

Community Services Board

MINUTES

Monday – October 21, 2024 – Teams Meeting

Begin: 12:00 PM...Ended at 12:50 PM

Facilitator	Mark Searle, <i>Chair (E)</i>	
Note Taker	Sandi Pierson – Confidential Administrative Assistant	
Attendees	<u>PRESENT:</u> Hassan Abdul-Malik (L) Brian Altonen (L) Christina Aquino (V) Cheryl Brady (L) Gary Collins, <i>Recording Secretary (L)</i> Karen Lancaster (L) Alice Linder (V) Nedra Patterson-Thompson (V) Sarah Ugolini (V) Jean-Marie Niebuhr, LCSW-R (L) Deputy Commissioner/Director of Community Services V=Member participated virtually L=Member participated Live, In-person	<u>EXCUSED/ABSENT:</u> Jeanine Agnolet, <i>Vice Chairperson (E)</i> Barbara Citarella (E) Amanda Dixon (E) Heather Kunkle (A) Brianna Wasilewski (A) <u>GUESTS:</u>
PREVIOUS MINUTES		
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
9/16/24 Minutes	<i>A motion to accept the September minutes as submitted was made by Brian Altonen, seconded by Karen Lancaster, and approved by all Board members present.</i>	
COMMISSIONER'S MONTHLY REPORT		
September 2024 Report	The Deputy Commissioner's Monthly Report for September was distributed prior to today's meeting. Karen Lancaster shared that she is excited to hear about the ASFL opening a new clinic on Delafield Street that serves youth and adults. Jean-Marie agreed that this is a well-needed service and she's happy to have it in the community.	
ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE		
SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS		
Addiction & Recovery Dr. Hassan Abdul Malik	<i>The group met and discussed the following:</i> They hosted Dora Celestino from CAPE. She spoke to the group on their youth prevention education programs.	
Children & Youth Amanda Dixon	<i>The group met and discussed the following:</i> - Alice shared that the group is continuing it's work to prepare a quick resource guide for parents looking to access services. They found a similar document from NYS that they would like to build on. - There was a brief conversation about the public forums and how they were underattended. Jean-Marie mentioned that they will include a virtual option next year and they're considering a name change from "public forum" to "town hall".	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
IDD Mark Searle	<i>There was no one present to report.</i>	
Mental Health	<i>There was no one present to report.</i>	
NEW BUSINESS		
CSB Guest- Todd Hixson, Vice President of WCMC Network Behavioral Health	Todd thanked the Board for the opportunity to join the meeting and speak on the work they do at MidHudson Regional Hospital. Todd started by sharing an overview of the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence project. He shared that contracting with the county on this project has offered a great opportunity, not only to improve the facility, but also to improve the collaboration and transparency between MHRH and Dutchess County. They have a steering committee that meets quarterly with Dutchess County leadership to discuss the work they're doing around improving their quality of care, reducing waiting times & enhancing the patient experience, as a whole. Todd shared the improvement in MHRH Press Ganey patient satisfaction survey results over the last 3 years. The percentage of people who said they were "very likely" to recommend others to the hospital has climbed from 44% in 2022, to 57% in 2024. Some program enhancements they've added recently include peer counseling programs, pet therapy programs, ONTRAC program partnership, and ongoing facility upgrades to enhance the patient environment. In addition, they've increased wages and elevated job descriptions and qualifications for clinical staff, and they continue to work on improving the response rate of physicians. Lastly, they've completed design work for a complete renovation of 4-Spellman, a 15-bed, inpatient psychiatric unit. Once the new unit in Kingston is open and at full census, they will begin renovations at MHRH. This will hopefully be in early 2025.	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	Todd also shared that addiction services at MHRH have seen significant improvements and expansion. Funding from OASAS has been used to enhance emergency room experiences and linkages to care for those seeking addiction treatment. Inpatient dependency services, including detox and rehabilitation, have experienced growth, with a 22% increase in rehab patients compared to pre-COVID levels in 2019 and a higher retention rate, as 40% of detox patients now stay for rehab. The Turning Point outpatient program has also expanded, with patient numbers rising over the past year, from 250 to 350. Karen asked where individuals who needed inpatient care would be transferred to while beds were down for renovations. Todd said that while some people may be sent to the new 20-bed unit in Kingston, it would be more likely that people would go to Westchester for inpatient hospitalization. Sarah asked if there were any plans for adolescent inpatient care at Kingston or MHRH. Todd said there are no plans to bring those services online at this time. While there is demand for these services, staffing for the specialty of adolescent psychiatry is particularly challenging. Since they are already established in Westchester, they have a plan and are seeking funding, to expand the number of adolescent beds they have there. Sarah also asked if the survey asks people about their experience in the ER. Todd said there are questions in the survey about the admissions process but generally, it's only for inpatient care. Jean-Marie shared that contract for the Behavioral Health Center for Excellence has really helped the relationship between Dutchess County and MHRH. There is regular communication, stronger relationships and much more collaboration than there has been in the past.	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
OLD BUSINESS		
FOLLOW-UPS		

SLP/