

MINUTES  
Saratoga County Community Services Board Meeting  
September 26, 2024

Present: Edmond Amyot, M.D., Amy Hughes, RJ Stutzmann, Captain Dan Morley, Maureen Lewsey, and Lillian McCarthy. Also present: Michael S. Prezioso, Ph.D., Megan W. Johnson, and Cari Abatemarco from the Mental Health Center.

Absent: James Colamaria, Paul Morcone, Michaelah Townley, Erin Christopher-Sisk, Ph.D., and Christina Holst.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Amyot called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

**III. MINUTES**

Motion to accept the minutes from May 30, 2024 and July 25, 2024 was made by Dr. Amyot. Ms. Lewsey abstained from voting for the July 25, 2024 meeting due to being absent. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hughes. Motion carried.

**IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

None.

**V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Safety – Dr. Prezioso, Megan Johnson, and Cari Abatemarco met today with Allied Universal Security Services who conducted a tour of our facilities to gain more understanding of our program. After the meeting and based on the recommendation of Supervisor Ostrander, it was concluded that this was the organization we would like to move forward with to provide the security services. We will coordinate with purchasing as to the next step in the process.
- B. CRPAs/SROs – Dr. Prezioso stated that he and Captain Morley have worked over the course of many months on the project to bring CRPAs into the school system to pair with SROs to provide extra support. There were numerous challenges with regard to liability, insurance coverage, and transportation. Due to the fact that we had not allocated funds for liability insurance and the schools did not previously possess it, we reached out to our local partners. After some discussions with CAPTAIN, they have agreed to bring the CRPAs on. While this is not yet finalized, as there are still a couple of issues that need to be worked out, we are further along than we were. More to follow.

- C. County Budget Process (Finance Director) – As the budget process continues, Dr. Prezioso stated that he met with the Finance Director during the first week in September, with Supervisor Veitch from Saratoga Springs attending a portion of the meeting. Dr. Prezioso expressed his gratitude to Cari Abatemarco, Administrative Officer, and Lisa Banden, Fiscal Manager, for again preparing a very detailed budget request that outlined our goals. During a department head meeting earlier this week, we were presented with a depiction of the County’s financial status for 2025, as we work to finalize the budget.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Peer Support Team NYS Department of Health Recognition – In addition to The First Responder Peer Support Team being recognized for its Leadership by the Saratoga County EMS Council, and by the Regional Emergency Medical Organization (REMO) for Excellence in EMS Quality and Service, the team was also recognized by the NYS Department of Health Bureau of EMS for the Statewide Service award. Dr. Prezioso will be attending the Vital Signs Conference on behalf of the team in October.
- B. 911/988 Interface – OMH and the communications center, within the Office of the Sheriff, want to develop a set of protocols that when a call comes into 911 and meets specific criteria, it is routed to 988 (Suicide & Crisis Lifeline). We have met with the Vibrant, the vendor for 988 and OMH, along with individuals from Westchester County who are further along in the process. Dr. Prezioso is pleased to report that this will be implemented soon, beginning with the communication staff being trained on those protocols October 8, 9, and 10.
- C. RSS Crisis Residential Services – Dr. Prezioso met with the Chief Operating Officer of RSS, Lauren Tegnander, and RSS consultant, Bill Dixon. There is OMH money available to them to establish a regional crisis residential facility short-term. OMH believes that doing this regionally will provide more resources to more individuals than making it county-specific. This would encompass Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Columbia, Greene, and Saratoga Counties. As of yet, there are no locations officially cited. There are still outstanding concerns relating to items such as transportation and jurisdiction.
- D. LDOH Collaboration: Suicide Dashboard – This item was not discussed.
- E. Hospital/Community Collaboration – The State has created a new office to focus on hospital and community collaborations. They want to provide technical support to ensure that the communications between the community and hospital are optimal in order to facilitate both admissions and discharges back into the community. Using tracer methodology, they will review a chart, ensure assessments are being completed, collateral contacts are established, and phone calls are made to all of the identified providers to facilitate the smooth transition out while also ensuring that the information is captured on the way in. Dr Prezioso indicated that while we

currently have this system in place, there should be more concern for available resources.

- F. Membership – This is the time of year that the Chairman of the Board begins making appointments to the various advisory boards. Dr. Prezioso stated that if any board members had anyone in mind who they think would be interested in being part of this board, to please pass the names along. We can send information to those individuals as to what the board does and if there is interest, we can forward those names. During this meeting it was also noted that Dr. Nicole Tremblay has submitted her resignation from the board as of August 6, 2024.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)**

**VIII. NEXT MEETING**

The end-of-year meeting will be determined by doodle poll.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Stutzmann, seconded by Dr. Amyot. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted by: Kellie Russo**