

TIOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE

COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

May 15th, 2025

APPROVED

Via Hybrid

Member Fran Bialy
Attendance: Larissa Brower
Porshea Moore
Bob Williams
Tina Lounsbury
Shawn Nalepa
Keith Nichols, MD
Bill Standing, III

Guests: Casey O'Reilly, OPWDD

Mental Hygiene Attendance: Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services
Susan Graves, Secretary to the Director of Community Services
Meeting called to order at 9:40am

Category: Meeting Minutes

Topic: Review of minutes from April 2025 – Approved as written

Topic: Director Report – Lori Morgan

Discussion: Updates:

- RSS Funding
 - Obtained funding for RSS
 - Chris Korba requested, and state approved
- State Budget Impacts
 - Psychiatric NPs allowed to complete 730 exams
 - Maintaining funding to pass through to the jail
- Staffing
 - Clyde Ward, CASAC started in Owego 4/21/25
 - Cassandra Horton, Records Management Technician started 4/21/25
 - Bree McCartney, CSW starting in Owego 5/19/25
- Owego Elementary School
 - May have a possible issue with the contract
- Waverly Clinic
 - Very busy
 - Seeking additional staff for that location but is hard to find

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Chair Report – Fran Bialy

Discussion: Updates:

- Members asked about Dr. Bezirgianian
 - Dr. Bezirgianian has requested more hours in the clinic
 - All very happy to have him

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Committee Reports

Discussion: MH Subcommittee – Lori Morgan

- Focused on the needs of the community
- A lot of good ideas discussed
- Christine Shaver from Tioga Opportunities presenting in June regarding housing

OPWDD Subcommittee – Lori Morgan

- Questions raised regarding the state Care Coordination report
 - Waiting for approved talking points
 - Casey noted the findings can be found on the OPWDD website
 - Central office is reviewing
 - A lot of areas identified for improvement statewide
 - Highlights discussed
 - Communication
 - CCO & provider education
 - Assessing available services
 - 2-year certification for trainings

Lori asked for clarification on “OMH/OPWDD temporary operators”, Casey to follow up at the next meeting.

ASA Subcommittee – Porshea Moore

- Numerous tabling events coming up
- Transportation challenges discussed at the subcommittee

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Other Business

Discussion: Updates:

- Renewal Ranch
 - Privacy fence finished and food stand moved
 - Trying to make community connections
 - Intended to be and should be utilized by people who need the resources

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: New Business

Discussion: RSS - Larissa Brower

- SOS Team
 - Need to hire a licensed clinician and a Case Manager (bachelor’s degree required)

- New hires would work between Tompkins & Tioga Counties
- Home base could be either in the Ithaca or Owego offices

Shawn Nalepa

- Assistance for First Responders program discussed
 - People are buying in to this program
 - Tioga County has three individuals participating
 - Safe Harbor Program discussed
 - Able to move individuals to other areas to help them be successful

A New Hope Center – Fran Bialy

- May is Mental Health Awareness month
- Participating in the Strawberry Festival parade in June
- Event June 12th, 2025, from 5:30-7:30pm at the Tri-Cities Opera on Clinton Street
 - Fran is being presented with the Dr. Alice Mills Award
 - Congratulations expressed

EMS/TAM – Bob Williams

- EMS Open House
 - Saturday, 5/17 at the Public Safety Building
 - 10:00am – 2:00pm
 - Family friendly event
- TAM training
 - Today is the last of the three-day training
 - Well attended

Status: Informational – Complete

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:14am. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19th, 2025, at 9:30am.

