

  
**Tompkins County**  
**COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD**

Tompkins County Mental Health Center  
201 East Green Street  
Ithaca, New York 14850-5421

Mary Hutchens, Interim - Chair

Ellice Switzer, Vice Chair

Frank Kruppa, Commissioner

Harmony Ayers-Friedlander,  
Deputy Commissioner/ DCS

Larry Roberts, Chair,  
Mental Health Subcommittee

James Beaumont and Jeff Boles, Co-Chairs,  
Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee

Stu Bergman, Chair,  
Substance Use Subcommittee

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**Tompkins County Community Mental Health Services Board**  
**September 12, 2022, 5:30 p.m. Meeting Minutes**  
**Via Zoom**

**Approved 10.03.22**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkpJNVbpLLbEbhoDbTIEgSQ>

**Present:** Mary Hutchens; Stu Bergman; Jan Lynch; Tom Lipa; Dr. Auguste Duplan; Travis Winter; Sheila McEnergy; and Jessica Conner, PhD.; Paula Winner; and Sullymar Pena Vazquez

**Excused** Ellice Switzer; Larry Roberts

**Legislature:**

**Guests:** Denise Vreeland, Mozaic; Sally McConnell-Ginet; Dorothy Lovelace; and Dan Doyle

**Staff:** Frank Kruppa, Commissioner; Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, DCS; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant

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The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Ms. Hutchens. Introductions were made. Ms. Lynch moved to approve the July 2022 minutes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Bergman; all were in favor.

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**Privilege of the Floor:** None

**Announcements:** Dr. Conner shared that Northeast Pediatrics applied for Healthy Steps grant program via OMH but did not qualify because they do not have a sufficient number of Medicaid patients and concerned that it may be the case across Tompkins County (TC). Mr. Kruppa agreed but will investigate and inquire about missed opportunities.

**Chair's Report:** Ms. Hutchens asked CSB applicants Sally McConnell-Ginet, Dorothy Lovelace, and Dan Doyle to introduce themselves. All long-term Ithaca residents with extensive work experience in mental health and human services provided a brief history of themselves and a desire to give back to the community.

**Mozaic Services and Article 16 Clinic - Presentation by Denise Vreeland, Vice President of Services/COO at Mozaic/Challenge:**

Ms. Vreeland oversees all services for Mozaic and Challenge Industries including vocational services and community rehabilitation. The agency assists and supports people with all developmental disabilities including people in recovery and coming out of jail. They offer rehab counseling that deals specifically with employment and the issues one might have. Mozaic via Challenge was recently named the Arc of Tompkins County and offers social work rehab counseling (employment issues), and psychiatry services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Referrals can be submitted online or directly with Challenge. Individuals must qualify for OPWDD; come through the front door; no secondary diagnosis is required but must be diagnosed developmentally disabled before the age of 25. The location is shared with Challenge Industries at 950 Danby Road in Ithaca and is a service not currently offered in Tompkins County. Dr. Duplan shared that Tompkins County has an Article 16 Clinic next to Cayuga Medical Center on Route 96 in which he's employed at. Ms. Vreeland will keep the Board updated on the clinic's progress.

**Commissioner's Updates:** Mr. Kruppa asked Board members with expiring terms to reach out to Ms. Palazzo with their interest in reappointment. **The next CSB meeting will be held in the Mental Health Department's conference room on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor** as the governor is expected not to renew the executive order. The meetings will continue to be live-streamed on YouTube, but Board members must attend in person to count towards a quorum.

Vaccines: The new Valiant vaccine, targeted toward the Omicron variant, will be available in the coming days. Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) is not planning large-scale pod but will rely on the health care systems and pharmacies with initial demands.

Monkey Pox: The Clinic vaccinated 70 people last week and demand is low. The vaccine may be incorporated into regular vaccine clinics (including the COVID vaccine) on Fridays at TCHD. Dr. Conner shared that Northeast Pediatrics started administering the vaccine and encouraged people to check with their primary care office.

Opioid Update: Ms. Ayers-Friedlander and Ms. Brenda Grinnell-Crosby are going over the opioid tax settlement dollars to make a presentation to the legislature on ideas of how to spend them and as they prepare for the Health and Human Services (HHS) committee meeting on Monday. Mr. Kruppa will make a recommendation to HHS to form a task force to explore the opioid issues for guidance of the best direction for the opioid funding. The amount is unknown and will go directly to the county (not the LGU) with the Legislature having more of a role in the decision making. Ms. Ayers-Friedlander is investigating LGU funding.

