



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

Marley Brooks and Jacob Parker Carver , Co-Chairs,
Substance Use Subcommittee

Tompkins County Community Mental Health Services Board
201 East Green Street, Ithaca NY 14850
Monday, September 11, 2023, 5:30 p.m. Meeting Minutes

Approved 10/2/2023

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

Present: Ellice Switzer Mary Hutchens; Sheila McEnergy; Stu Bergman; Travis Winter; Sally McConnell-Ginet; Jessica Conner, PsyD ; Larry Roberts (Zoom); and Jan Lynch (Zoom)

Excused: Dr. Auguste Duplan.

Legislature: Randy Brown

Guests: Anna Tamis, Howard Reid, Nicole Zulu, Khaki Wunderlich; Rachel Webb, Debra Barber; and Sullymar Pena Vazquez

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Ms. Switzer. Introductions were made. Ms. McEnergy moved to approve the April, May, and June 2023 minutes; second by Dr. Duplan; and all were in favor.

Privilege of the Floor & Announcements:

Commissioner's Report: Mr. Kruppa reported that the TCWH's budget proposal was submitted to County Administrator, Lisa Holmes, who will present it to the legislature next week. There were no changes to staffing or programming within the department and four Over Target Requests (OTR) were offered for additional funding beyond maintenance of effort.

OTRs under consideration:

1. CARES Team funding
2. Community outreach worker program to cover rural parts of the county funding
3. The third-year support of the ADC facility on Triphammer Road
4. Nursing support (\$87,860) for REACH Medical (a legislature member filed OTR)

Mr. Brown encouraged members to attend the budget presentations on September 19th and in the weeks to follow will be special budget meetings for individual departments. He shared his concerns about the cuts to youth services and believes in spending money on progressions. The schedule of all departments can be found on the County website, and they are live-streamed on YouTube. Mr. Kruppa will present the TCWH budget proposal on September 26th at 7:25 p.m.

COVID Update: Mr. Kruppa shared that COVID-19 cases are increasing but not hospitalizations. A new vaccine is imminent and approvals from the CDC and FDA advisory boards will likely happen in the next few weeks.

Genoa Pharmacy: It is open and serving patients with a grand opening in a couple of months

Subcommittee Updates: Ms. Switzer referred to the packet that included the Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Subcommittee’s brief report update. Mr. Roberts provided a verbal update for the Mental Health Subcommittee (MHS). The MHS worked with Ms. Ayers-Friedlander on the MHS plan; gained valuable information from presentations on housing and the homeless situation; and currently addressing the topic of loneliness as a public health crisis and researching ways to have ACT services available countywide.

Co-Response Model Crisis Alternative Response and Engagement (CARE)Team: Debra Barber, Sheriff’s Deputy and Rachel Webb, Clinical Therapist make up the Co-Response Crisis CARE Team, a collaboration between sheriff’s deputies and mental health clinicians to provide better services to people in mental health crises. Since recently starting, the team has been shown to result in fewer arrests, emergency department visits, and suicides, and is an example of a positive law enforcement-mental health partnership.

940 interventions were prevented in the last week and a half, including a 911 call of a suicidal person who was taken to the hospital for evaluation. Law enforcement officers are not mental health professionals, so they may not be able to tease out the best course of action for a suicidal person.

Ms. Webb, a mental health professional, provides valuable insights to law enforcement on how to handle situations involving individuals with dementia or mental health issues. APS (Adult Protective Services) is a resource that can be contacted by law enforcement to provide additional support and protection for these individuals.

Dispatch may not always know when to send the CARE team, and there may be a gray area in decision-making, leading to variations in response. Dispatch directs calls accordingly following the policy criteria, but individuals can request the CARE team as long as it is in their jurisdiction. The CARE team does not currently respond to City calls as the CARE team is under the direction of the sheriff’s department. The CARE team is giving a presentation on Wednesday to State Troopers for a better understanding. The CARE team is mobile and works 9 – 5 p.m. The CARE team does follow-ups to tie up loose ends as well as to link individuals to services and resources.

Mr. Kruppa said that the OTR was approved for a law enforcement position and two social workers with the expectation that the second social worker would team up with an Ithaca City Police Officer. There are ongoing conversations with the City to get them partnered up once the second social worker is hired. The Mobile Crisis Team continues to work with the City. TCWH is developing data collection points with the Sheriff’s Office and the Community Justice Center.

CSB applicants Nicole Zulu, Howard Reid, Susan Tabrizi, and Khaki Wunderlich introduced themselves and shared their interest in becoming members.

6:31 p.m. Mr. Roberts moved to go into executive session to discuss CSB applicants; seconded by Mr. Bergman.

6:40 p.m. Mr. Bergman moved to go out of executive session; seconded by Mr. Winter

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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**The Next Community Mental Health Services Board Meeting is
Monday, October 2, 2023, at 5:30 pm.**