



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

**Tompkins County Whole Health**  
**201 East Green Street**  
**Ithaca, New York 14850-5635**

Ellice Switzer, Chair

Jan Lynch, Vice Chair

Frank Kruppa; Commissioner

Harmony Ayers-Friedlander,  
Deputy Commissioner/Director of Community Services

Larry Roberts, Chair,  
Mental Health Subcommittee

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

Stu Bergman, Chair,  
Substance Use Subcommittee

**Tompkins County Community Mental Health Services Board**  
**201 East Green Street, Ithaca NY 14850**  
**Monday, March 6, 2023, 5:30 p.m. Meeting Minutes**

**APPROVED 4.3.23**

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

**Present:** Ellice Switzer; Mary Hutchens; Jan Lynch; Dr. Auguste Duplan; Sheila McEnery; Jessica Conner, PsyD; Sally McConnell-Ginet; Stu Bergman; Larry Roberts (Zoom); Tom Lipa (Zoom); and Dorothy Lovelace (Zoom)

**Excused** Travis Winter

**Unexcused:** Sullymar Pena Vazquez

**Legislature:**

**Guests:**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Ms. Switzer. Introductions were made. Ms. Lynch motioned to approve the February 2023 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica; all were in favor.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Privilege of the Floor & Announcements:** Ms. Switzer acknowledged the death of Judith Heumann on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. She was a pioneering civil rights activist who fought to improve the civil liberties of people with disabilities in this country. Mr. Roberts shared that a marijuana dispensary will be opening on the Commons and Challenge has received a license to be a marijuana dispensary. Mr. Kruppa shared his concern and Challenge is scheduled to speak at the April 3, 2023, CSB meeting.

**Chair's Report:** Ms. Switzer reported having conversations about quorum issues related to virtual participation and the language in the bylaws. With Ms. Lynch finding changes to the public meeting rules that allow people with disabilities to participate remotely and still count as making a quorum; she feels conversations should be put on hold.

**Nominating Committee Discussion/Appointments:** Ms. Switzer shared that she put out an open call for the yearly nominations for the nominating committee. She thanked Mary Hutchens, Jan Lynch, and Stu Bergman for volunteering and continuing to serve on the committee. All accepted their positions and Ms. Hutchens graciously accepted the appointment as the chair for the 2023 year. Mr. Kruppa added that press releases have gone out and several distribution lists have been informed about the vacancies on the subcommittees.

**Commissioner's Report:** Mr. Kruppa shared that the County has created a Homeless Coordinator position and he has been asked to serve on the steering committee.

#### Integration:

- Co-locating services from Green Street to Brown Road to provide the same services at Brown Road and will include therapists, a nurse practitioner, a nurse, and supervisory and administrative support staff. Existing clients have expressed interest in the Brown Road location and look forward to interest from those living in that area of the County.
- Genoa Pharmacy will start construction at Green Street on the first floor this month. It is not considered a specialty pharmacy but caters to those with mental health and substance use diagnoses. The pharmacy will be open only during the clinic's hours.
- Security and confidentiality have been addressed for both locations.

**2022 Annual Agency Contract Review:** Ms. Ayers-Friedlander referred to the contract summary included in the packet. She said almost \$6 million dollars flow through the department to the LGU from the State (OMH & OASAS), smaller amounts from the County, and Over Target Requests (OTR) which are (ARPA) federal funds. The overview highlighted six of the thirteen contracted agencies for the 2022 year and the remaining will be reviewed at next month's meeting. The contract reporting requirements quarterly and annual outcome review process was recently revamped for better consistency and accountability.

#### Contract Reporting Requirements:

- Submit a quarterly report that includes:
  - Local Services Planning Goal Area
  - Impact Statement
  - Results Based Accountability Outcome Measures along with financial information (program revenue, costs, and cost/unit of service)
  - Achievements and Barriers Experienced
  - The fourth quarter report is the annual report
- Attend annual meeting to review outcomes and any changes to the contract for the following year

Three questions were asked of all agencies in the quarter reporting:

1. How much of a service and or how many are being served?
2. How well are they doing that service?
3. How better off are the individuals being served?

