**ESSEX COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH**
Terri Morse, LMHC, CASAC-Master, *Director*
Dava Clement, LMHC, *Director of Clinical Services*
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**COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD**
Laurie Kelley, *Chairperson*
Terri Morse, LMHC, CASAC-Master
*Director*

# Essex County Community Services Board - Meeting Minutes
## Mental Health Subcommittee
## April 16, 2025 – 1:30 – 3:30pm (ZOOM ONLY)

| BOARD MEMBERS: | PRESENT | ABSENT | EXCUSED |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** Angie Allen *(Board)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **2.** Audie Sparre *(Board, MH & ASA Subcommittee's)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **3.** VACANT *(Board & MH Subcommittee)* | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **4.** Bryan Bond *(Board & MH Subcommittee)* | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| **5.** Cammy Sheridan *(Board Vice Chair & MH Subcommittee)* | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| **6.** Charlie Lustig *(Board & ASA Subcommittee)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **7.** Dr. Kristin Mack *(Board & ASA Subcommittee)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **8.** Jo Ann Husslein *(Board & MH Subcommittee)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **9.** John Haverlick *(Board & MH Subcommittee)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **10.** Kenneth Hughes *(Board & ASA Subcommittee)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **11.** Krissy Leerkes *(Board & MH Subcommittee)* | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| **12.** Laurie Kelley *(Board & DD Subcommittee Chair)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **13.** Leslee Mounger *(Board & ASA Subcommittee)* | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| **14.** Linda Beers *(Board & DD Subcommittee)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **15.** Mary Bell *(Board Secretary, ASA & DD Subcommittee)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

| MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE: | PRESENT | ABSENT | EXCUSED |
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| Dava Clement *(ECMH)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| JoAnne Caswell *(FF)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Valerie Ainsworth *(MHA)* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

| ALCOHOL SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE: | PRESENT | ABSENT | EXCUSED |
|---|---|---|---|
| Emily Gokey *(ST. J)* | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Ernie Hough | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Traci Ploufe *(Prev. T)* | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

| DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE: | PRESENT | ABSENT | EXCUSED |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cheryl Blanchard | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Jack Mudge *(Mtn. Lake Services)* | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Nina Matteau | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Sara Evans | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Sara Stone *(Care Design NY)* | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Tiffany King (Citizens Advocates) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Terri Morse, Community Services Board Director.
- Abbey Cramer, Administrative Assistant.
- Casie O'Reilly- OPWDD
- Jason Erwin- Regional Advocacy
- Rowena Smith- Mountain Lake Services

| AGENDA | DISCUSSIONS |
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| **Call to Order** (1:30-1:35) | Meeting called to order at 1:31PM. |
| **Meeting Minutes** (1:35-1:40) | February 12, 2025 (Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee) Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve was moved by John Haverlick and seconded by Mary Bell. All in favor.<br><br>March 12, 2025 (General/Alcohol and Substance Abuse Subcommittee) Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve was moved by Jo Husslein and seconded by John Haverlick. All in favor. |
| **Introductions/ Announcements/ Correspondence** (1:35-1:40) | Chair Report – No report. |
| **Subcommittee Provider Reports** (1:40-2:30) | **Essex County Mental Health-**<br>• Dava Clement provided a few updates, reporting on the System of Care Initiatives, including the Transitional Aged Youth Group, the School Outreach Committee, and the Adult Tier 2.<br>• She discussed the Office of Mental Health Quality Improvement Collaborative (QIC) Project that ECMH is participating in. The project revolves around School Satellite Improvements and began in the third week of March 2025. They have submitted a baseline survey to the state for this project and will be attending monthly meetings with a larger QIC group, submitting monthly reports, and attending work groups focusing on expanding capacity in satellites and continuing to develop best practices. OMH will be interviewing satellite clinicians to better understand their experience of working in school satellites.<br>• ECMH is now offering a limited Medication Management Service Only but will only be available for patients who meet specific criteria. A Medication without Psychotherapy Policy and Procedure has been written and finalized and they are now actively transitioning admitted clients to medication management only under limited circumstances.<br>• Terri Morse is working with Essex County Personnel to develop an employment posting for the position of Mental Health Court Navigator, a Care Manager Position that will help support people involved in the legal system who struggle with mental health needs.<br>• Dava discussed the Essex County Threat Assessment Team and their participation in Disaster Mental Health Work. The team received two robust “Go Bags” which are large waterproof duffle bags equipped with disaster mental health various items from the New York State Office of Mental Health.<br>• Essex County recently established the Essex County Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT), in hopes to improve investigations and to reduce the incidences of preventable overdose deaths within our County. The OFRT will review overdose fatalities, recommend improved practices, address system issues, and recommend measures to prevent future overdose |

