

## ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

April 29, 2010

The St. Lawrence County Community Services Board met on Thursday, April 29, 2010 (rescheduled from April 20<sup>th</sup>) in the Human Services Complex, Canton, New York.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vicki Perrine, Chairperson; Tina Buckley; Carolyn White, Chief John Kaplan; Lynette Collins; Tim Cameron; Marsha Sawyer; Sallie Brothers; Lynne Matott; James Westerfield; Michele Montroy

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Dr. Saleem; Daphne Pickert; Sue Thomas

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Doyle

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ruth Ayen, Director of Community Services; Dan Dodge, Deputy Director; Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant

### CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Perrine, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Upon motion by M. Sawyer, seconded by T. Buckley, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the February 16, 2010 and March 16, 2010 Board meetings, previously distributed, were all approved as presented.**

### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

**MH:** Ms. Matott shared on the Clinic Restructuring Update previously given by Mr. Dodge. How the 599 regulations regarding Medicaid will effect how the MH clinic will operate and changes in funding. Restructuring will include consolidation of certain rate codes based on specific procedures. Medicaid will pay for more than one service per day – the 2<sup>nd</sup> visit will be discounted by 10%. Currently approximately 42% of the Mental Health patients have Medicaid. The Psychiatrist's role seems to play a bigger role in the clinic restructuring than the Physician's Assistant. The Mental Health clinic currently has a 75-90 day waiting period for patients to be seen. Clients are screened based on severity of issues. Under the restructuring the Case Manager who assists patients in completing their paperwork may not be billable. The use of electronic medical records will now be a choice. There will be a six-month transition period for the clinic restructuring. The PSYCHES Project is making progress in reducing polypharmacy. L. Collins asked about the increase in the MH waiting list. Mr. Dodge noted it is due to a doctor no longer practicing. Mr. Dodge shared there are two waiting lists – one for children/adolescents and one for adults. The waiting list for children/adolescents is shorter. Ms. Matott asked if there were any candidates for replacement of the psychiatrist when Dr. Montgomery leaves in May. Ms. Ayen shared we do have a psychiatrist interested in 2 days per week.

**MRDD:** Ms. Ayen reported not having a chance to look at what had been happening with the State Budget by the last MRDD Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Walker reported from the State level there will be cuts to Day Hab effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, a reduction to Res Hab projected for July could be consumed by Com Hab. Projected Medicaid changes for efficiency were done through State Aid reduction plan. Sunmount DDSO was able to maintain revenue. Ms. Chenier shared that PT and OT could be effected.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Ayen reported the Supervisor of Expanded Children's Services (ECS) position with the Mental Health Clinic is still vacant. The exam is scheduled to be given. Dr. Montgomery will be leaving the Mental Health Clinic and relocating to Mississippi effective May 14, 2010. Mike Polowchena retired today. We are recruiting for a Psychiatrist and Chemical Dependency Director. The exam is being given for the Chemical Dependency Director. The Senior Account Clerk position is still vacant. The Lois Bell account is at \$53,349, an increase of \$2,010 since 12/31/09.

Ms. Ayen shared on Federal Grant applications. Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program (ESSC) grant. This would fund a supervisor for the school Mental Health counselor (10 month position). The Family Centered Substance Abuse Treatment Grants for Adolescents and their Families (Assertive Adolescent and Family Treatment) (A-CRA/ACC) would fund a Chemical Dependency counselor that serves adolescents (12 months). Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse (GRAA) would fund (4) Project SUCCESS Counselors (10 months) for Seaway Valley Prevention Council (SVPC).

## OLD BUSINESS

**2010 Budget Update:** Ms. Ayen reported no new updates with the budget. The budget has not been passed yet.

**Subcommittee Vacancies:** Ms. Ayen announced there is one vacancy on the MH Subcommittee and one vacancy on the MRDD Subcommittee. An interested candidate from the Early Intervention Council will be submitting their bio-data sheet.

## NEW BUSINESS

**County Review of all county services:** Ms. Brothers shared her concerns for the future of Community Services. Community Services is a non-mandated service. Ms. Brothers reports she feels Community Services is very important to community. The Board of Legislators are concerned about the budget deficit. Due to the national economy there is a 11 ½ million dollar fund balance. Sales tax receipts down, this due to plant closings and layoffs. This means chemical dependency and mental health demands increase, and also increases the number of DOSS recipients. Ms. Brothers feels these services are needed.

There are some legislators and department heads who feel that eliminating the Chemical Dependency department would help with this budgetary issue. There is talk of CPH being able to take over all the chemical dependency clients that are currently being served at the five Chemical Dependency clinics (Canton, Potsdam, Gouverneur, Ogdensburg and Massena). Ms. Brothers asked Ms. White, Director of the CPH chemical dependency unit, her thoughts on this, could this be done, could CPH accommodate all of these clients. Ms. White shared it could be a possibility, after a lot of rearranging possibly opening up new sites. Ms. White shared CPH chemical dependency outpatient services was originally opened to give clients a choice of places to go and doesn't feel they should pick up these clients. Transportation would be a hardship for most of these clients. CPH currently has 2 outpatient locations, one located in Richville and one in Norwood. Ms. White shared she feels some CPH officials have the same attitude as some legislators...insinuating she should be doing other things rather than helping people get sober. Ms. Brothers said she would like to meet with the Vice President of CPH, Nancy Rutledge.

Ms. Brothers shared there may be a ruling come to fact that would prevent someone involved with any of the boards or other organizations to discuss, make a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> a motion, or even vote on a contractual item. The County Attorney states this is due to a “conflict of interest” and comes from the ethics law. If someone sits on the board, they cannot vote. You would have to resign your position as a board member in order to vote. Ms. Brothers doesn’t understand how you can sit on a board and be told you can’t do anything, especially vote.

There is a County department review scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup>. They will be reviewing all departmental programs. Everyone was asked to give Ms. Brothers any ideas or suggestions to present arguments that would help justify the potential impact of agencies, such as law enforcement, NAMI, CPH, Rosehill, and schools. Also how it would effect families, consumers, those dually diagnosed (MR/MH), etc. Legislators need to be convinced of the need to continue these services, how important they are. They don’t understand the care that is being provided to these individuals. Chief J. Kaplan shared it would be a negative impact to the Police Department, causing a great deal of pressure. T. Buckley noted the waiting list for MH has tripled already. Ms. Perrine noted these services are necessary.

**Rose Hill Annual Report:** tabled for next meeting

**NCFH Annual Report:** tabled for next meeting

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

**Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.** Next meeting will be May 18, 2010. Meeting place will be announced.

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Shannon Beldock, Administrative Assistant