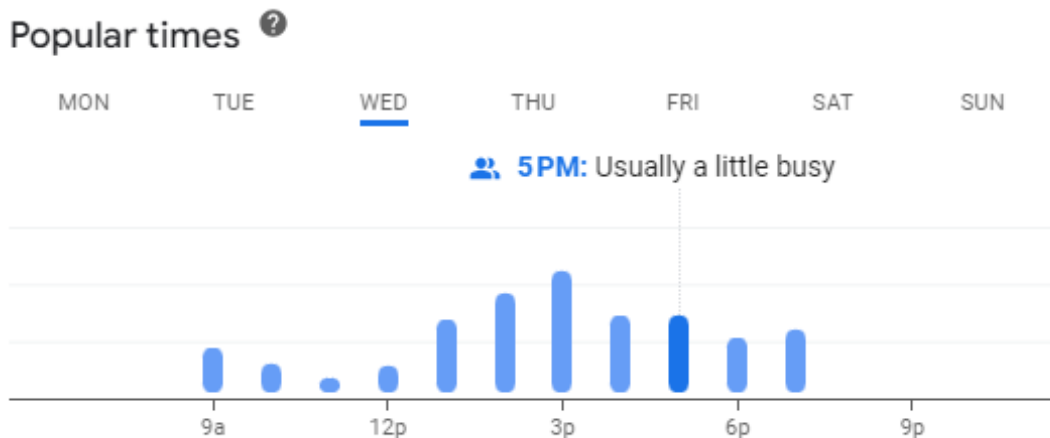
- Because this is such large topic, we plan to ask Christine Slocum to join our July meeting to get a better understanding of the available data.

General:

- A suggestion to evaluate what services are receiving funding to determine whether we're optimizing funds. Are we funding duplicate services?
- The Subcommittee requested a better understanding of the data available in ClearPoint for each of the top priorities, crisis response, workforce, and housing.

Loosely related, but there was also a suggestion that CPEP have a resource that shows wait times/how busy they are similar to Google and Kaleida's capabilities (screen shots below).

To say that I'm disappointed to miss the discussion on data/metrics is an understatement. I hope it's a productive conversation and I'm sorry I'm not able to contribute more meaningfully.



Our Hospitals

Providing quality health care from Western New York to Upper North West Pennsylvania. Our hospitals are here to serve your health care needs.

				
ER WAIT 60+ mins	ER WAIT 5 mins	ER WAIT 51 mins	ER WAIT 38 mins	ER WAIT 38 mins
Buffalo General Medical Center/Gates Vascular Institute	DeGraff Medical Park	John R. Oishei Children's Hospital	Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital	Bradford Regional Medical Center/Olean General Hospital

- IDD Subcommittee (BJ):
 - o Last meeting was May 16th. Minutes will be sent out.
 - o We are in the midst of 507 updates. I've been crisscrossing the state in my new position with OPWDD, in the Office of Peer Specialists. One of the things that continues to come up is the workforce crisis and the mandation of staff. Of course there was no answer given, just listening and submitting written testimony. One of the things they said was they are working with NADSP (National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals) to get people credentialed. Getting more money doesn't fix the mandation problem. The Commissioner said they are onboarding more staff, but it's not going well, and we need to do better.
 - o A lot of parents testified on something new that they would like to see – Spell to Speak. They want OPWDD to accept it as a reimbursable line in self-direction. OPWDD said there wasn't enough research to warrant it, so parents provided the research. So, hopefully they will change it.
 - o Today is our regional conference in Rochester. BJ and Max will be there tomorrow presenting The Art of Advocacy.
 - o OPWDD Commissioner Kerri Neifeld is leaving at the end of June. Willow Baer will be the Acting Commissioner until she is confirmed as the Commissioner.
 - o We are looking at doing an evaluation of self-direction because that is the direction that they really want to go for OPWDD services. They are still looking at the option of managed care and what that might look like.
 - o Next meeting will be July 18th.

- PASS Subcommittee (Elizabeth):
 - o Last meeting was April 25th. (May 23rd meeting was cancelled.) Minutes will be sent out.
 - o At the May meeting, they were going to discuss the State of the County Address.
 - o Next meeting will be June 27th.

Next Meeting:

- Max thanked everyone for allowing him to serve as Chair of this Advisory Board. He appreciates all the support he has gotten from Mark, Shannon, and all of you as leaders in your respective areas. He feels that we have accomplished quite a bit over the last several years. He appreciates everyone's contributions to it.
- Mark thanked Max for doing a great job and thanked him for the knowledge and wisdom he has brought to this position as well as the dedication and passion for it.
- Thursday, September 5, 2024 @ 9:00am.