

STEUBEN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
3 p.m.
Second Floor, Annex Building, Conference Room A
20 East Morris Street
Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

PRESENT:

Lynn Lewis, LCWS-R, Director of Community Services
Auralee Jefferds
Mary Perham, Community
Erin Warr, Pathways
Mark Alger, Community

OTHERS:

Dan Oswald, OPWDD-Rochester

I. CALL TO ORDER. Motion to approved previous minutes by Mr. Alger, second by Ms. Jefferds, all in favor, carries.

II. PRESENTATION

*Ms. Lewis noted that the By Laws approved in 2008 are undergoing updates and will be presented to CSB and sub-committees once complete.

*Staff recruitment continues to be in flux, there are currently 12 clinicians, 2 schools covered and 12 openings. Ms. Jefferds noted a new application was received today. Ms. Lewis noted that the proposal to eliminate civil service exams for licensed providers has not gone too far with the Personnel Department, still investigating this possibility with other counties. It is felt this might help with retention and recruitment. It would be for those who already take a state exam and fall under licensure regulations. Also discussed the provisional/probationary period with tests being offered so infrequently. Mr. Alger noted it would be fighting state requirement. Ms. Lewis said she was going to check with DCS's in other counties. Mr. Oswald suggested submitted experience, score off that list, not a test. Ms. Lewis felt that would be helpful. Mr. Alger noted the Association should make a point with the state about not testing enough, is not a unique problem to this area, Ms. Lewis agreed, noting they try to recruit as many interns as possible hoping they will stay on once internship is done. Ms. Jefferds noted there are a couple of local interns now. Ms. Lewis noted another suggestion was regarding the job posting of vacancies, loan forgiveness. Mr. Oswald noted in OPWDD they have bonus incentives, pay raises, enhanced recruitment support.

*Program Updates: Ms. Lewis noted the Clinic is trying to be as flexible as possible, remote access, program updates given.

Extra funding was received which allows for HBCI worker to be replaced and another one hired which equals one FTE. MAT services at the jail have started.

PEER services at SCASAS has another counselor hired through Family Services.

RFP for opioid funds is closing next week, 2 positions funded.

Drug Court Case management-waiting to execute contract to be official for 6 month extension.

Developmental Disabilities-still struggling with residential placement

Pathways-Ms. Warr notes staffing is steady, not the same quality of staffing, less experienced staff who need more training. Numbers still low for Corning Dayhab, prior to Covid was 101, currently 82. Chemung County is doing better. Residential program has a couple of openings. OPWDD wait list-if client is high needs they don't fit the services. ICF's are hiring CAN's who are recent grads, higher pay currently for new hires. Mr. Oswald cited higher behavioral issues due to residential ICF closures (closed 2 group homes, 24 patients out on the street). Committee discussed revolving door, not appropriate discharge planning. Ms. Lewis noted our program gets calls from family members, our services are voluntary, people can decline to engage. Ms. Oswald noted unsafe discharge plan to a homeless shelter, not appropriate. Ms. Lewis suggested using wrap services to wrap around them. Ms. Perham asked which population, mental health or down's

syndrome Mr. Oswald noted mental health behaviors along of OPWDD, insufficient supports, many time unwarranted, can't keep against their will to provide services, refuse services, APS/CPS etc. gets involved, struggle to refer, eats up a lot of time to manage services, with residential homes closing, others have disappeared, new plan, day program, residential programs. Decreased numbers available, especially older folks.

*Ms. Lewis asked if there were any other program updates. Mr. Oswald noted he had just given a lot of updates for OPWDD. They are experiencing difficulties hiring, all intertwined, no incentives. Ms. Perham noted it is hard to get workers to the rural area, not attracted to job requirements. Mr. Oswald noted telehealth had been a problem, now better in terms of services. Medicaid telehealth service to see, more paper work, out of office difficulties, hard to build rapport, lots of obstacles, rent-a-docs are costly. New OPWDD number 866-946-9733.

No other updates given.

*Local Service Plan has been submitted, waiting for their response, will then share with the Board and Committee members. Different format, replaced old goals.

III. NEXT MEETING - December 12, 2023

IV. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Jefferds, second by Mr. Alger, all in favor carries.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dawn Champaign
Senior Stenographer
Dept. of Community Services