



**ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
Community Services Board Meeting  
30 HARRIMAN DRIVE GOSHEN,  
NEW YORK 10924**

**Meeting Notes CSB June 14, 2023**

**CSB Board Members Present:** Nora Shepard, Linda Prieto, Dhanu Sannesy, Rosangela Alicea, Sandra Brownsey, Shannon Kelly, Dr. Michele Iannuzzi Sucich, Juan (Jay) Lantigua, Dr. Rebecca Lowy, Jessenia Ogunade, MaryAlice Kovach, Lauren Savino.

**Board Members Absent:** Dr. Guy Delisfort, Lisa Hayes, and Lisa Currao.

**Present:** Darcie Miller, and Regina LaCatena

Meeting called to order by Nora Shepard at 5:35 P.M.

**Quorum Present: Approval of Minutes:**

April 12, 2023 – motion Juan Lantigua, second MaryAlice Kovach, all approved.

**Commissioners Report Darcie Miller, Commissioner**

- RFP is out to Bid, due back June 23, we hope to award by July 7, 2023
- HONORehg, applied and has been awarded SOS Teams, to cover Orange and Dutchess counties, \$950,000 annually. Will consist of a team of nine - one FTE Team Leader, four FTE Care Managers, two FTE Peer Specialists and two FTE Clinicians.
- Temporary housing – currently housing over 450 individuals in orange county, utilizing 80 motels/hotels. Affordable housing is just not available. Advocating with the State to increase monies, as 14,500 for supported housing is not enough. ESHI housing currently getting 25,000 per year.
- Thursday, June 15, 2023 – Elder Abuse Awareness Day – Press conference will be held @ 2:00 at the government center – only 1 in 24 of abuse gets reported.
- National Association of Counties along with RAND are doing a research report on 911 and the Crisis Call Center and have chosen Orange County. Their report will be shared across the country.
- Deterra mailing update – after pricing out the actual cost (almost 1 million), we proposed only purchasing 50,000 and give out to certain population groups and at public events.
- Received report from the Medical Examiner's office – 132 deaths, 18 involved Xylazine (Tranquilizer Narcan does not respond to) – There are Xylazine test strips for use to test drug of choice before using.
- County ARPA funds - \$250,000 will be used for additional hours of contractual staff member for Think Differently, Training Institute and Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for Senior Police Officers.
- Draft of county plan was sent to CSB members for Review – no questions – A survey was sent out to providers and the full CSB members for their input on the plan. - Regina will send survey link to members for their review.
- Angela Turk, Director of Children's MH Services is facilitating a cross system youth advisory committee.

**Question/Comments - Commissioners Report:**

Nora noted: We need to ensure integration of SOS services with 311 and peers.

Jessenia: Would like to offer her help w/CIT as a former NYPD Officer and trained in CIT. Darcie will connect Tammy with Jessenia.

Dhanu: Offered she is available to assist in any way, she is passionate about MH issues. Dhanu has also recently been elected to the NAMI National Council.

**Old Business:**

N/A

**New Business:**

Jessenia Ogunade

- Facilitating a Parenting group on Sundays (total of 6 sessions) beginning June 25 at 7:00 PM for Parents of Color – How to Parent Your Child. This will be a hands-on experiential training including techniques. Cornell Cooperative allowing use of space, there is a \$45.00 fee if you pay in advance, you will receive \$20.00 back after participation in the training.

Linda Prieto –

- May 31, kickoff event “SMILE” Think Differently went well. There will be a Resolution adopted for Start with a smile day.
- THINK Differently committee met with municipality leaders at the last Chamber of Commerce Meeting, they were happy to learn that many businesses already have things in place for people with all abilities.
- THINK Differently, soon, hopes to be able to give out small grants to local business to assist them with incorporating THINK Differently into their place of business.

Sandra Brownsey -

- The OC Health Dept. recently participated in a “spirit week” at work which included a “penny war” – they raised 1,300.00 that will be donated to THINK Differently. Sandra will share the details of how the Penny War works for other county departments to participate.

MaryAlice Kovach –

- ADAC recently held the Alcohol and Tobacco Poster and Essay Contest – they had a great turn out, including OASAS representatives, Association Commissioner of Prevention and Problem Gambling Pat Zuber-Wilson and ADAC’s OASAS field representative Nicole Kelly. Pat brought a set of posters and an essay book back to Commissioner Cunningham.
- And our OASAS field representative Nicole Kelly. Pat brought a set of our posters and an essay book back to Commissioner Cunningham. was present for the awards ceremony.
- OASAS notified ADAC they will be able to offer scholarships for people to take CASAC classes.

**Next meeting:** September 13, 2023 - 5:30 P.M. via Microsoft Teams.

Motion to adjourn this meeting by Jessenia Ogunade, second Sandra Brownsey, all present agreed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 6:32 P.M.

Regina LaCatena, Executive Secretary/Admin. Assistant - approved @ September 13, 2023, meeting.