

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

May 7, 2026  
Webex, 9:00am – 10:00am

COMMUNITY

SERVICES BOARD: Terry Alford, Daniel Antonius, Victoria Brooks, Max Donatelli (Secretary), Emma Fabian, Pastor George Nicholas, Stephanie Orlando (Chair), Christopher Ramnauth, Elizabeth Smith, BJ Stasio (Vice Chair), Charles Syms

MENTAL HEALTH

DEPARTMENT: Sarah Bonk, Christine Slocum, Theresa Maggione

EXCUSED: Esther Annan, Jane Mogavero, Shannon Stocker

ABSENT: Sharon Cavanaugh, Elda Pichardo

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

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**Approval of Minutes:**

- April Minutes were approved. Motion made by Max Donatelli, seconded by Dr. Antonius, all in favor, no discussion, approved.

**Subcommittee Updates:**

- MH Subcommittee (Jane's email):
  - o Last meeting was held on March 9. Minutes will be distributed.
  - o Discussed learning opportunities - with a focus on crisis response (BestResponse), workforce, equity, and the "town halls" that the CSB is coordinating.
  - o Next meeting: May 11
  
- PASS Subcommittee (Elizabeth):
  - o Last meeting was held on April 23. Minutes will be distributed.
    - Working to fill a vacancy and exploring an increase in membership above nine to improve quorum attendance.
      - A proposal must be approved by the CSB at the Annual Meeting in January and then by the County Executive. Additional individuals may participate as non-voting guests in the interim.
  - o CSB Bylaws need updating to reflect this Subcommittee's name change (as well as the I/DD Subcommittee's).
  - o Discussed ongoing transportation issues and workforce.
  - o Next meeting: May 28. Christine Slocum will join them.
  
- I/DD Subcommittee (BJ and Max):
  - o Last meeting was held on March 19. Minutes will be distributed.
  - o State budget had not yet passed at the time of the meeting.
  - o Housing / Affordable housing is still an issue.
  - o Noted passage of legislation recognizing Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day in NYS for April 29, 2026.
  - o Next meeting: May 21

### **Department Updates:**

- Governor Hochul is announcing passage of the State budget right now.
- An update will be distributed regarding recent federal Health and Human Services (HHS) guidelines, over prescribing of psychiatric medication, with specific CPT codes for nutritional assistance, and other alternative billable options that could be used as opposed to psychiatric medication.
- Efforts continue to improve coordination among CPEP, Social Services, and Mental Health systems, particularly for youth services, including enhanced data sharing and cross-system collaboration to improve coordination of care. Challenges persist due to misunderstandings about CPEP's capabilities and appropriate use. CPEP safety protocols continue to require improvement.
- There are two conversations going on regarding beds under DSS:
  - Work continues with DSS and legal partners to address service gaps, improve information sharing, and better support youth cycling through multiple systems. Not all the teams have had access to the Welfare Management System (WMS), so not all information is shared at a care coordination capacity.
  - Efforts are also focused on maintaining housing stability for HUD-supported individuals to prevent higher-cost DSS involvement.
- Contracting timelines are being adjusted to complete contracts by the start of the calendar year.
- Residential service planning continues amid evolving HUD and SAMHSA guidance. Additional information is expected following the release of HUD funding opportunities, expected on June 1.
- Sarah attended the CSB's Town Hall Subcommittee and the Anti-Stigma Coalition (ASC) meetings and is exploring alternative approaches for Town Hall development.

### **Chairperson Updates:**

- Stephanie attended the State of the County Address and noted that mental health received limited mention beyond acknowledgment of future challenges and the County's preparedness.

### **Open Forum:**

- Crisis to Care Consortium continues outreach efforts and would benefit from additional support.
- WNYIL is advocating for facilitator legislation related to the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP), so Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL) are not allowed to be their own facilitator.
- WNYIL continues discussions with OASAS regarding transportation. Additional State Opioid Response Grant funding was received, including increased support for Uber Health transportation and community-based partners.

### **Next Meeting:**

- Thursday, June 4, 2026, from 9:00-10:00am.