

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

April 2, 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, Christopher Ramnauth, Elizabeth Smith, Charles Syms

MENTAL HEALTH

DEPARTMENT: Sarah Bonk, Shannon Stocker

GUEST: Christine Slocum, ECDMH Assistant Commissioner

EXCUSED: Sharon Cavanaugh

ABSENT: Emma Fabian, BJ Stasio (Vice Chair)

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

Approval of Minutes:

- March Minutes were approved. Motion made by Max Donatelli, seconded by Jane Mogavero, all in favor, Charles Syms abstained since he was not at the March meeting, no discussion, approved.

Introductions:

- Christine Slocum was introduced as the new ECDMH Assistant Commissioner.

Subcommittee Updates:

- MH Subcommittee (Jane):
 - o The last meeting was held on March 9. Minutes will be distributed.
 - o Finalized priorities and set goals will be email to CSB members. Feedback is welcomed.
 - o Next meeting: May 11
- PASS Subcommittee (Elizabeth):
 - o The last meeting was held on March 26. September and January minutes were approved and will be distributed. February meeting did not meet quorum, so no minutes were taken.
 - o Priorities were reviewed.
 - o Jason Meurlin, Data Analyst with Erie County Department of Health, presented County data on overdose / substance use trends.
 - o Ongoing discussion re: transportation, particularly with Save the Michaels and MAS.
 - o Next meeting: April 23
- I/DD Subcommittee (Max):
 - o The last meeting was held on March 19. Minutes will be distributed.
 - o Discussed legislative issues, targeted inflationary increase, early intervention funding, the ombudsman bill, housing, and community provider incentives.
 - o Anti-Stigma Coalition will host a Facebook Live on Autism (April 23).

- Self-Advocacy Association of NYS Conference on June 25.
- Next meeting: May 21

Department Updates:

- Town Hall Subcommittee meeting has been scheduled.
- Sarah will attend Anti-Stigma Coalition meetings.
- Christine Slocum will be heavily involved in the Local Services Planning Process.
- No updates for the Budget.
- 2027 anticipated federal government updates received and will be sent out next week.
- Meeting is scheduled with State Commissioner of MH regarding the competency restoration payment process (730 individuals).
- Erie County Comptroller's office will audit ECDMH and 11 organizations.
- ECDMH aims to support individuals who do not yet require Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) / court mandated treatment by ensuring organizations collaborate to prevent unnecessary use of CPEP and Crisis Services, and by aligning contracts to reduce reliance on higher-level care.
 - The State increased their investment in AOT and their policies are explicitly to enhance the use of Enhanced Voluntary Agreements (EVA), which is support without the legal processes. Efforts for the Intensive and Sustained Engagement Team (INSET) model and EVA may be aligned with each other.
- The federal government is looking to defund ECDMH's 527 HUD federally funded permanent supportive housing beds. Court ruling was that current grants will need to be renewed, however, HUD is signaling that there will be a significant diminishment of these programs.

Chairperson Updates:

- Value Network working to facilitate funding another means of mostly non-medical transportation with Uber Health through Find Help.

Miscellaneous:

- Jane Mogavero will moderate a webinar April 8 at 12pm focusing on the behavioral health crisis response workforce. Panelists are authors of a Think Bigger Do Good Policy Series paper. More info can be found at <https://thinkbiggerdoood.org/webinars/>.

Next Meeting:

- Thursday, May 7, 2026, from 9:00-10:00am.