

Jefferson County Community Services

County Government Building
175 Arsenal Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Timothy Ruetten, MS, LMHC, CASAC
Director

Telephone (315) 785-3283
Fax (315) 785-5182

Christina O'Neil, LCSW-R
Board Chairperson

Community Services Board Meeting

Minutes

For September 25, 2024

Call to Order: Tina O'Neil called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Members Present: Maureen Cean, Jennifer Draper, Pat Fontana, Joey Horton, Steve Kowalick, Jennifer Lachenauer, Karen Marcum, Aileen Martin, Michelle McElroy (virtual), Tina O'Neil and John Peck.

Members Absent: Dr. Sarah Delaney, Molly Smith and Kevin Vogt.

Guests Present: Bill Bowman, Pat Fralick, Jordan Jones, Tracy Leonard, Michelle Monnat, Alicia Ruperd, Ed Thomas and John Wilson (virtual).

An 1115 Waiver Presentation was made by Bruce Hathaway, Director of Network Development at Health Alliance. This is a social care network made up of a Social Care Network Council as well as sub-regional committees with an ecosystem of information and leverage of staff. There will be a Communications Plan forum on October 7 for sharing of information.

Privilege of the Floor: No one wished to speak.

Approval of the June 26, 2024, minutes: Motion: Jennifer Lachenauer. 2nd: Maureen Cean.
Minutes approved.

Director's Report: **See attached sheets.** Alicia also discussed the annual Suicide Prevention walk and its success. The 2024 JC Suicide Prevention Survey has been released. Results of this survey will be used to compare to 2023 survey data. A gun safe raffle hopefully will be planned for December.

2024 Budget Modifications:

CHJC (CCJC) Motion: Waived through M.H. subcommittee.
2nd: Aileen Martin.

MHA (Drop In Center, Psychosocial – Bridges) Motion: Waived
through M.H. subcommittee. 2nd: Joey Horton.

SMC (O/P Behavioral Health) Motion: Waived through M.H.
subcommittee. 2nd: Joey Horton. Abstention: Tina O'Neil.

All budget modifications approved.

2024 Preliminary Budget:

NCTLS, Inc. Motion waived through M.H. subcommittee. 2nd: Jennifer Draper. Abstention: Maureen Cean.

Preliminary budget approved.

Open Topics: Tina O'Neil stated the SMC Behavioral Health unit now has twelve enclosed beds in the ER. Jennifer Draper spoke regarding the Justice Center training for law enforcement with regard to working with people with disabilities. She also stated ARC's scuttle walk is being held on October 26.

Next meeting date: October 23, 2024, at 4 p.m.

Adjournment at 5:23 p.m. Motion: Aileen Martin. 2nd: Joey Horton.

Respectfully submitted,



Lois Boshane
Secretary

CSBMinutes092524

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Director's Report September 25, 2024

Community Services Office:

Fully staffed with no drama.

CS Budget was in on time. Budget meeting went well.

County/State/ Federal Initiatives:

Crisis- Jefferson County BOL has approved my proposal to do a sole source contract with FDRHPO to manage the design and build of our bi-county mobile crisis project. We will be coordinating with Lewis Co to establish an MOU so they can pay Jefferson as the lead county on the project.

- We are in receipt of approx. \$560K in Regional Abatement Funding designated for 2024. I am currently working with the purchasing dept to issue an RFP in the hope that we will receive innovative proposals. All proposals that meet the requirements within the Opioid Settlement Funding Initiatives webpage are welcome and will be considered. Stay tuned for developments on the RFP.

Local Services Plan: N/A

Local/Community Concerns/Issues:

- Homelessness is once again a hot topic in Watertown. I attended a tour and leadership meeting in Ogdensburg two weeks ago and last week toured 3 different homeless shelters in Syracuse. My involvement continues to be in an advisory role. I continue to defer any media requests regarding homelessness to Jillian Redder.
- We continue to be in a holding pattern for restoration service payment. Community Services had received over \$500K in bills.
- This week I toured the Cannabis Depot on Murrock Circle. This is an initiative that establishes communication between the Alliance for Better Communities and our local smoke shops and dispensaries. SO far the owners that have been engaged have been extremely cordial and collaborative. We are providing CDC poisoning brochures and lock boxes to help keep cannabis and other potentially harmful substances out of reach of both youth and pets.

Suicide Prevention Coalition:

- Annual walk was very successful. We raised just over 4000 dollars this year.
- We held our first annual "Chalk the walk and have the talk" contest. The winner of the 100 dollar Vito's gift card was Watertown Child and Adolescent Wellness Clinic.
- We have released the 2024 JC Suicide Prevention Community Survey. which will run until September 30th. We will then use the results to compare to 2023 data.
- Our next big event will be in December - we are hoping to do a gun safe raffle.

AOT/ETA:

- AOTs:
 - 22 Active AOTs
 - 0 Pending AOT Hearing
 - 3 open investigation
 - 2 did successfully step down to ETA, 1 more planned for 2024
 - 14 successful discharges since 2017
- ETAs:
 - 6 active
 - 7 successful discharges since 2018
- Significant Events:
 - Completed this month as a result of noncompliance/decompensation - 2
 - Admissions for AOT/ETA clients as a result of noncompliance/decompensation - 2
 - Significant Event Reports to OMH - 7
 - Violation of Probation or Parole - 0

DA/PD/JCCS MH Collaboration:

- Continue on a regular basis