



MEETING MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting

November 20, 2019

227 Thorn Avenue, 2nd Floor Training Room (Spectrum Health & Human Services)

10AM – 12:30PM

- I. Welcome & Introductions Mark O'Brien

Great thanks to Bruce for hosting and the lovely refreshments!

- II. Approval of Minutes Mark O'Brien
Howard moved to approve August Minutes, Bruce seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

- III. Results of 2020 Board Election Mark O'Brien

Mark explained that there was a ratification not an election as there was a seat for everyone who wanted to serve on the Board.

OMH Update - Chris updated the issue of the RFP for Crisis Intervention program for capital renovations to support services (\$50 Million statewide). Has not been released yet but coming soon. Particularly interested in WNY in Intensive Crisis Respite to help support CPEP's and other acute programs. Is this for child and adult? Chris said initially for adults but thinking of including kids now, too. Confusion continues around crisis services for kids in terms of service category. There is currently a Crisis Residence in Elmira serving FL region. Being shifted to Pt 599. Normal length of stay = 5-7 days, usually for situational crisis vs. psychiatric. Important resource. Some Community Residences designate a bed for crisis services, an innovative approach to trying to meet a critical need.

Chris reported that OMH has received notification that a 12 bed adolescent inpatient unit is closing in the region. Eastern Niagara has filed for Chapter 11 due to challenges. Had been operating at 50% occupancy. Went through process to try to

avoid closure without success. They have been approached by a couple of other hospitals interested in increasing their beds. This is happening very quickly.

OMH is looking at capacity at various other hospitals to see what makes sense in terms of capacity. These beds are a regional resource which affects planning. Question was asked if Medicaid reinvestment possible from the closed beds to support adequate beds. Uncertainty exists in the face of State's current fiscal crisis, which most likely will affect this.

Mark reported on the planned shooting at the school in Albion and the County's and school's response. This circumstance is not just a mental health issue, is larger than that. There's a threat assessment team that includes MH with intervention for the school and families. Looking to have a coordinated early intervention process developed to hopefully head off possible future threats. Proactive vs. reactive. How to move kid from threat to getting help. Mark invited people to share any models that they are aware of that have been successful.

Findings have been made that most school shooters have been profoundly bullied, though that still leaves a significant % who have not had this issue.

Buffalo police are now reviewing Internet postings from kids and visiting those of concern. Kids are being bombarded with violent words and imagery, much of it casual and "kidding." Also re: suicide. What is best response to these comments? Responses need to be effective but not be additionally traumatizing. Discussion about pairing up school resource officers with social work staff to support any child struggling during the day to get needed support.

Mary talked about the fact that there was a school shooting in 1974, this isn't new, but changing times have made it even more critical.

Bruce reported that OMH had come out with best practices for assessing community risk. Can we access that? Chris will follow up.

Is there anything we can do as a region to address this? Keep as open agenda item? Chris suggested reaching out to the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors for information and other plans that may be underway. May be valuable information there. Chautauqua County doing some interesting work as well.

OPWDD Report – Scott reports primary issue of staffing crisis across the board. Direct staff make same wages as fast food workers. Can't recruit and retain quality staff. The effect is felt directly with clients experiencing higher stress and incidents. More children with higher levels of need coming into the system and are unable to receive support. Respite is also a critical need to support families that are caring for their loved ones at home. Receiving high numbers of requests for placements that cannot be met. Even if houses have vacancies in the homes, they do not have the staff to support increased number of residents. Mark thanked Scott for being so responsive to community requests for information and collaboration since he arrived on the scene.

IV. Report from October 2019 State Co-Chairs Meeting Kirsten Vincent

Kirsten reported that WNY reported on workforce issues, talked about the survey that WNY did of recent graduates re: their readiness for practice once employed. Peer workforce issues were discussed.

Beth White reported on the 820 Issue Presentation, which was the major agenda item for the meeting. This was comprised of three topics developed by Margaret Varga and the WNY 820 Residential workgroup:

- Local DSS disenrollment of State enrolled managed care recipients when they are admitted to 820 programs due to belief that client's MA status needs to be changed from State to County. Because this process places the client back in FFS MA status until re-enrolled in managed care, it has resulted in significant periods of funding loss to 820 providers.
- Some Counties' requirement for a third party additional assessment for clients who have been referred to 820 programs, even though placement has been recommended by LOCADTR assessment.
- Request for support for 820 clients to be able to have the OTDA benefit interview on site at the 820 program using video technology instead of having client go to DSS. Erie County has been doing a pilot that shows that the interview takes much less time using this modality and is much better for the recently admitted client.

OASAS was very interested in the discussion of the above issues and is committed to pursuing each of them. Regarding the first issue, Pat Lincourt from OASAS has

already started discussion with her State counterparts and is hopeful that an agreement can be reached that it is not necessary to disenroll clients who entered managed care through the State exchange.

Beth also reported on the update that was provided regarding the limitations on Physician Assistants assessing and prescribing in Article 31 clinics. The Finger Lakes region has had several meetings with DCS's who operate Article 31 Clinics and with OMH Medical Directors to discuss the issue. Because PA's are directly supervised by psychiatrists who are responsible for determining the PA's most appropriate scope of practice, Finger Lakes RPC is requesting the discontinuation of OMH's current waiver process.

Mark reported on MD signature issues for referral to residential settings and 3 month treatment plans. OMH stated that they are looking at this issue and are open to working with providers to come to a more workable standard.

Chris confirmed that OMH is considering 6 month instead of 3 month treatment plans. She clarified that the 3-month requirement applies FFS MA, not managed care. In managed care, plan can be signed by NP or MD (if client receiving medication therapy), or LCSW-R if no meds. Group would like additional info on this. Chris will bring back to group more detailed info.

