

STEBEN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

3 p.m.

Third Floor Conference Room, 115 Liberty St.

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

PRESENT:

Lynn Lewis, Director of Community Services
Darlene Smith, Steuben County Public Health Nursing
Gina Reagan, Catholic Charities
Dr. Cole, CSB and Substance Abuse committees

OTHERS:

Auralee Jefferds, Adult Clinic Coordinator
Jessica Frawley, Mental Health

I. CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Auralee Jefferds, second by Dr. Cole. Minutes from previous meeting of 5/16/23 were approved, Motion by Gina Reagan, second by Auralee Jefferds, all in favor, carries.

II. PRESENTATION

A. Staff Recruitment and Clinic Program Updates-Ms. Lewis reported the process to rename the Assistant Director of Community Services to Deputy Director of Community Services was started. The Job Posting was listed last week, applications will be accepted and then interviews will be held.

The Children & Youth Coordinator position was posted, interviews were held and Friday Marisa Wizeman was offered the position and she has accepted. This however leaves an open therapist position in C&Y.

Shannon Sullivan was hired, but then there were 2 resignations, one person is moving to Syracuse, the other to Texas. There is another applicant to be interviewed. Ms. Lewis noted there are currently 11 or 12 open positions within the Clinic and that there are 2043 clients. The Mobile Crisis Team is back down to 2 staff.

Discussion had among members with Dr. Cole asking if salary is an issue. Ms. Lewis noted the ages have been increased, still competitive with neighboring counties, but the retention rate is low. Currently two interns have taken a leave of absence which leaves 2. Ms. Lewis noted the plan is to take on a lot of interns, hoping some will stay on after their internship. She noted the enrollment numbers are way down. Some incentives offered by other counties/agencies include civil service exam waivers, loan forgiveness, different areas of counseling.

Ms. Lewis noted that Personnel Department has held onto job applications for up to 6 weeks which has resulted in some applications being under the impression the positions have been filled and thus they accept other jobs. Personnel will now send the applications without holding them, which will be more competitive. Ms. Smith noted the same had happened to her department. They currently have 6 vacancies, smaller department, at 60% capacity. They are experiencing similar issues, would like to use a head hunter for nursing positions and will bring that request to the Legislature. Ms. Smith noted they can't compete with the sign-on bonuses offered by hospitals. Those staff left are burned out. Also looking to over-ride the residency requirements. Dr. Cole asked if we have taken advantage of local colleges such as Keuka, Alfred, Elmira, and Corning Community as possible recruitment sources. These are all full time positions, Ms. Jefferds noted the VA does offer some part time positions. Ms. Smith noted there are a few retired RNs that they can call on.

Ms. Lewis noted that the Clinic program is no longer known as the “clinic.” It is now MOTRS-Mental Health Outpatient Treatment and Rehabilitation Services. This allows more flexibility for hiring peers, fewer regulations, therapists can go offsite for appointments which are billable.

Youth Act Program is still being worked on. This is a program for very difficult patients who require a lot of additional services. This has been in the works for 2 years. Ms. Reagan asked if this would be for Steuben County and surrounding county residents and Ms. Lewis noted it would be.

HBCI services for youth has received funding for a third worker. Ms. Reagan asked about level of education needed for positions. Ms. Lewis and Ms. Jefferds noted Bachelors or higher degree needed to provide all the components

PROS Program-a new coordinator is in place. Wendy Kesel, who had been working for the Children & Youth program within the Clinic, applied and accepted the position. They are trying to increase the client census.

Just received grant for Peer Services with Family Services.

Increase in AOT violent patients, looking into security issues.

Six months extension to case manager at drug Court, Mike Brannigan taking this to committee tomorrow.

Jessica Frawley gave update on Suicide Prevention area walk to be held Saturday at Mossy Bank Park with 10 .m. registration. She noted she was not sure of the turn out, can change each year. She named several groups who plan to attend the motor cycle ride on Sunday.

Tonya Hughes noted there will be Adolescent and Youth First Aide training the Saturday before Thanksgiving, an event with Care First.

III. PROGRAM UPDATES

A. *Catholic Charities* - Ms. Reagan noted no changes for Steuben County except in Community Services home based crisis and HBS services waiting list, other counties the same. Residential staff turnover, new supervised group home, OASIS grant has been received, very specific, internship funding. Policy-process pay license, CEU’s are expensive along with licensing exams and renewals. \$30-40,000 a year, help with recruitment and retention for continuing staff.

IV. NEXT MEETING

October 17, 2023 to review local services plan which was submitted according to deadline. The format is different than previous years and she submitted new goals and objectives. Ms. Lewis noted the due date was August so that is also a change. The new plan is good for 3 years. We haven’t received their response back yet, but once received copies will be handed out. Dr. Cole noted he wouldn’t be available for the next meeting.

V. ADJOURN

Motion by Dr. Cole with second by Ms. Reagan, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Champaign, Senior Stenographer, Dept. of Community Services