

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

March 5, 2026  
Webex, 9:00am – 10:00am

COMMUNITY

SERVICES BOARD: Terry Alford, Esther Annan, Daniel Antonius, Victoria Brooks, Max Donatelli (Secretary), Jane Mogavero, Pastor George Nicholas, Stephanie Orlando (Chair), Elda Pichardo, Elizabeth Smith, BJ Stasio (Vice Chair)

MENTAL HEALTH

DEPARTMENT: Sarah Bonk, Shannon Stocker

EXCUSED: Christopher Ramnauth

ABSENT: Sharon Cavanaugh, Emma Fabian, Charles Syms

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes  
(a majority of the members of the Board)

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**Approval of Minutes:**

- February Minutes were approved. Motion made by Max Donatelli, seconded by Victoria Brooks, all in favor.

**Subcommittee Updates:**

- MH Subcommittee (Jane):
  - o The last meeting was held on January 12. Minutes will be distributed.
  - o Workforce concerns remain a priority.
  - o Jane will inform CSB members if presenters will be attending future meetings so CSB members may join if interested.
  - o Next meeting: March 9
- PASS Subcommittee (Elizabeth):
  - o The last meeting was held on February 26; quorum was not met. Approval of the September, January, and February minutes will occur at the next meeting, after which minutes will be distributed.
  - o Transportation concerns with MAS were discussed.
  - o Workforce challenges continue to impact hiring.
  - o Three individuals have expressed interest in participating in the Town Hall.
  - o The CSB is formalizing next steps. Sarah will discuss collaboration with Matt Smith from the Anti-Stigma Coalition. Board members are asked to provide input on desired focus areas.
  - o Next meeting: March 26
- I/DD Subcommittee (Max):
  - o The last meeting was held on February 19. Minutes will be distributed.
  - o Membership updates were reviewed.
  - o Whole Person Supports continues to facilitate access to services across DOH, DMH, and the Department of Education.
  - o Next meeting: March 19

### **Department Updates:**

- The County will not contract with Save the Michaels of the World (STM) for the 2026 fiscal year. Efforts are underway to ensure continuity of care for individuals previously served.
- Approximately 30 cases were being facilitated by STM.
- STM did not provide direct treatment; its role was non-medical transportation and related supports.
- OASAS is coordinating with Value Network and MAS will assume transportation responsibilities.
- WNYIL MH Peer Connection currently provides non-medical transportation and is interested in responding to a future RFP.
- The 2027 budget remains unchanged.
- The Department continues refining contractual processes.
- Collaboration with the Anti-Stigma Coalition will support resilience-focused community education.
- The County remains concerned regarding disparities in AOT orders among young Black males and forensic system challenges.
- Board members requested data forecasting impacts of budget reductions.
- Sarah indicated federal funding details from the State Aid Letter can be provided.
- Interest was expressed in using ClearPoint data to illustrate program impacts.
- Christine Slocum has been named as the ECDMH Assistant Commissioner and will attend an upcoming meeting.
- A subcommittee will plan the Town Hall: Max Donatelli, Pastor George Nicholas, Sarah Bonk, Katie Walsh. Shannon will schedule.

### **Chairperson Updates:**

- Updates were shared regarding federal investigations into the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP), the contracting decision involving Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL), and Medicaid fraud concerns.

### **Miscellaneous:**

- No additional items discussed.

### **Next Meeting:**

- Thursday, April 2, 2026, from 9:00-10:00am.