V. Reports from Subcommittees/Workgroups

a. Children's Subcommittee

Elizabeth McPartland

Beth reported that CFTSS services have been challenging to implement. Providers not finding them financially sustainable to deliver at this time. Hard to find staff. Some providers are decertifying to provide these services. Looking at common referral form, there are so many different forms out there. Group will continue to work on it. Families still very confused about what these services actually are and how to access them.

Question was asked by MCO - who does the assessment for environmental modifications to ensure it will work in the home? Who goes out after the job is completed to ensure that the work was done properly and authorize the final payment to contractor?

It was reported that this was a topic at the children's roundtable. Chris reported that she will have the Field Office's children's staff look into this, but that

inquiries can also be sent to the children's services mailbox. Beth White will report issue to RPC leadership for inquiry to OCFS.

b. Workforce

Kirsten Vincent

Kirsten reported that survey results were shared with the colleges that participated in the survey, but that they have no plans to change anything at this point. Next meeting will be in first quarter of 2020. Kirsten invited folks to join the group if interested. Will be focusing on what incentive programs might be effective in attracting staff. Flexible scheduling and benefit packages. Central region is working on this issue as well, focusing on loan forgiveness as an incentive.

c. HHH

Kirsten Vincent

Kirsten reported that last scheduled meeting was cancelled due to weather and will be reschedule for first quarter in 2020. Talked about the discussion at the Albany Co-Chairs meeting, transportation and a uniform intake package. Working with the RPC's state-wide HCBS workgroup looking at sustainability issues re: HCBS programs.

Bruce reported that phone support for requesting cab service being discontinued.

d. Residential Re-Design

TBD

Kirsten said this will reconvene after new Coordinator comes on board. In the meantime, those interested in being part of this group should contact Kirsten to get added to the invite list.

VI. Outstanding Issues

Mark O'Brien

a. Psychiatrist Signatures on Treatment Plans

This topic was discussed in the Co-Chairs meeting report.

b. Psychiatrist Signatures for Initial Referral to OMH Licensed Housing Programs

This topic was discussed in the Co-Chairs meeting report.

c. OASAS discontinuing allowance of the fingerprinting waiver for staff who are already fingerprinted through OMH (non-integrated licensure programs).

This topic was not discussed.

VII. Update on RPC Coordinator Search

Mark reported that interviews for new WNY RPC Coordinator were held with Lori Kicinski, RPC Project Director, Beth White, RPC Team Leader, Kirsten, and Mark. There were two strong candidates. It is hoped that this position will be filled quickly. Beth reported that there were a number of qualified applicants who applied for this position and she congratulated the region for its high engagement in the RPC initiative. Mark reported that he also participated in a phone interview for the RPC Assistant Director position.

Key Partner Updates: Al Hammonds from Millennium reported on the PPS in the final leg of its work. Significant focus on social determinants of care and economic conditions. Three presentations from WNY BHCC's, all excellent. Still very much up in the air re DSRIPv.2, particularly considering the State's Medicaid fiscal crisis. As of April in the New Year, Millennium brand will end but will continue to work in some other form.

Other PPS (Community Partners) report said they submitted comments to the DSRIP v2. Talking about how this will land, how can they continue good work that has been done, particularly around quality measures, and what partnerships may continue? State has reported appreciation of the quality work. Looking at how to "hard wire" the successes of some of the specific projects.

Question was asked how organizations will continue if DSRIP v2 not funded. Al reported that funds earned to this point would carry them through 2021. There would need to be some governance structure put in place, however. Not sure yet what that would look like. Needs to be in place by March 31.

Andrea Wanat commented that the "community" earned the DSRIP \$'s and the money needs to come back to the community. How to do this most effectively? Will they be disbursed through Innovation grants?

Millennium reported that plans already in place for how the money will be spent. Both PPS's indicated that new innovation grants will not be issued as they are in "wind down" mode. Mark who is on Millennium board, commented that 95% of the

funds must go to “safety net” providers. CBO’s are being encouraged to partner with safety net providers to access the remaining funds.

- VIII. BHCC Update – Andrea Wanat from Value Network reported that the main goal is to get into VBP contracts. Making some strong progress. Will have good news to report in a few months. Biggest challenges are that 3 of 4 largest entities serve unallocated patients, so no data flowing to MCO’s regarding that population. Doing intensive data work.

Bruce reported being in discussions with five different (MCO) entities re: VBP contracts. Building metrics and data capabilities.

Mark commented that the State pushed the BHCC entity but has not facilitated direct contracting with MCO’s. Andrea said they are working on both direct and indirect contracts. Al asked if Value Network interested in contracting with other IPA’s. Mark said definitely yes. Bruce said yes too.

Integrity Partners - Mark reported that they have contracted with CCSI for data services and have received a \$250K grant from OASAS. There is overlap with Value Network, discussions continue, though Integrity covers a large geographic area including the Finger Lakes. Looking at how to bring value to members.

MCO Updates – BCBS reported that this region is working well getting POC’s to MCO’s, better than downstate.

Colleen discussed Infrastructure funds and that they have not been successfully used to stimulate increased enrollment. Outreach very challenging, as are staffing issues.

- IX. New Business

Kirsten asked folks to be sure to reply to meeting invites that are coming from Kirsten or new RPC Coordinator as Margaret Varga’s email is not active any longer.

- X. Mark announced Meeting Dates 2020
- a. February 19, 2020
 - b. May 20, 2020
 - c. August 19, 2020 (traditional meeting in the southern tier)
 - d. November 18, 2020

XI. Adjournment at 12:10pm

Mark expressed appreciation for Margaret Varga's work with the RPC and also for the group's continuing on with its work without missing a beat through the election and the transition.