

STEUBEN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

3 p.m.

Second Floor, Annex Building, Conference Room A

20 East Morris Street

Bath, New York

**\*\*MINUTES\*\***

**PRESENT:** Cora Saxton, Acting CSB Chairperson, Wayland/Cohocton School  
Lynn Lewis, Acting Director of Community Services  
Darlene Smith, Steuben County Public Health Nursing  
Mark Alger, CSB and Developmental Disabilities committees  
Gina Reagan, Catholic Charities  
Doreen Patterson, Arbor Housing  
Dr. Cole, CSB and Substance Abuse committees  
Auralee Jefferds, Adult Clinic Coordinator

**OTHERS:** Elisa Tobia, community

**I CALL TO ORDER** by Cora Saxton, Acting Chairperson of CSB. Ms. Saxton introduced Ms. Lynn Lewis as the Acting Director of Steuben County Community Mental Health Center following Dr. Chapman's retirement. Minutes from December 2022 were approved with MOTION by Mr. Alger and second by Dr. Cole. All were in favor carries.

**II PRESENTATION** Ms. Tobia introduced herself as a member of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) handing out her personal card as well as flyer for the Finger Lakes NY chapter and gave an overview. She noted NAMI is for Support, Education and Advocacy for families of mental health recipients. She shared her personal experience of a son who took his own life. Ms. Tobia voiced her concerns about the discrepancy of mental health services available considering the population ratio, rates of suicides and overdoses, rural mental health care, funding, the VA services and the county needs. Ms. Lewis thanked Ms. Tobia for her presentation. Ms. Lewis noted that the subcommittees will be meeting with Ms. Saxton soon to map out new goals, roles, positions being filled and the overall process of ideas how to move forward with the Community Services Board, local services plan and what else can be worked on.

**III GENERAL BUSINESS** The goal of today's meeting is to discuss the Opioid Settlement Funds and ways this can be allocated for prevention, treatment and recovery programs within Steuben County. Looking to identify where there are gaps in treatment, for thoughts among the committee members on what direction(s) to proceed with spending proposals.

Ms. Smith, Public Health Nursing, gave an overview of her recent presentation to the Senior Class of Corning/Painted Post School District and her offer of training and Narcan kits to personnel which was turned down, school saying it was not allowed in the building. Ms. Smith noted they need to provide more education. Dr. Cole suggested the Board of Education have a public meeting along with the Superintendents. Discussion had with regard to the school allowing AED devices, fire extinguishers etc. Ms. Lewis noted the current resistance to Narcan boxes with the community. Ms. Smith cited about 5 years ago there were community forums; maybe we need to resurrect those as an avenue of education and invite a variety of providers. Mr. Alger suggested exploring with the local superintendents, Assemblymen and Senators and if there is a law that doesn't allow having the Narcan in the school buildings, then maybe there needs to be a change to the regulation. Dr. Cole felt the Legislature could change that, work with law enforcement familiar with local users of opioid and meth, an outsider could ask if anyone needs help, leave literature. Dr. Cole asked if these funds are useable for opioids and meth and Ms. Lewis noted the details contained are for opioids, but there is some cross usage. Dr. Cole noted in the majority of toxicology reports there are multiple drugs listed including tobacco, alcohol,

marijuana, in addition to opioids and meth. Ms. Patterson noted that peer services have been beneficial. She looked up the laws on use of Narcan in school and it can be received, just not sure who can administer it.

Ms. Regan of Catholic Charities discussed the COTI Van mobile services, along with peer and staff that were covered under a 1 year grant through Catholic Charities. Funding was not available long enough to see a real benefit and funding wasn't guaranteed ongoing. As part of harm reduction approach, CC has installed 13 Narcan boxes in public areas where they should have them available. Dr. Cole identified a potential gap in physicians who prescribe Suboxone treatment. Identified Drs. Verkleeren and Parker, but need other doctors to continue along those lines. Ms. Tobia asked if the Police Departments hand out Narcan kits. Dr. Cole noted there is resistance in law enforcement agency to do that. Ms. Tobia asked if there were any other authoritative agencies in the community to assist with distribution and training. Ms. Patterson noted police training has been great, beneficial to overall education process. Ms. Lewis said there are some mental health funds available for police trainings. Ms. Lewis noted that MAT is offered at both the SCASAS and MH Clinics. Ms. Lewis noted t peer services have the problem of expensive training, ability of potential peers to pass background checks etc. Dr. Cole noted the websites are not current to advise of services available to care for addicts, not only in the more populated areas, but also the rural areas. Ms. Lewis noted the lack of accessibility due to the expanse of area and limited transportation.

Ms. Lewis gave update on staff recruitment, salary grid update and salary increases. Dr. Cole asked if the County has agreements with local colleges, BOCES programs etc. to attract students into the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services fields of study. Ms. Lewis noted the County does take on interns, will have 5 new interns in the fall. Some have continued with the County after graduation. Discussion of salaries and the range depending on the areas. Ms. Lewis noted they will continue to recruit staff and interns, apply for more grants, and look at other recruitment incentives. Brief discussion had on the Local Services Plan, just noting there is a new format which was just received last week. Ms. Lewis asked Committee and Board members to email her with any ideas, goals/objectives to include in the Plan, obtainable goals, Plan is due end of June.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** MOTION: TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND RECONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS' LAW, ARTICLE 7§ 105.1.F. THE MEDICAL, FINANCIAL, CREDIT OR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR PERSON OR CORPORATION, OR MATTERS LEADING TO THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL OR REMOVAL OF A PARTICULAR PERSON OR CORPORATION MADE BY MR. ALGER, SECONDED BY DR. COLE AND DULY CARRIED.

MOTION: FORWARDING FOR THE STEUBEN COUNTY LEGISLATURE'S CONSIDERATION, THE RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT LYNN LEWIS AS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES MADE BY MR. ALGER, SECONDED BY DR. COLE AND DULY CARRIED.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION MADE BY MR. ALGER, SECONDED BY MRS. SMITH AND DULY CARRIED.

**IV** **NEXT MEETING** August 18, 2023, agenda with meeting location to be sent

**V** **ADJOURN** MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. ALGER, SECONDED BY MS. REAGAN AND DULY CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dawn Champaign  
Senior Stenographer  
Dept. of Community Services