



Tompkins County
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

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

Jan Lynch, Chair

Sheila McEnery, 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
55 Brown Road, Ithaca NY 14850
Monday, June 3, 2024, 5:30 p.m. Meeting Minutes

Minutes Approved
7.1.2024

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

Present: Jan Lynch; Mary Hutchens; Sheila McEnery; Jessica Conner, PsyD; Travis Winter; Anna Tamis, PhD; Howard Reid; Nicole Zulu, PhD; Stu Bergman; Alaina Zapf, PsyD. ; and Larry Roberts (Zoom)

Excused: Dr. Auguste Duplan; Sally McConnell-Ginet; Khaki Wunderlich; and Deb Barber

Legislature: Randy Brown

Guests: Tiffany Bloss, Executive Director of Suicide Prevention & Crisis Service

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. Lynch. Introductions were made. Ms. Ayers-Friedlander asked that a review of a resolution for 730 orders be added to the agenda. Ms. McEnery moved to approve the May 6, 2024, minutes, seconded by Ms. Conner; all were in favor with minor edits made.

Privilege of the Floor & Announcements: Mr. Kurppa shared that the new Finance Director’s interpretation of the county’s procurement policy in the process of Over Target Requests (OTR) of \$50,000 or more requires a competitive procurement process and \$20k - \$50k only have to get multiple bids. The REACH Medical and the Mental Health Association OTRs previously discussed at the CSB, will now be processed by the Human Services Coalition’s competitive procurement process. The OTR on tonight’s agenda from Suicide Prevention & Crisis Service is a type of service and money value that the CSB can discuss and if approved, can recommend to the legislature as has in the past.

Letters of support for specific vendors can be written. The Human Services Coalition’s competitive process is similar to a Request for Proposal (RFP) but does not have a public comment component. Their recommended proposals to the legislature will go as part of the budget process and include a public hearing period.

Suicide Prevention & Crisis Service (SPCS)– Ms. Bloss explained that SPCS is proposing a request for a part-time (8 hour/week) Tompkins County Suicide Prevention Coordinator to support the Coalition to focus on the community with a dedication to moving the strategic plan of the coalition forward. She noted Goal #3 for Crisis Services and Objective #5 to Support Suicide Prevention Efforts – Supports Suicide Prevention Coalition of the Tompkins County Local Services Plan.

She said that with the huge increases in suicide, increases for those in crisis in Tompkins County, and the only county in the State without a coordinator, this position would enhance and motivate necessary initiatives of the Coalition. SPCS currently has an in-house social worker who is qualified, willing, and available. The 8-hour coordinator position is consistent with other employed Coalition coordinators.

Dr. Conner moved to submit SPCS's Over Target Request (OTR) to support a Tompkins County Suicide Prevention Coordinator position to the legislature and was seconded by Mr. Winter; all were in favor.

Ms. Bloss thanked the CSB for their support.

Mr. Kruppa explained that the 2025 budget is currently in the building process and will go to the County administrator at the beginning of July, and then the Legislature will review the County Administrator's budget in September. A final decision is made in November but is unavailable until January 1st, 2025.

Local Services Plan Review/Update - Ms. Ayers-Friedlander referred to the 2024-2028 Local Services Plan (LSP) which can be found on the Tompkins County Whole Health website and the hard copy provided. Below are the changes after she met with subcommittee chairs and co-chairs to review, update, modify and/or revise the ongoing LSP which will be submitted to the State of the status of meeting goals and objectives for the Tompkins County Local Services Plan.

Changes/Revisions/Updates

- Workforce
 - Objective #1 changed from Workforce data collection in 2024 to **"Will Use Workforce Data Collected in 2024 to be Used to Create a Strategy and Advocacy Strategy"**
- Housing
 - New Objective Added (# 5) – **"Monitor ongoing housing solutions for individuals with mental hygiene needs"**
- Crisis Services
 - New Objective Added (# 6) – **"Support efforts to establish a sub-acute non-law enforcement response model in addition to the newly established CARE Team Co-Response Model by 12/31/2025"**
- Cross System Services
 - Objective #1 Language changed to – **"Improve Public Awareness of available services across systems including those that address social health needs"**
 - **Objective #2 was extended to 12/31/2027 due to a need for state-wide changes in the OPWDD system**
 - **Objective #3 was extended to 12/31/2026 to ensure a reasonable amount of work**
 - **Objective #4 was extended to 12/31/2027 due to complexity and need for ongoing focus**
 - **New Objective #5 – Re-establish and maintain a withdrawal and stabilization program in Tompkins County and work to create and maintain the OASAS Continuum of Care**
- Non-Clinical Supports
 - **Objective #1 was removed due to being out of the scope of the CSB and subcommittees, but language was added in Goal #4 Objective #1 to support people in accessing services that meet social health needs**
 - **Objective #2 was modified and broken down into three new objectives**
Objective #2 modified – Improve access to quality mental hygiene services for minoritized populations by completing an analysis of current state and local data available to identify gaps in access to care in 2024 due 12/31/2024
 - **New Objective #3 – Improve access to quality mental hygiene services for minoritized populations by supporting contract agencies with best practice data collection and processes in 2025 due 12/31/2025**
 - **New Objective #4 – Improve access to quality mental hygiene services for minoritized populations by collecting and analyzing local data from contract and volunteer agencies in 2026 due by 12/31/2026**

Dr. Zapf is concerned about integrated mental health transition supports and services for youths who have morbid substance use and/or developmental disabilities or other comorbid medical conditions. It was suggested that Objective #1 under Cross Systems Services to be modified to read **Improve Public Awareness of available services across systems including those that address social health needs including individuals with chronic medical conditions that increase risk.** Mr. Roberts and Ms. McEnergy would like more discussion on adding any more objectives to the plan. Mr. Roberts complimented the hard work that Ms. Ayers-Friedlander has put into successfully keeping the CSB and subcommittees on track with the LSP.

Mr. Roberts moved to approve all the revisions and changes of the LSP that were recommended from the meeting with Ms. Ayers-Friedlander, the chairs, and co-chairs of the subcommittees, seconded by Ms. Conner; all were in favor.

Resolution of 730 Order: A hard copy of the resolution was provided to the CSB for review.

RESOLUTION CALLING ON MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY TO REFORM THE STATE'S COMPETENCY RESTORATION PROCESS AND SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF S.1874 (BROUK) / A. 5064 (GUNTHER) IN THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Ms. Ayers-Friedlander shared that as the Director of Community Services, she is ordered under Criminal Procedure Law § 730 to determine if the individual is incapacitated due to mental disease or the lack of capacity to understand the proceeding against them or to assist in their defense by a 730 evaluator examination. The number of 730 orders is increasing across the State and the individuals who are found incompetent do not receive treatment services in a forensic hospital but restoration services, which is an education of the court system. People can be confined for many years in hospitals which counties are responsible for paying, it is very costly at \$1,300 per day with no oversight. There are no discharge plans and individuals are back in the community.

Ms. Ayers-Friedlander requests support from the CSB to review and approve reforming the statutory authority governing competency restoration legislation to have the money spent better.

Ms. Lynch moved that the CSB approve and accept the resolution to reform the State's competency restoration process and supports the passage of S.1874(BROUK)/A.5064 (GUNTHER) in the 2024 legislative session; seconded by Mr. Bergman; 10 of the 11 members were in favor with one abstaining.

Ms. Lynch shared that they anticipate a presentation from Executive Director, Sandra Sorensen of NAMI Finger Lakes at the July meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

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**The Next Community Mental Health Services Board Meeting is
Monday, July 1, 2024, at 5:30 pm.**