Audit Update: The audit had four exemplaries including PROS' array of program services in the physical environment; crisis services and in the physical environment for the clinic. Citations came from doing them in PROS and in the clinic, getting one for each. The citations were around assessments needing to be more in-depth, and discharges and non-admissions having insufficient documentation. The TCMH clinic and PROS licenses were renewed for an additional three years. Ms. Ayers-Friedlander is working with the team on the performance improvement plan for the seven citations.

Bylaws and Charter Update: Mr. Kruppa referred to the three documents he emailed to the CSB, 1. CSB bylaws, 2. BOH bylaws, and 3. Merge Charter changes. The charter development is mostly public health law and mental hygiene law and much of the changes addressed a singular department but still delineates separate public health law requirements and mental health law requirements. He noted that the charter outlines the department head as the hiring authority to follow the same practice of consulting with the CSB and or BOH and would follow the department heads appointment, which is run by the county administrator. No one had any questions or input.

Process:

1. CSB review of bylaws for approval
2. Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee to discuss
3. Formal process of approving the charter and bylaws in October
4. Human Health Services (HHS) Committee
5. Public hearing
6. Legislature's approval (November)

Mr. Kruppa thanked the CSB bylaw committee for their hard work and participation in a joint meeting with the BOH bylaw committee to ensure consistency in the bylaws. Term limits were discussed, and language was inputted to give the chair the opportunity to decide the values when someone misses multiple meetings. The substance use disorder language was updated in the bylaws and charter. Mr. Kruppa felt the draft bylaws reflect all the conversations and recommends the CSB move them forward to the legislature.

Mr. Bergman and Ms. McEnery approved of the bylaws and working jointly with the BOH was great. Mr. Bergman commented on the Mr. Kruppa's new title "Whole Health Commissioner". Mr. Kruppa responded that the legislature will have final approval.

Mr. Bergman made a motion to approve the bylaws; seconded by Mr. Winter; all were in favor.

Mr. Kruppa thank the CSB for their hard work on the bylaws and is excited to present this to the community which will help serve them better because of it.

**Deputy Commissioner's Report:** Ms. Ayers-Friedlander reported that the 2023 Local Services Plan process which is usually done every spring has been revamped to an abbreviated plan due October 31, 2022 and must be approved by next month's meeting on October 3, 2022. NYS agencies, local government units and the Conference of Local Mental Health Hygiene worked together to improve the entire process and starting in 2024, the local services plans will be a four-year plan with yearly re-evaluations.

Ms. Ayers-Friedlander shared a PowerPoint presentation that detailed:

1. Identify Priority Needs
2. Support Health Equity
3. Set Goals

Local Services Plans are submitted to the State where they find common ground in areas that cross over the three mental hygiene areas that informs their priorities and informs their budget process.

Informed by State Agency Plans & Priorities: Most common cross systems goals in 2022

- Workforce Recruitment – 26 LGUs
- Housing – 24 LGUs
- Crisis Services – 23 LGUs
- Transportation – 20 LGUs

The list of priority needs was reduced to 19 priority needs categories.

Included in the packet was a summary of each of the objectives defined in the Tompkins County 2022 Plan. Much progress was achieved in all the objectives but not all were complete and can be identified as possible next steps for the subcommittees to review/revisit/re-evaluate those objectives for the 2023 plan.

Included in the packet were data sources from the state to use to support plans. Ms. Ayers-Friedlander reviewed a few of the data source dashboards.

Most importantly, Ms. Ayers-Friedlander included a survey in the packet for the members to complete and return to her to begin gathering information as soon as possible given the tight timeline. Subcommittee members should also complete the survey and return their chair and the chair will return member surveys to Ms. Ayers-Friedlander. Each subcommittee should also forward the survey to providers who align with how the needs, goals and health equity information is collected. A monkey survey may be utilized.

The final slide on “Establishing Goals & Objectives” explained that each subcommittee will consider the State priorities to evaluate the work already done and want to continue doing in the 2023 year. After the priority needs and goals are identified, and the measurable objectives established in each subcommittee (based on community input and surveys) and using last year’s format, each subcommittee must come up with at least three goals but no more than ten for the 2023 abbreviated plan. The plan will be voted on at the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Ms. Ms. Ayers-Friedlander confirmed that the work will be done in the subcommittees and voted on in October’s meeting.

Mr. Kruppa added that the local services plan process has changed every year in his eight years of involvement and with the process shifting to a multi-year plan in 2024 he did not want the Board and Subcommittees to worry about the rushed time frame for this year, (somewhat a space holder until the launching of the new process). He said that the Local Services Plan aligns close to the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (required by the Health Department) and has identified mental health and substance use issues as a priority. The hope is that both will come together to be a comprehensive process that will be done every few years, giving time to make changes.

There being no further business, Ms. McEnergy motioned to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Berman; all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.



**The Next Community Mental Health Services Board Meeting  
is October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, at 5:30 pm.**