

STEUBEN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

*Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee*

*Tuesday, June 13, 2023*

*3 p.m.*

*Second Floor, Annex Building, Conference Room A*

*20 East Morris Street*

*Bath, New York*

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

**PRESENT:**

Lynn Lewis, Acting Director of Community Services  
Lillian Fazi, Capabilities (PROS), employment specialist  
Erin Warr, Pathways

**OTHERS:**

Auralee Jefferds, Adult Clinic Coordinator  
Brian Stearns, OPWDD regional office  
Dan Oswald, OPWDD, regional office

**I**     **CALL TO ORDER** MOTION by Ms. Fazi, second by Ms. Warr, all in favor, meeting called to order. Ms. Lewis led introductions starting with Brian Stearns and Dan Oswald of the OPWDD regional office who handed out reference sheet with contact information and explained service availability  
MOTION by Ms. Jefferds, second by Ms. Warr to approve the 3/28/23 minutes. All in favor, carries.

**II**     **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Ms. Lewis gave overview of the 2024 Local Plan and asked those present how else the meeting time could be used to help accomplish the goals/objectives, such as taking small steps to move toward the goal. Ms. Fazi said she liked that idea, target what is working and move forward. Ms. Lewis noted there are a lot of OPWDD gaps in service.

Staff recruitment: and Program updates: Ms. Lewis noted having received 5 applications recently, 1 new hire started last week, there are 2 jobs offers that have been extended, and there is another interview scheduled.

- Pathways-Ms. Warr noted there staffing is up overall for their programs. The finger printing process held things up. They have added a position to their Employment Services. They are currently serving 35 in the employment program. More referrals have been received, additional employment specialist. In Chemung County Dayhab they are adding positions back. Corning Dayhab is still below census. Mr. Stearns from the regional office noting that is where people get started to receive services, get established determine needs, find provider. He noted there are 8 different units in the regional office including waiver unit, self-direction, supervised housing, fiscal team, family support services, respite services, eligibility team, crisis team. He said the main focus is approving services for people and technical support. He was asked how long from start to finish the eligibility process takes. He noted there is a new law, they try to determine within 120 days, can extend the deadline. They are allowed 30 days to respond to request. Training starts 6/26/23, the large population slows things down. Ms. Lewis asked about Article 16 services. Mr. Stearns noted they need a specialist in that area. Ms. Jefferds asked about behavioral therapy. Mr. Stearns noted they have some flexibility through November, changes in availability of services since the pandemic. Ms. Jefferds asked about care coordination and Mr. Stearns said to call the regional office (front door) and Mr. Oswald noted there is a choice of two CCSO program, Primo Care Coordination and PCS. Ms. Jefferds noted a recent individual who was referred

but refused evaluation. Mr. Oswald noted APS can become involved if there is no family to step in and Mr. Stearns added they have a crisis team to help in those situations such as APS, CPS, forensic. Ms. Jefferds asked if any of those work with law enforcement for training, or hospitals, crisis teams, local doctors. He noted their crisis team could coordinate.

Ms. Lewis handed out copies of the Local Services Plan and explained to Mr. Stearns and Mr. Oswald that this plan covers the Community Services Board and the various sub-committees for Mental Health, Substance Abuse Services, and Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Jefferds explained that housing and transportation issues across the board for all programs. Struggle to get Developmentally Disabled into appropriate housing or services. Ms. Stearns noted the limited residential options. Ms. Lewis asked if Gov. Hochul has talked about increasing services. Ms. Stearns said a little, not supported services. The 2024 budget has limited funding for Intensive Treatment, identified services. Housing subsidy was updated last year. Mr. Oswald noted last year a dual diagnosis program opened for kids in Buffalo, unique program, Our Lady of Victories, it is a statewide program but only 1 location. Mr. Oswald noted the ineligible setting covers other options. Further discussion was had. He noted can hold 3 months in waiver and extend for circumstances, can access services once released.

\*Housing goal covers all 3 programs-Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Developmental Disabilities

\*Transportation goal covers all 3 programs-Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Developmental Disabilities. This is an ongoing problem, would grants be available to extend use of cabs/taxis, make use more affordable? Ms. Oswald noted Office for the Aging in Livingston County may be a resource to coordinate services.

\*Ms. Warr raised question as to why under 2v “Developmental Disability Self-Directed Services-objective 5 reads “ARC of Allegany Steuben will continue to provide employment services for people with developmental disabilities who are unable to be competitively employed in the community.” Ms. Lewis said she wasn’t sure as we provide services through PROS with contracted services through Capabilities (Ms. Fazi). Ms. Warr noted their program also provides employment services and others are available also. Ms. Lewis noted she could change that. It was noted that employment is on the rise.

\*Ms. Lewis asked about housing opportunities through Arbor. Ms. Warr also mentioned that Mr. Mehlenbacher had indicated that 2 of their residences were closing, wondering if those could be turned into supportive living units. Mr. Oswald said that in Monroe County they have opened a few and they have staff involved.

Ms. Lewis asked if members have other thoughts to send the ideas to her email. She will continue to work on the plan and submit it the end of June.

**III** **NEXT MEETING**-September 19, 2023 at 3 p.m. (Annex meeting room location to be announced)

**IV** **ADJOURN** MOTION to adjourn made by Ms. Jefferds, second by Ms. Warr, all in favor, carries.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dawn Champaign  
Senior Stenographer  
Dept. of Community Services