

**STEBEN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD  
MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE**

*Tuesday, June 6, 2023*

*3 p.m.*

*Second Floor, Annex Building, Conference Room A  
20 East Morris Street  
Bath, New York*

**\*\*MINUTES\*\***

**PRESENT:**

Cora Saxton-CSB Chairperson  
Lynn Lewis-Director of Community Services  
Auralee Jefferds-Adult Clinic Coordinator  
Katie Morse-Aspire Hope  
Kathryn Muller-DSS Commissioner  
Craig Pomplas-Probation  
Bill Caudill-Youth Bureau  
Jessica Frawley-Mental Health  
Cynthia Gee-Family Services

**I. CALL TO ORDER - MOTION by Ms. Jefferds with second by Ms. Gee, all in favor, carries.**

Minutes from 3/7/23 meeting need correction per Ms. Jefferds on page 2 under crisis services. Minutes read:

Ms. Gee asked are there any statistics to identify those callers who are in counseling versus those that are not? Ms. Jefferds replied most are not connected to services. If they are our clients, then we connect them back to our services.

It should read: Ms. Jefferds replied most are known/connected to our services. Ms. Jefferds said they are going to try to work on stats to see who is currently enrolled, but we typically get 25 people completely new to us through crisis. MOTION to approve minutes with correction by Mr. Caudill and second by Ms. Gee. All in favor carries.

**II GENERAL BUSINESS**

A. Staff Recruitment-Ms. Lewis reported SCCMHC have received several resumes, 3 people have been interviewed and 1 new hire started yesterday. Ms. Muller asked if any of them were Senior Social Workers. Ms. Lewis said no. Ms. Lewis gave update that request is being made to reclassify a Psychologist position to Mental Health Coordinator Position; we didn't get any applicants for the Psychologist position either. There are 5-6 staff openings at present including several management positions (3). Ms. Gee asked where the applicants come from. Ms. Lewis noted the website links, some from colleges, some from Alfred, and Ms. Frawley added word of mouth. Ms. Lewis asked for program updates.

B. Program updates from committee members:

- Bill Caudill from Youth Bureau announced tentative very early plans for an outdoor/adventure based youth leadership program through sports money received through the state from legalized gambling.
- Katie Morse-Aspire Hope: She noted they are in the process of trying to put some pieces together for Suicide Prevention in September. Open house in May in Yates County this year-created

posters that could be put in yards on Suicide awareness. We had put a hold on our CFTSS Youth Peer referrals due to lack of staff, they are now back open but still have a 6-9 month wait list. LGBTQ+ support group on-line for 12 weeks, youth peer support. Ms. Frawley asked if this requires parental consent and Ms. Morse said it did, but there is an 'allies' group which can be used by those individuals who haven't come out to their parents yet. Ms. Lewis asked if it was a closed group, and Ms. Morse noted it is set up for 12 weeks, have allowed entry midway. Mr. Pomplask asked about minimum age. Ms. Morse noted 13, but have had 11-12 year olds, up to age 21. Ms. Morse noted there are ongoing monthly support groups. In April they received grant money and the BACA group came, completed art projects.

- Craig Pomplask-Probation: Peripheral trend during the pandemic slowed things down. Court cases were dismissed because they fell out of the time frame allowed. Numbers are now going up, accelerating caseloads, influx of mental health referrals from probation.
- Cynthia Gee-Family Services: She noted 2 therapists are leaving and going into private practice. There are 2 interns graduating and coming into employment. They need a seasoned counselor with experience to fill the one opening. Discussion followed with question of whether the CHOICE counselors see other patients as well and Ms. Gee noted in an attempt to ward off burn-out, the new half time CHOICE positions being hired will see some general counseling patients as well. Ms. Gee noted they are working on Gender Affirming Questionnaire letters which they will be promoting in the future and are for those over 18. She noted their CFTSS wait list is currently one month. A Domestic Violence Offender Education program started today, had 6 participants, all engaged. The Sex Offenders OMH connected group (Forensic re-integration) is in need of another therapist. She noted there are 2 private practice therapists who offer sexual offender services in the area but they don't accept insurance. There is also a parole group at the jail that meets weekly. Mr. Pomplask noted those individuals who can get to Monroe County could access the programs there, but transportation is difficult so others aren't getting services.
- Kathryn Muller-DSS: Ms. Muller cites the challenge of OPWDD kids and placement as there are no residential placements, limited resources. She has had her staff covering respite services for OPWDD children from foster care who end up in the Emergency Room as they require 24/7 observation. She noted the need for this group to advocate for these services in the Annual Plan.
- MATS program for Mental Health. Ms. Frawley is already linked into the program. Ms. Lewis noted of the 4000 tests administered 48 tested positive, 2/3s of those are mandated for treatment. Ms. Frawley noted 1 person moved out of county.
- By-Laws: Ms. Lewis noted these need to be updated, seeking volunteers for a sub-committee and asked for members to email her if interested. Auralee indicated interest.

C. Local Service Plan: Ms. Lewis noted the format has changed, but she hasn't had time to fully check that out yet. She wanted to know from committee members what else the CSB meetings could be used for in a productive manner. Ms. Muller noted the gaps in services is a good agenda item to take back to the other committees. Ms. Lewis noted transportation hasn't gotten much better, wondered about smaller steps to move toward the goal. Ms. Gee suggested gaps in access. Ms. Muller noted the plan is a cookie cutter plan, dormant, but use as a tool. Ms. Lewis noted the plan is in new format this year, it is due end of the month, hopes it is similar in use, this plan will be for 3 years with updates. Should be able to measure progress. Housing is needed. Number of beds have increased but there are still gaps for certain populations. Ms. Jefferds noted there are no Forensic Beds available in the Corning area. There is 1 in Bath and 1 in Hornell, currently using other respite services when available. Ms. Lewis asked about other housing gaps. Pages 4&5, objective 5 for crisis services. In the tri-county area there were 3 workers, but 1 left, so now administrator has to carry caseload, so

they can now carry only 2 persons each. Discussion had on funding, hiring, etc. Ms. Hicks has also been involved through SPOA committee. Ms. Gee asked how many case managers there were previously. Ms. Lewis noted they used to be split 2/2/2 for a total of 6 to cover shifts etc. We asked for 3 workers, 1 per county. The reallocation doesn't make sense; referrals can come through anyone which ties up services with all the screenings. It was noted it is not a self-support service, is not funded per se.

Opioid Settlement Funds-gaps in service. Engagement into treatment is a big part, stigma attached, suggested to use social media/Police Department in preventive education, frustrating to get kids to engage. Ms. Muller suggested approaches to strategies with more positive spin on how to better engage. A "drop in center" an hour a day would help generate a safe place. Ms. Gee noted Family Services uses a Behavioral consultant which has less stigma attached. Ms. Muller noted an individual in Corning has taken the old Landos building and it is being used as a homeless shelter, also offers groups, has office space, community center, one stop shop. Peer supports, right support and location.

Other gaps in service: Ms. Muller noted the level of unmet service needs has not stayed the same, it has worsened. She noted the Preventative Service workers are burned out from too much involvement in cases recently and haven't been productive.

**III. NEXT MEETING** September 12, 2023 at 3 p.m.

**IV. ADJOURN:** MOTION by Ms. Jefferds, second by Ms. Frawley to adjourn meeting. All in favor, carries. Meeting adjourned by Ms. Lewis at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dawn Champaign  
Senior Stenographer  
Dept. of Community Services