

**Oswego County Division of Mental Hygiene
Community Services Board
Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 20, 2023**

Present: Robert Ireland, Julie Landy, Melinda Casson, Samantha Cleveland, Tory DeCaire, Amy Durkin, Diane Oldenburg, Greg Osetek, Patrick Waite, Teresa Woolson

Excused: Brian Coleman, Sara Sunday,

Absent James Karasek

Staff: Catherine Li Voti-Rice, Community Services Program Coordinator
Jill Gutelius, Children's Services Coordinator
Nathan Barron, Adult Services Coordinator

Community Members: Dean Wright (Desen's House), Beth Hurny-Fricano (ARISE), Lance Stenfeldt (Clear Path), Maryann Deery (LRI), SuAnn Howard (OI), Michelle Canfield (OCO), Penny Foster-Pratt (OCO), Peter Williams (OC Health Dept.), Shelley Lafurney (Oswego Health), Jessica Hotaling (OCO), Jessica Haase (Hillside), Kim English (LRI), Dan Burns (Elmcrest), Eric Bresee (Farnham), Lisa Williams (LRI)

- 1) Called to order by Chairman, Robert Ireland
- 2) Roll call of members.
- 3) Approval of agenda. Motion by Julie Landy, seconded by Melinda Casson. All in favor.
- 4) **APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS**
 - A. Approval of August 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Motion by Patrick Waite, seconded by Teresa Woolson. All in favor.
- 5) **REPORTS (re-certifications, site visits, performance monitoring, etc.)**
 - A. Oswego County Opportunities, OPWDD Agency Audit, Michelle Canfield, Director of Developmental Disability Services: First Agency Audit in twenty-seven years by OPWDD, many deficiencies noted. Three Auditors were on site for two weeks, then completed the remainder of the audit remotely. Key areas includes who Behavior Support Staff are under the direction of - currently redefining job description; Training - to be corrected by the end of the year; self-advocacy, person centered planning, and community inclusion - working on creating self-advocacy group; policies and procedures not being current, and staff not being trained on. Plan of Corrective Action has been submitted, have not heard back as of today's date. Still going forth putting plan in place. In addition to Agency Audit, OCO had four IRA visit reviews. Two visits conducted were remotely conducted at East 12th Street House (August) and Ames Street House (September), no SOD's. The other two visits were completed in person, one to the West Broadway house in Fulton and the other to the Supervised Apartments. A SOD was given for the house related to diabetes training, and at the apartments for incident management, both have been corrected.
 - B. Oswego County Opportunities, Mental Health Family Care Program Recertification, Jessica Hotaling, Mental Health Services Program Coordinator and Penny Foster-Pratt, Family Care Program Coordinator: Office of Mental Health (OMH) did a recertification of MH Family Care Program. No deficiencies were noted. Recertification is for two years until 2025. Currently have four family care homes that provide for six residents within the Fulton, Oswego and Central Square areas of the County. Two slots are currently

open: one in Fulton (full by November 1st) and Oswego (on hold). Accepting referrals, and still looking for additional providers. To access services, an individual must have a mental health diagnosis and not a danger to self or others. Residences are co-ed, and individuals can stay up to or over 10 years.

6) **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Report from Subcommittee Chairs-Integrated Subcommittee (ISM) activity (Suspended until January 2024 CSB Meeting) Chairpersons: Patrick Waite, Samantha Cleveland, Greg Osetek

7) **NEW BUSINESS (program updates, announcements, state initiatives, etc.)**

- A. Lobdell Mental Health and Wellness Center, Introduction of Executive Director Clark Sargeant, Jody Pittsley, Associate Administrator: Not in attendance at meeting.
- B. Elmcrest Children's Crisis Respite, Program Overview, Dan Burns, Director of Crisis Respite Services: Opened in March 2023. Program has been audited, received full licensure. Program has 2 – 6 bed programs. Both programs are accessed the same way and serve children and youth ages 5 through 18 years of age. The program serves all genders, rooms and bathrooms are individual. Elmcrest does have rooms that are ADA compliant, child/youth must be able to provide self-care. Medication self-administration is up to registered nurse to determine; not a barrier to stay. No mental health diagnosis is needed to access services nor is one needed upon leaving program. Services are billed through the individual's health care insurance. If there is no insurance, the individual can still participate in the program. The program is person-centered and voluntary. Elmcrest offers limited transportation; cannot transport to admission appointment. Once admitted to program, the program does try to maintain the youth's connection to their community by providing transportation up to an hour away, to school, extracurricular activities, employment, and to their therapist. Can have cell phones with them if parents/caregiver allows. The Crisis Respite Program addresses the need that got the child/youth to the Respite Program. Twenty-one-day maximum length of stay, the average individual accesses program for fourteen days. A minimum of a week's stay is recommended. There is no limit on how many times a child can access the program. Disqualifications to attending program include child/youth not willing to be there, risk of harm to others, under the influence of substance. If in need of medical treatment, must get medical treatment first. Program operates 24 hrs./day. Effective October 20, 2023, referral and admission team were consolidated. Supervisor Coverage 20-22 hrs./day. Program provides thirty-day aftercare support if needed. Many families are already connected. Oswego County has a 15% referral rate, secondary to Onondaga County. Positive feedback from several meeting attendees on how easy the process to access was. Stated program is a good resource. Looking at increasing by 8 beds on current campus. Would be open to having a campus in Oswego County.
- C. Director's Report, Director of Community Services, Division of Mental Hygiene – (See Attached.)

8) **COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Mental Hygiene Networking Meeting – Wednesday, December 20, 2023
- B. Provider & Community Updates / Concerns

9) **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion by Melinda Casson, seconded by Amy Durkin. All in favor.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Integrated Subcommittee Meeting: November 2, 2023
- Community Services Board Public Meeting: Calendar of upcoming meeting will be sent out following Community Services Board Business Meeting.