


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 McEney, Chair,
Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee

Stu Bergman, Chair,
Substance Use Subcommittee

Tompkins County Community Mental Health Services Board
January 3, 2022, 5:30 p.m. Meeting Minutes Approved 2.7.2022
Via Zoom

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

Present: Mary Hutchens; Maria Morog; Jan Lynch; Ellice Switzer; Paula Winner; Travis Winter; Khaki Wunderlich; Dr. Auguste Duplan; Sheila McEney; Larry Roberts; Stu Bergman; Mandy Caughey

Excused: Sullymar Pena Vazquez; Harmony Ayers-Friedlander;

Guests:

Staff: Frank Kruppa, Commissioner; Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant

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The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mary Hutchens, Chair. Motion to approve the December 2021 minutes with a correction; Travis 1st/Khaki 2nd. All were in favor.

Privilege of the Floor: None

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Announcements: The board thanked Ms. Hutchens for personally delivering appreciation bags in the month of December and complimented Mr. Kruppa on his thoughtful letter of appreciation.

Election Slate of Officers: Ms. Hutchens moved to motion Ms. Maria Morog to the chair of the CSB and Ms. Ellice Switzer to vice-chair. Motion made by Mr. Bergman, second by Mr. Winter; all were in favor; no discussion – motion approved.

Ms. Morog thanked Ms. Hutchens for her leadership over the past two years. She said her leadership has encouraged a culture of openness, compassion, active engagement and graciousness which has made the board very productive and hopes to successfully fill her shoes. Ms. Hutchens said it has been a pleasure getting to know the members better and to learn of each one's expertise and talents. She appreciates the members participation and patience as she perfected her Zoom skills.

Subcommittee Leadership Discussion: A discussion included the current process of electing officers to the subcommittees and rethinking the inclusion of members from funded agencies. Ms. Morog said the that the new process should be included as they review and update the current bylaws.

Members of subcommittees

Mr. Kruppa relayed the county attorney's stand on individuals from funded agencies being members of the board and subcommittees. In the case of a conflict of interest, it is up to the board, which can be potentially overcome by the individual recusing themselves. It is fine for the subcommittees to have members from funded agencies.

Including members from funded agencies: Pros- opens limited selection, fills vacancies, and the ability to engage stakeholders.

Ms. McEney - the DD subcommittee has effectively used co-chairs.

Ms. Lynch - family members might not be participating in meetings because the meeting topics/discussions are not interesting or does not provide an opportunity to express themselves.

Members recommend opening the subcommittees to those from funded agencies. Ms. Wunderlich will review the different sections of the statutes on membership and provide and update.

Subcommittee Leadership

Ms. Morog suggested that nominating committee members could each take a subcommittee and be the point person for those who are interested in chairing a subcommittee. Ms. Winner suggested having co-chairs. Mr. Roberts suggested mentees/mentoring. Mr. Bergman suggested term limits on chairs which might spark interests and using vice chair vs. co-chair. Mr. Winter suggests an election vs. appointments with opening up membership to funded agencies.

The board agreed that:

1. Elections will be held for chairs as per the bylaws.
2. A nominating committee member will take a subcommittee and be the point person for those interested in chairing.

The nominating committee consists of Ms. Morog, Ms. Hutchens, Ms. Lynch and Mr. Bergman and will convene to organize the elections. The vice/co-chair positions and term limits will be the charge of the bylaws subcommittee.

Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee – Ms. McEnery reported that their last meeting was chaired by Mr. Beaumont from Unity House. The meeting was productive in addressing staffing incentives and retention strategies.

Mental Health Subcommittee – Mr. Roberts reported that Alicia Kenaley, Executive Director of Family & Children Services gave an overview of their clinic. Their clinic is experiencing an increase in demand for services, long waitlists but are not facing staffing problems. There was a discussion of the temporary limit of intakes at the Mental Health Clinic due to staffing shortages. Mr. Roberts added a suggestion to merge the three subcommittee meetings on workforce retention and how to attract interested people into the field.

Substance Use Subcommittee – Mr. Bergman reported that their last meeting discussed individuals interests in the field and how and why they came into the field; CAC credentialing; Tompkins County Medical Director, Dr. Klepack will discuss the distinction between current rules and regulations governing THC versus Hemp Cannabinoids versus “medical marijuana” at January’s meeting.

Commissioner Updates/Reports: Mr. Kruppa thanked Ms. Hutchens for her support and complimented her on an amazing job of chairing the board without the assistance of a deputy commissioner for well over a year. He shared that Ms. Ayers-Friedlander could not attend tonight’s meeting due to a barricading incident at the clinic. The staff, negotiating team, crisis team and law enforcement responded professionally and compassionately and were able to safely get the client appropriate care. A virtual debriefing is planned for tomorrow morning for the staff and other supports were offered.

- Ms. Ayers-Friedlander is finishing up the 2022 fiscal contracts and will provide updates
- Recruitment efforts continue; one clinician starts Monday; two clinicians are still on medical leave

COVID-19 Update: Transition period

- Omicron is the prominent variant- less severity of illness and less hospitalizations
- CDC recommends five day isolation in quarantine via press release but NYS will not make the shift until new guidance is issued and data is provided; TCHD supports the recommendation and anticipates the utilizing in the first quarter
- Town Hall scheduled for January 5th on understanding this new phase of COVID and adaptations

Vaccinations:

- Second dose clinics scheduled for Lansing and Newfield for kids
- Every Saturday in January will hold booster clinics for 1200 appointments (Moderna)

Agenda 2022: Ms. Morog opened the floor for discussions on topics to address in 2022

1. Department emergency response protocol
2. Information on partner agencies
3. Presentation from Cayuga Medical Center
4. 988 updates
5. Workforce Development conversations and invite Workforce Development leadership to a meeting
6. Conversation on employment service options

7. Fentanyl-laced drug conversations
8. Strategic planning merger updates
9. Joint meetings with BOH and CSB
10. Priority plan updates

There being no further business, Ms. Wunderlich motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Dr.Duplan; all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.



**The Next Community Mental Health Services Board Meeting
will be February 7, 2022, at 5:30 pm.**