



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, January 8, 2024, 5:30 p.m. Meeting Minutes

Minutes Approved
2.5.2024

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

Present: Jan Lynch; Mary Hutchens; Sheila McEnery; Stu Bergman; Jessica Conner, PsyD; Travis Winter; Howard Reid and Larry Roberts (Zoom)

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

Legislature: Randy Brown

Guests: Anna Tamis; Khaki Wunderlich; Alaina Zapf; Nicole Zulu; Timothy Lockwood; Lauren Tegnander, COO for Upstate Programs at Rehabilitation Support Services (RSS); and Renee Spear

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Ms. Lynch. Introductions were made. Mr. Winter moved to approve the December 4, 2023, minutes, seconded by Ms. McEnery; all were in favor.

Privilege of the Floor & Announcements: Ms. Zulu shared that the Human Services Coalition is having a forum on Wednesday focused on insights into mental health equity at the library from 10 am to noon.

Homeless Outreach Services Safe Option Support (SOS) and Critical Time Intervention (CTI): Timothy Lockwood, Executive Director shared that the Save Options Support (SOS) is a five-year program funded by the NYS Office of Mental Health to do street outreach to homeless, sheltered, and unsheltered in Cortland, Tompkins, and Tioga counties using the Critical Time Intervention (CTI) model. The goal is to get people into stable and permanent housing and go where the need is the greatest.

It is a four-phase process to engage individuals and transition them to get them connected to resources and support. They were awarded the grant in October 2023 and are waiting for the contract. They are hiring staff in anticipation and partnered with RSS to subcontract out some of the work and split up the counties. The nine-person team will include a team leader who will coordinate all of the activities, two licensed clinicians, two care managers, and two peer specialists. RSS will have its own set of staff in Tioga as Tompkins and Cortland will with the team leader based in Cortland.

The program aims to enhance existing efforts and fill in the gaps with what already exists to address homelessness in the three counties by leveraging partnerships and working with local agencies. There are a lot of wrap-around service dollars associated and he hopes that this will be an incentive to participate. Mr. Lockwood believes housing will be the biggest challenge and is looking into grants and purchasing landlord properties to be creative.

Ms. Tegnander shared that RSS was awarded the SOS program in May 2023 and recently started serving individuals in Albany, Schenectady, and Saratoga counties also with nine-person teams and have enrolled 14 individuals in a month. She noted that

the wraparound services have helped engage individuals and meet needs with referrals from unique places. They are looking for office space in Tompkins County.

Mr. Kruppa shared that they are moving into the outreach worker world because of the OTR in the legislature funding to combine rural outreach workers with downtown outreach workers. An RFP is being created to bring a broader cohesive outreach worker system to look at linkages and clarify the issues and functions to address the needs. He compared the Opioid Settlement funds that came through the LGU. He also noted that the biggest challenge will be housing. Mr. Kruppa will keep the CSB updated on the progress of the homeless coordinator position. Mr. Kruppa noted some challenges in connecting with the right outreach worker given the diverse range of issues and areas of expertise among workers based on the need.

Mr. Kruppa said when the second CARE team is operational it will replace the current daytime mobile crisis team and will only be available when the second CARE team is not. They are working with the new Ithaca City Police Department Chief and their team for a successful CARE team.

Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Renee Spear said that they are collaborating with SOS teams through RSS and ACT to get people housed and provide case management services for adults in Tompkins, Tioga, and Cortland counties. The RFP includes 25 units across Tompkins, Tioga, and Cortland with 11 units in Tompkins County with studios or one-bedroom apartments for adults. Adults must contribute 30% of the rent (with options if unable to afford the 30%) and will be provided case management while working closely with SOS and ACT who will provide the referrals.

Ms. Spear is excited to start hiring staff to support the organization’s mission of providing housing and support services. She is familiar with local landlords and housing programs in the counties and believes the organization can be an asset in helping to connect individuals with housing and services. She states that the program includes a mental health diagnosis, domestic violence or substance use. She has found transportation opportunities by open communication with TCAT and local churches.

Mr. Kruppa shared that the county is having conversations about housing and sheltering efforts for vulnerable populations with all the additional support and working with DSS.

Slate of Nominations:

- Jan Lynch - President of the CSB
- Sheila McEnergy – Vice President of the CSB

Dr. Conner moved to approve Jan Lynch for president of the CSB and Sheila McEnergy for the vice president of the CSB; seconded by Mr. Winter; all were in favor.

Dr. Conner moved to approve Ron Schonenman for reappointment to the Substance Use Subcommittee; seconded by Mr. Winter; all were in favor.

Commissioner’s Report/Update: Mr. Kruppa said the RFP for the Opioid Settlement Funds is with county finance and administration for review. They anticipate it will be out by the end of January. Public Health Fellow, Ross Milne is creating an RFP for the Outreach Worker program with a review timeframe for the end of the month, and he noted that Family and Children Services was not interested in it. The county issued a press release on low-barrier sheltering and looking at the sheltering components.

Mr. Kruppa discussed the new outreach worker program will be more traditional outreach workers who go into the fields coordinating outreach efforts in the community to connect directly with individuals with existing services and programs. The RFP has a requirement that outreach workers work closely with the CARE team.

Ms. Zulu shared that she is working with Shannon Alvord to create space for all workers in human service professionals to support each other and better understand their roles in addressing the homelessness crisis on February 29th at the library.

CSB applicant Dr. Alaina Zapf officially introduced herself in her interest in a seat on the CSB.

The CSB toured the new mental health spaces at Brown Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



The Next Community Mental Health Services Board Meeting is

Monday, February 5, 2024, at 5:30 pm.