

TIOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE

**MH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD**

Approved

Subcommittee meeting date: March 3rd, 2023

Via Hybrid

Member Fran Bialy
Attendance: Larissa Brower
Dr. Bezirgianian
Donna Corbin
Tina Lounsbury
Heather Vroman

Guest
Attendance:

Mental Hygiene
Staff Attendance: Sarah Begeal, Deputy Director of Community Services
Cathy Healy, Clinical Program Director
Sue Graves (minutes)

Category: Minutes for February 2023 approved as written

Topic: Deputy Director's Report – Sarah Begeal

Discussion: Updates:

- Staffing
 - Three clinicians have been hired
 - One of the three decided not to take the position
 - Currently have four openings in clinic & school based
- Governor has earmarked \$1 billion for Mental Health and continued care
 - No update on Tioga County's portion
- Brief overview of OASAS Grant & Opiate Abatement Money
- Open Access clinician completing evaluations quickly
- Remote Work policy passed
 - Pilot program
 - Security policy updated
 - Remote work from county issued equipment only

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Clinical Program Director – Cathy Healy

Discussion:

Updates:

- ADS Census is at 99
- Trina Zigata, LMSW started February 27th
 - Specializing in kids therapy
- Receiving applications and interviewing for open CASAC/CASAC-T positions
- Fentanyl strips from OASAS
 - Free thru OASAS
 - Clinic received 1,000
 - Are included in all Narcan kits handed out by the clinic
 - Being given to all who want them
 - Can be used to test the drug before use or after use via urine sample
 - New guidance from OASAS
 - Getting information & product out to the public
- Change in OASAS regulations
 - Treatment goals have changed
 - Individual no longer needs to maintain abstinence; up to client's discretion
 - Meeting people where they are

Status:

Informational - Complete

Topic:

Other Business

Discussion:

Updates:

Public Health – Heather Vroman

- Staffing still an issue
 - Looking for a Nurse and Part-time Dentist
 - Current Dentist works one day per week and is booked through July 2023

Rehabilitation Support Services – Larissa Brower

- Care Management
 - Department of Health Proposal
 - Would require clients to be discharged after 9 months of service
 - High risk/high need individuals could become community health workers for 3 months
 - Health Home Plus will be the ICMs

- Individuals would need to meet certain eligibility criteria for Health Home Plus
- A lot of advocacy trying to keep this from going through
- Slated to start in April 2023
- No idea the timeframe on readmittance to Care Management after discharge
- Process would start from ground zero

A New Hope Center – Fran Bialy

- Very Busy
- Trying to use ARPA Funds to expand shelter services (add staff)

Drug Court- Cathy Healy

- Cathy Healy will check to see what is going on with it and give an update next month

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Articles for Pennysaver - Group discussion

- Discussion:
- April – Sexual Assault & Child Abuse month
 - May – Mental Health month
 - Cathy to get a person to write an article with a review of resources
 - Wendy Arnold’s back to school article received a lot of good feedback.
 - Perhaps run again at mid-term & finals time

Status: Informational Complete

Topic: General Discussion

- Dr. Bezirgianian reported Alcohol & Drug Counsel of Tomkins County has opened a 40-bed detox & rehab in Lansing
 - Hiring staff
 - Hoping to open at the end of March
- Brief discussion regarding the county’s salary study that was done
 - Retention remains an issue
- Donna asked Sarah about any clinicians using play therapy with kids
 - Sarah will look into
- ADS involved in past community events

- Strawberry Festival & Kids Picnic
 - Held a Tie-Dye event over the past summer
- Wendy Arnold is doing suicide awareness events
 - In Spencer on 3/2/23
- Tina Lounsbury reported there was an overdose in the Waverly High School yesterday (3/2/23). Outcome unknown
- Dr. Bezirgianian gave a brief overview of the 2022 suicide attempt rates
 - A lot of new staff in the clinic
 - Some incidents were found to be not actual attempts
 - Some incidents had questionable events
 - Need to come up with another category to call these types of events

Status: Informational - Complete

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:41. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 7th, 2023, at 9:00am.

