

ERIE COUNTY MENTAL HYGIENE COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

June 4, 2026
Webex, 9:00am – 10:00am

COMMUNITY

SERVICES BOARD: Victoria Brooks, Sharon Cavanaugh, Max Donatelli (Secretary), Emma Fabian, Jane Mogavero, Pastor George Nicholas, Stephanie Orlando (Chair), Elda Pichardo, Elizabeth Smith

MENTAL HEALTH

DEPARTMENT: Sarah Bonk, Christine Slocum, Shannon Stocker

EXCUSED: Terry Alford, Daniel Antonius, Christopher Ramnauth, BJ Stasio (Vice Chair)

ABSENT: Esther Annan, Charles Syms

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

(a majority of the members of the Board)

Approval of Minutes:

- May Minutes were approved. Motion made by Max, seconded by Elda, all in favor, no discussion, approved.

Subcommittee Updates:

- MH Subcommittee (Jane):
 - o Last meeting was held on May 11. Minutes will be distributed.
 - o ECDMH Assistant Commissioner Christine Slocum attended.
 - o Upcoming presentations: Dr. Kim, Assistant Professor at UB School of Social Work, on workforce and BestResponse on their services. CSB members are welcome to attend.
 - o Next meeting: July 13.
- PASS Subcommittee (Elizabeth):
 - o Last meeting was held on May 28. Minutes will be distributed.
 - o Assistant Commissioner Christine Slocum attended.
 - o Discussed our top priority of overdose deaths and that deaths are decreasing but use doesn't seem to be decreasing.
 - o Other priorities discussed are:
 - Polysubstance use
 - Managing MH crisis with polysubstance use
 - Treatment access
 - Workforce issues
 - Internships and clinical experiences
 - Medical transportation issues we are still experiencing, including unethical practices that continue to happen during transportation and the pure volume of rides needed.
 - o Next meeting: June 25.

- I/DD Subcommittee (Max):
 - Last meeting was held on May 21. Minutes will be distributed.
 - Requesting appointment of Thomas Ess to the Subcommittee.
 - Discussed support needs for individuals with complex needs in the IDD system.
 - Priorities reviewed; biggest ones are Medicaid certifications and housing issues.
 - Sarah reported that Medicaid recertification concerns have been elevated to the County Executive's Office. DMH and DSS are exploring data-sharing options to streamline the recertification process and reduce the need for in-person visits.
 - Next meeting: July 16.

Department Updates:

- Christine reviewed HUD Continuum of Care priorities outlined in the recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), noting potential impacts on homeless services.
- CPEP is experiencing increased volume related to 9.41 referrals, substance use (particularly stimulants), rising alcohol use, and limited rehab access. We continue to strengthen interagency collaboration in hopes to decrease volume.
- DMH is shifting our internal RFP deadlines.
- Efforts continue to improve the children's system of care, including collaboration with DSS to enhance youth detention services.
- Adult forensics continues to be a large catchment pool for our co-occurring population (IDD, substance use, and MH). DMH is working with NYS OMH Division of Forensics to expand community restoration options, provide pre-restoration education in jails, and improve connections to community-based services to get folks out of jail faster.

Chairperson Updates:

- Max made a motion to the floor, from the Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Subcommittee, to vote on a new member, Thomas Ess, to join the I/DD Subcommittee. Since the resume was sent out and we have a motion from the I/DD Subcommittee, we don't need a second. All in favor, no one opposed, no abstentions, motion passed.
- The Board is exploring a return to in-person or hybrid meetings, potentially beginning with the September meeting.

Next Meeting:

- Thursday, September 3, 2026, from 9:00-10:00am, possibly in person or hybrid, to be determined.