



**ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL  
HEALTH**

**Community Services Board**

**Meeting**

**30 HARRIMAN  
DRIVE GOSHEN,  
NEW YORK 10924**

**Meeting Notes CSB October 13, 2021**

**CSB Board Members Present:** Nora Shepard, Shannon Kelly, Linda Prieto, Dr. Guy Delisfort, MaryAlice Kovach, Becky Johnson, Pat Quinn, Jessenia Ogunade, Wanda McQueen, Michele Iannuzzi Sucich, and Dhanu Sannesy.

**Board Members Absent:** Lisa Hayes, and Dr. Joseph Chavez-Carey.

**Present:** Lacey Trimble, Regina LaCatena

Meeting called to order by Nora Shepard at 5:35

**Approval of Minutes:**

Tabled to next meeting

**Commissioners Report Lacey Trimble, Deputy Commissioner**

- New York Attorney General Letitia James came to Newburgh as part of her 'Heal New York' tour of the state, the funds come from settlements negotiated with Johnson & Johnson, McKesson, Cardinal Health, Amerisource Bergen, and Endo following the March 2019 lawsuit against the various manufacturers and distributors responsible for the opioid crisis. Additional payments will be available from the Purdue Pharma settlement once payments are finalized.
- All funds collected by the state from opioid settlements or litigation victories will be allocated specifically for abatement efforts in communities devastated by the opioid epidemic and will not go towards the state's general fund
- These figures listed represent the minimum and maximum amounts each region can receive from the settlements. The more localities across the state that agree to the terms of these different settlements, the more each locality is eligible to receive.  
Hudson Valley: \$51,729,983.90 – \$94,455,606.10  
Orange County: \$4,360,832.35 – \$7,618,425.84
- The Governor has approved legislation that seeks to require jail-based MAT programs. (S.1795/A.533) this legislation requires all forms of MAT be available in jails across NYS. While we know there will be an undetermined fiscal impact on counties, a funding distribution plan from OASAS was developed in consideration of this bill. It may also be possible that the new funds coming from the opioid lawsuits may be able to help offset any additional costs associated with the mandate if State Aid does not fully cover.
- Departures at the State level –  
Dr. Theodore Kastner (OPWDD), Arlene Gonzales-Sanchez (OASAS)

- OCDMH received the contract packet from OMH and was awarded \$300k per year for 5 years to sustain and enhance the WOGI program. Formal partners including OCDMH, OCOFA, OCDSS, RSS, MHA, JFS, ILI, Catholic Charities and RSS. All current services will remain in place and the expansion will include enhancing the system used to identify needs and refer to appropriate resources, a long-term care peer specialist through ILI who will administer a home modification fund, and a part-time LCSW at JFS to provide expanded MH services.
- OCDMH had a successful meeting with several local pediatricians to discuss how to work together to address the shortage of child psychiatry and there is a follow-up meeting scheduled to continue the discussion.
- OMH Patient Characteristic Survey, which is done every two years has been delayed due to COVID until March.

### **Sub-Committee Report-out:**

#### **Substance Use Disorder:**

- Met October 12, 2021, next meeting December 14, 2021 - 5:00 – 6:00 PM
- Kratom is very prevalent in the county
- Increase poly-substance abuse (younger population) cocaine & marijuana
- Recovery Housing
- More overdosed but fewer fatal OD's – feel contributing factors are Narcan & Fentanyl strips are available
- Garnet Hospital has a new addiction doctor for the ER starting in January 2022
- MAT – not a lot of treatment options available?
- Bail reform
- More people are using at home
- Encouraging people to use app's rather than face to face treatment
- Doctors are more concerned w use of benzos w/MAT, see if there is a protocol for “step-down” rather than discontinue meds.
- Fifty percent of calls to the crisis call center are regarding substance abuse
- People with chemical dependency on probation or parole if there are any changes to meds to PO then labeled as unstable – can there be education to PO's re: med changes and how they can affect a person

#### **Mental Health Sub-Committee:**

- Next meeting October 24, 2021 – 5:00 – 6:00

#### **Developmental Disabilities Sub-Committee:**

- Met on, October 4, 2021, next meeting November 1, 2021
- OPWDD met with families and stakeholders who provided feedback for the OPWDD Statewide comprehensive 5.07 plan. The plan is due to the Governor on November 1st. The number one concern communicated was the workforce crisis (lack of staff, high turnover). Programs are limited due to shift in direct support personnel, increase in staff errors due to shortages, justice center feel punitive, quitting & wages
- FMAP funds, the federal match to state waiver funds, will be increased by 10%, (several millions) and made available to NYS on one time basis. OPWDD reports an interest in using some of these funds to improve workforce. DSP turnover rate 25 – 27 %
- Two main reasons for DSP turnover have been childcare and mandatory overtime.
- It was also reported that fatigue is creating more staff errors and that the punitive environment of the Justice Center, has potentially created more turnover.

- OPWDD commissioner testified that OPWDD is interested in supporting a 20 percent wage increase to DSPs (average of 30,000 per year to 36,000 per year). Using FMAP funds, OPWDD hopes to provide bonuses for longevity, COVID 19 employment, and for staff getting vaccinated. Less than 35% of staff are reportedly vaccinated.
- Approximately 50% of agencies that serve the DD/ID population have closed or reduced capacity because of COVID.
- Two vacancies on sub-committee – members needed

**Old Business:**

N/A

**New Business:**

Garnet no longer accepting clients at the outpatient clinic nor inpatient due to staffing shortages  
Anyone accepting Medicaid or Medicare – all employees must be vaccinated

**Catholic Charities**

- Filled the position for the State Opioid Response along with peers
- 20 - 30% of residential clients are from Orange County
- Received 830 certificate – moved community residence to stabilization model, some beds available for women

**ADAC**

- Red Ribbon Week Oct. 25 – 29 – 150 trees outside the OC Government Center to be decorated with red ribbons Thurs. Oct 21 is the ceremony, bow sponsorship is \$10.00
- Teen Intervene services are still available

**NAMI**

- Annual meeting is being held Nov. 8, virtually 7:30 PM

**Announcements:**

**Next meeting:** November 10, 2021 - 5:30 P.M. via Microsoft Teams.

Motion to adjourn this meeting by Dhanu Sannesy, second Dr. Guy Delisfort, all present agreed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 6:10 P.M.

*Regina LaCatena*

Regina LaCatena, Executive Secretary/Admin. Assistant - approved @ 11/10/2021 meeting