

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
December 15, 2009

The St. Lawrence County Community Services Board met on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 in the Human Services Complex, Canton, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicki Perrine, Chairperson; Sallie Brothers; Tim Cameron; Michele Montroy; Tom Doyle; Dr. Saleem; Lynne Matott; Daphne Pickert; James Westerfield; Carolyn White.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lynette Collins; Marsha Sawyer; Sue Thomas.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Ayen, Director of Community Services; Dan Dodge, Deputy Director; Tina Buckley; Shannon Beldock; Donna Cole, Recording Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms Perrine, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by L. Matott, seconded by D. Pickert and unanimously carried, the minutes of the September 15, 2009 and October 27, 2009 Board meetings and the October 29, 2009 Executive Committee meeting, previously distributed, were all approved as presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mental Health Subcommittee Reports: Ms Matott, Chair of the Mental Health Subcommittee, reported on Mental Health Subcommittee Reports for December 1 and November 10. She reported that Tammy Bush has been nominated to replace David Bayne who has resigned. Carol Whitcombe has also resigned from the Subcommittee due to other commitments. The subcommittee was made aware of the departure of Dr. Ravelo, Psychiatrist, Canton-Potsdam Hospital. A nurse practitioner is covering his patients, Dr. Dewar is covering the Suboxone patients and recruitment efforts have begun. A locum tenens will be brought in. They are currently not taking any new referrals. United Helpers and North Country Transitional Living Services are discussing long stay supported housing slots and how they can share supported housing and service dollars to improve housing opportunities to long term stay patients discharged from St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center. CDP, Inc. has notified Ms Ayen that their Board has determined that they will continue to provide transportation to CSS clients for the remainder of this year even if CSS transportation funds are exhausted. Subcommittee members discussed attendance at meetings and quorum issues.

MRDD Subcommittee Reports: In the absence of the MRDD Subcommittee Chair, Ms Montroy reported on the MRDD Subcommittee Reports for December 2 and November 4. Subcommittee members discussed funding reductions and possible impact to agencies and clients. The Subcommittee recommends appointment to the Board Reginald McDonald to replace Edward Walker, whose term expires 12/31/2009 and also recommends that Doris Chenier and Trudy Ferris be appointed to second terms ending 12/31/2013. A response to Sunmount DDSO director requesting consideration and advice in securing additional respite funding for individuals and families has been received from the new Interim Director, Stephen DeHond. Sunmount is currently reconstituting its stakeholders group and will undertake the task of prioritizing needs once the group is active again.

Alcohol/Substance Abuse Subcommittee: Ms Ayen reported that the Alcohol/Substance Abuse Subcommittee met on November 5th. She reported that the Co-location Grant is scheduled to end 12/31/2009. DSS has found this program so valuable that they will continue funding this program. Community Services will continue to include the two staff people in monthly full staff meetings and

training opportunities. The county judicial diversion program for non-violent drug offenders has begun and referrals have started coming in. Dr. Doyle commented that there has been an increase in older adolescents with substance abuse issues being seen at SLPC. When this occurs, they rely on the county chemical dependency clinic for assessments, which are being handled quickly and efficiently. Greg Aldrich has been recommended for appointment to the Community Services Board to this Subcommittee. Tina Buckley has expressed interest in serving on the Community Services Board and is recommended for appointment to the subcommittee.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms Ayen reviewed staffing. The Supervisor of Expanded Children's Services position remains vacant in the Mental Health Clinic. A new chemical dependency counselor will be starting in Massena on December 28. A Massena counselor has announced her retirement effective December 31. In Administration, our fiscal officer has returned to the county Chief Payroll Clerk position with a senior account clerk in billing being promoted to replace her. A new senior account clerk will start 12/28. Donna Cole is retiring 12/30 will Shannon Beldock being promoted to the Admin Assistant position. Ms Ayen reviewed the status of the Lois Bell account. At the 19th Annual Staff Recognition Dinner, held at the Lobster House, 6 staff members were honored, with 30 people attending (14 employees, 3 board members and 13 guests).

