


Tompkins County
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

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

Maria Morog, Chair

Ellice Switzer, Vice Chair

Frank Kruppa; Commissioner

Harmony Ayers-Friedlander,
Deputy Commissioner/ DCS

Larry Roberts, Chair,
Mental Health Subcommittee

Sheila McEnery, Chair,
Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee

Stu Bergman, Chair,
Substance Use Subcommittee

Tompkins County Community Mental Health Services Board

April 4, 2022, 5:30 p.m. Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom

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

Approved 5.2.22

Present: Dr. Maria Morog; Ellice Switzer; Stu Bergman; Jan Lynch; Sheila McEnery; Larry Roberts; Paula Winner; and Sullymar Pena Vazquez

Excused: Dr. Auguste Duplan; Khaki Wunderlich; Mary Hutchens; and Travis Winter

Legislature: Veronica Pillar

Guests:

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 Dr. Morog, Chair. Introductions were made. Motion to approve the March 2022 minutes; Ms. McEnery 1st and 2nd by Mr. Bergman; all were in favor.

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Privilege of the Floor: None

Announcements: None

Chair's Report: Dr. Morog discussed the signing of the 2022 provider/agency contracts. The Board members agreed to review the agencies outcome measures of the yearly contracts. Ms. Ayers-Friedlander explained that the newly created outcome measure form is unique to each agency and consistent with previous reporting of contracts including a brief description of services; financial accountability; achievements; barriers; how much; how well; and how better off people are because of their services. She met individually with all the agencies and the response was well taken. The form data will be converted into an easy to read chart form when presented to the CSB for review of each agency's outcome measures.

Fentanyl-Laced Drug Discussion Follow-up: Dr. Morog, referencing Ms. Switzer's summary from the March minutes, opened up the floor to address the steps needed to move forward about the fentanyl-laced drugs affecting our community.

Ms. McEnery said that having someone from law enforcement on the Board would be helpful to keep us updated of the criminal activity and connections to incidents. Ms. Lynch said that in the meantime we should invite law enforcement as guests. Ms. Ayers-Friedlander said she reached out to Sheriff Osborne and hopes that once their office gets settled, he will be able to recommend someone from law enforcement who has Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) on mental health and is a good fit.

Mr. Bergman referred to former CSB and SU subcommittee member Mr. McKenna from law enforcement, who would report on the number of overdoses and how many were revived by the use of NARCAN. He believes the medical examiner who does the autopsies is another good option.

Ms. Pena Vazquez asked how much power or what access we as a board have in regards of action plans and how big of an impact should be considered.

Mr. Roberts asked that in moving forward with merge, how will resources be used in crafting public health messages?

Mr. Kruppa responded to Ms. Pena Vazquez's question and stated that the Board's general authorities lie over the Department and State licensed organizations and their activities we contract with. The Board's voices carry a lot of weight to any conversations including; a request for data; a direction for the department to discuss with community partners; or the Board connecting with legislators directly on issues of concern. Mr. Kruppa said that TCHD reports overdose **deaths** twice a year and the numbers hover around 20 per year for the last few years. **Deaths** are the lagging indicator with overdoses and overdose responses being more useful. The Department of Emergency Response who operates the 911 center reports statistics and monthly information on calls to the public safety committee of the legislature. He said that all this information can be made available to the CSB and other information recommended/requested from other entities that have the ability to provide such.

Mr. Kruppa will reach out to the Human Services Coalition who are the local navigators for health insurance and bring back data regarding the underinsured or uninsured people in the community.

Ms. Lynch reported that on March 8th, IPD issued a service message about drugs being brought under the disguise of cocaine and having opioids. An event trying to reduce the stigma around overdosing called "Healing Cortland – It Could Be Anyone" was held on April 1st. It is a platform where families showcase photos and share stories of loved ones who lost their lives to overdosing.

Mr. Kruppa said that pre- COVID, it was communicated by outreach workers, that a bad batch of drugs could be a draw for some individuals, and it was necessary to be clear about the language, how and when we communicated about them. Broader messages about what to expect (fentanyl-laced) and how to protect yourself if you are using street drugs will go out.

Mr. Kruppa said they are working with partners to make fentanyl strips and NARCAN more available. The deaths have been predominantly a multi-drug overdose with fentanyl present and is it difficult to tell if individuals know of the fentanyl or is it a cost factor.

Dr. Morog added that this is one of those times where public and mental health departments combined is an advantage with messaging apparatus.

Mr. Kruppa added links in the chat about most recent public safety report where the Department of Emergency Response reports monthly on calls and show how many were overdoses. He will communicate with our data department to have it consolidated into a place on TCHD opioid webpage.

Dr. Morog and the Board agree to have a representative from law enforcement attend a meeting. Mr. Roberts added to have an update from the Coordinator of Dual Recovery Services, Rich Shaw.

Bylaws and Charter Discussion Continued: Dr. Morog reported that the Bylaws and Charter Committee is scheduling a meeting in April and will provide and update at the May meeting.

Nominating Committee Updates (Subcommittee Chair & Co-Chair Appointments): Mr. Berman reported that subcommittees should have their own elections for co-chair or vice chairs. If only one person is running or interested they would be the chair; if two are interested there would be co-chairs; if three are interested a vote should be had but the process has not been finalized and is open for discussion.

Sheila shared that at the DD meeting two members, Jeff Boles of FLIC and James Beaumont of Unity House agreed to co-chair. A Zoom meeting to go over the agenda and help in the transition was scheduled. She noted it worked very well although the process was not followed.

Mr. Roberts suggested that when updating the bylaws the process for recommending chairs should be clearly written.

1:03

There being no further business, Ms. McEnery motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Ms. Switzer; all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

**The Next Community Mental Health Services Board Meeting
is May 2, 2022, at 5:30 pm.**