#### Agency Contract highlights

**BOCES:** Did an amazing job with a school-based prevention program that focused on mitigating risk factors and strengthening internal and external protective factors for youth by promoting social-emotional and mental wellness. 93% of youth participating in the program demonstrated improved social and resiliency skills as measured by pre-and post-surveys *with a goal of 80%*

**Catholic Charities:** Advocacy and Support Services program improved the program to directly assist agencies in engagement that provide services to families and children who want to improve the accessibility of their services to minoritized communities. She acknowledged Tommy Miller, Director of Family Empowerment Services with the amazing ability to connect with people in the community. 100% of the participating agencies felt services were helpful in improving engagement/service delivery with minoritized communities *with the goal of 85%*. In response to Ms. Switzer's question about the type of employment, Ms. Ayers-Friedlander will have to follow up for more details.

**Challenge** (and Catholic Charities): Struggle with ongoing integrated services and is working with ACCESS-VR in hopes to improve employment services in the community because they did not have a space. Ms. Lynch stated that FLIC has allowed them space in their location to the community to better access, starting tomorrow.

#### **Family and Children's Services:**

Elder Mobile Mental Health Unit is responsive to community needs by providing high-quality mental health care, psychiatry, and caregiver counseling to older adults and their caregivers - 100 % of professionals who made referrals surveyed would recommend services to other providers.

Crisis Intervention/Children's Crisis Outreach - keeps our community's youth safe and stable housing. They reported four unduplicated youths were reunified with their family.

Zero to Five Program - Provides prompt, quality mental health services to the youngest residents of Tompkins County, particularly those who lived in underserved, at-risk, and hard-to-reach families. 100% of community members who receive consultation (daycare providers, etc.) were satisfied with services.

**Ithaca Youth Bureau:** The adult recreational services provide year-round therapeutic recreation and leisure services that promote independence, social/emotional interaction, cognitive engagement, and physical activity that support adults with disabilities achieve their goals for happiness and well-being. 93 % Scored a 7 or lower on Program Assessment Scale.

**Unity House:** Adult Crisis/Respite Transition Housing provides support for persons that need a break from their family/program to ease the stress and promote overall wellness for the person. Sixty percent average Bed Utilization ALOS 54 days

Supportive Housing assists with permanent housing through rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist homeless persons with a mental illness to achieve housing stability. 84 % housing secure (housed 6 months or longer) 100 % previously unhoused who now have secure housing

LGU Opioid Settlement Fund Update: Ms. Ayers-Friedlander shared that a group was formed which includes CSB members, subcommittee members, and local community people in organizations not funded by these monies to figure out where the \$719,473 should be spent. The group meets tomorrow at 1 pm.

The State used a formula based on multiple factors. The large amount is for both 2022 and 2023 combined. But once the plan goes through, it will be reviewed and after approval, the State will start sending money as they want services to start soon. It has to be used for new services and can't be for anything that already exists. It must be for new program development but does not have to be spent all in one year.

Mr. Kruppa responded to a question regarding the Opioid Task Force (OTF). He stated that Brenda Crosby, who is the deputy of Public Health is participating in both groups with him, in order to help make sure that whatever this group (Opioid Settlement Fund or OSF) decides to do, they are aware of that and there's no duplication and is aligned. The OTF meets regularly and will keep the CSB updated. The funds total around \$1.4 million. The City of Ithaca also has a separate set of money.

Ms. Ayers-Friedlander will address some gaps in where the money should go:

- Rapid engagement in connections
- Short-term housing

The meeting adjourned @ 7:00 pm

---

**The Next Community Mental Health Services Board Meeting is  
Monday, April 3, 2023, at 5:30 pm.**