OLD BUSINESS

2010 Budget Update: Ms Ayen reported that there is no concrete budget information from the State. A letter has been OMRDD reducing the LGU Administration budget by \$1,044. There is no information from OMH or OASAS at this time.

Mental Health Clinic Restructuring Status: Mr. Dodge reported that there is no additional information at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions: In response to a number of resignations and term expirations, the following appointments were acted upon:

Community Services Board:

James Westerfield: Upon motion by D. Pickert, seconded by S. Brothers and unanimously carried, Reappoint to second term on Community Services Board to expire 12/31/2013. First term on the Community Services Board will expire on 12/31/2009.

Tina Buckley : Upon motion by T. Cameron, seconded by S. Brothers and unanimously carried, appointment to the Community Services Board to fill the unexpired term ending 1/31/2011 of Ada Warner –Cole who resigned in 2008.

John Kaplan: Upon motion by D. Pickert, seconded by L. Matott and unanimously carried, appointed to the Community Services Board to replace Bonnie Barkley who resigned due to ill health. Mr. Kaplan will assume the remainder of her unexpired term which ends 12/31/2010.

Alcohol/Substance Abuse Subcommittee:

Greg Aldrich: Upon motion by C. White, seconded by S. Brothers and unanimously carried, appointed to fill unexpired term on the Alcohol/Substance Abuse Subcommittee for Christopher Roberts who resigned 9/2009. Unexpired Term to end 12/31/2010.

Mental Health Subcommittee:

Tammy Bush: Upon motion by T. Cameron, seconded by S. Brothers and unanimously carried, appointed to fill unexpired term on the Mental Health Subcommittee for David Bayne, who resigned 10/30/2009. To fill unexpired Term ending 12/31/2010.

MRDD Subcommittee:

Doris Chenier: Upon motion by D. Pickert, seconded by L. Matott and unanimously carried, reappointment to second term on the MRDD Subcommittee which will expire on 12/31/2013.

Trudy Ferris: Upon motion by D. Pickert, seconded by L. Matott and unanimously carried, Reappointment to second term on the MRDD Subcommittee which will expire on 12/31/2013.

Reginald McDonald: Upon motion by L. Matott, seconded by T. Cameron and unanimously carried, appointed to first term on the MRDD Subcommittee, to expire 12/31/2013. To fill vacancy left by Edward Walker, whose second term expired 12/31/2009.

All appointments have been forwarded to the Board of Legislators to begin their appointment process.

Chairperson, Vicki Perrine appointed Ms Buckley to the Alcohol/Substance Abuse Subcommittee, pending her approval by the Board of Legislators, which does not require Board of Legislator approval.

Employees have requested funds from the Lois Bell account to purchase a modest plaque in memory of Sheila Harrod, an employee who passed away last December. She had worked for Community Services, in the Chemical Dependency clinic support staff area for 7 years. She had a positive impact on all employees, spearheading charitable donation drives and furnishing the Canton support staff area with framed artwork. **Upon motion by T. Cameron, seconded by C. White and unanimously carried, a modest plaque in Sheila's memory can be ordered using Lois Bells funds.**

In response to a question about Board and Subcommittee absences, Ms Ayen responded that a listing of absences was compiled and that the lack of quorums was discussed at individual meetings. Most absences were due to legitimate illness or work related issues. Ms Ayen would like to keep the absence notification process informal and individualized.

Ms Brothers asked for Board input about the impact on the STOP-DWI program due to a decrease of DWI fines due to court reduction of charges and uncollected fines. In the 2010 budget, positions in the Probation and Sheriff's Departments were lost due to insufficient revenue through STOP-DWI to fund them. After discussion, the Board asked that Ms Ayen compose a letter on behalf of the Community Services Board to go to the courts in the county, with a copy to the district attorney explaining the impact decreased fine collections has on the STOP DWI program, the Sheriff Department and the Probation Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms White reported that Canton-Potsdam Hospital has hired a locum-tenens psychiatrist through January. The Nurse Practitioner is also still there.

