

Mental Hygiene Board

APPROVED MINUTES

Monday – February 26, 2024 – Teams Meeting

Begin: 12:00 PM...Ended at 12:40 PM

Facilitator	Mark Searle, <i>Chair (L)</i>	
Note Taker	Sandi Pierson – Confidential Administrative Assistant	
Attendees	<u>PRESENT:</u> Gary Collins, <i>Recording Secretary (L)</i> Brian Altonen (L) Cheryl Brady (L) Amanda Dixon (V) Heather Kunkle (V) Karen Lancaster (L) Alice Linder (L) Brianna Wasilewski (V) Jean-Marie Niebuhr, LCSW-R 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> Cristine Groenewegen (A) Kimberly Kish (E) <u>GUESTS:</u> Dr. Hassan Abdul-Malik (public guest)

PREVIOUS MINUTES

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1/22/24 Minutes	<i>A motion to accept the January minutes as submitted was made by Alice Linder, seconded by Gary Collins, and approved by all Board members present.</i>	

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S MONTHLY REPORT

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
January 2024 Report	The Deputy Commissioner's Monthly Report for January was distributed prior to today's meeting. Jean-Marie began by addressing the biggest news in her monthly report, the split of DBCH back into two separate departments. She is optimistic for this change as it is a good opportunity highlight and promote the importance of the work we do in Behavioral Health. The County is hopeful that the separation will be complete by January 2025 and there is a lot that needs to be done over this year. The County Executive will formally announce the split during the State of the County address in a few weeks. <i>A motion to accept the January Deputy Commissioner's Reports as submitted was made by Karen Lancaster, seconded by Alice Linder, and approved by all Board members present.</i>	
ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE		
SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS		
Addiction & Recovery Liz Cooke	<i>The group did not have a quorum in January</i>	
Children & Youth Kimberly Kish	<i>The group met on 2/8 and discussed the following:</i> <i>They had a guest speaker from the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie that shared details on their expansion and the services they provide in our community.</i> <i>Discussed how they can take a more preventative approach to some of these issues in the community and decided to ask Dr. Kimberly Clare to join them for</i>	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<i>a future meeting to participate in this conversation and talk about a pediatrician's role in these issues.</i>	
IDD Mark Searle	<i>The group met on 2/20 and discussed the following:</i> <i>The group discussed changes within the subcommittee, specifically the minutes. The group will continue to keep minutes and will have each member take a turn in preparing them.</i> <i>The IDD subcommittee will also host their meetings virtually from now on.</i>	
Mental Health Grace Carnevali	<i>The group met on 2/ and discussed the following:</i> <i>The group will continue to host mini forums in 2024 and began planning for the next event.</i> <i>They have several vacancies that they're actively recruiting for.</i>	
NEW BUSINESS		
Constituent Call	Terry Schneider, a former member of the Mental Hygiene Board, reached out to Mark recently and asked him if the Board would consider asking Dr. Santiago to write a letter to Vassar Brothers Medical Center urging them to create some inpatient psychiatric beds, citing an increase in suicide deaths in our area recently and some new funding from NYS. Upon discussion, VBMC would have to open an entire new unit, find staffing for it, and apply for a specialty license to be able to do this. VBMC has been very forthcoming in stating that they have no interest in doing this, in the past. Given the current expansion of MidHudson Regional Hospital and the work they're doing in both Dutchess & Ulster Counties, the group decided that asking Dr. Santiago to reach out to VBMC was unlikely to yield any results. There was also extensive conversation around new youth services coming to our community such as a Youth ACT team and a Crisis Residence, run by the Children's Home.	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
OLD BUSINESS		
Public Forum Planning Committee	Eric D'Entrone has reached out to each of the subcommittees to see who would like to participate in planning this year's public forums. He is still waiting for a participant from the Addiction & Recovery subcommittee, but everyone is invited to participate.	Any interested member can reach out to Jean-Marie or Sandi to be included in the planning committee.
MHB Vacancies	There are currently 3 vacancies on the Mental Hygiene Board. The Legislature has interviews lined up for these positions, but any interested applicants are strongly encouraged to apply. Mark encouraged everyone to share this with their subcommittees, as well.	
FOLLOW-UPS		

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