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| | fatalities, as well as promote overall safety in the community. Several CSB providers are also participating on the OFR team.<br><br>The Essex County Health Department is the lead agency in overseeing the OFR team by providing administrative support and will be meeting quarterly to review the circumstances leading to an overdose death in the community. ECMH is providing two Next of Kin (NOK) Interviewers who were trained to perform the NOK interviews of a close person in the deceased person's life, to contribute personal perspective to the multidisciplinary examination of the cause.<br>• The ECMH waitlist has a total of 52 right now. 43 being children and 9 adults. Those that are children are waiting to be seen in a satellite campus. Families who have reliable transportation to the Elizabethtown clinic are not put on the wait list and are invited to register. School waitlists tend to grow longer toward the end of a school year, especially for the larger schools such as Moriah and Ticonderoga.<br>• Dava reported the addition of a new Mental Health Counseling Intern and the retirement of a part-time staff member. The team is anticipating the posting of a full-time position soon.<br>• Update on virtual LCSW services- things are going very well.<br><br>**Mental Health Association in Essex County-**<br>• Valerie Ainsworth discussed potential 988 cuts but were assured by OMH not worry at this time. Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN) is collaborating with 988 to work out an agreement to take after-hours calls for their mobile crisis unit. With 988 being 24/7 and available to all community members, they would be able to triage callers in crisis to BHSN if a mobile crisis is needed and/or for a referral of a continuum of care.<br>• MHA signed a contract for Peers in the ER with Adirondack ACO and are providing services in Elizabethtown and Ticonderoga ER's two days a week.<br>• Valerie discussed the Empire State Housing initiative grant, which was awarded for services but not for housing developers, meaning that the project in Ticonderoga will unfortunately not be moving forward.<br>• She mentioned financial challenges with the Mobile Crisis Program, expressing her concern in making it through the rest of this year.<br>• They are still in the process of signing the agreements with the Healthy Alliance for the 1115 waiver program, in which Valerie expressed disappointment in reimbursement rates. The services they will participate in include Screening and Navigation.<br><br>**Families First-**<br>• Families First underwent an audit from NYS OMH for their Children & Family Treatment & Support Services (CFTSS) Program license. This is a three-year re-certification audit, which was reported to have gone very well with only minor suggestions for improvements. They were granted a three-year re-licensure. |

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| | • JoAnne Caswell provided an update on the staffing at FF. They hired three new staff members during the first quarter of 2025 but also lost two staff. They will be looking to hire again in June and could use another Care Manager and multiple Direct Service Providers.<br>• They created a new client satisfaction survey for their CFTSS Program, utilizing a QR code and email instead of paper mailings or calling. This process went smoothly with 70 families surveyed and had a return rate of 65%. 90% of those who started the survey completed the full survey.<br>• JoAnne discussed the ongoing issues with OMH and the potential for subcontracting with a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). Terri clarified the meaning of CCBHC and the challenges it presents. JoAnne mentioned that they are still providing services to families but have been asked to stop taking new ones. John Haverlick asked about the number of families involved, which JoAnne estimated to be around 30.<br>• Rowena Smith inquired about the onboarding process for Healthy Alliance and what services they will be providing services, in which JoAnne responded with services being Screening, Navigation, and Care Management. They are currently in the staff training phase and have not begun providing any services to date. Rowena offered to partner or share resources in the future.<br>• Dava Clement questioned if the audit still seemed to be cultural and DEI focused, after federal changes occurred. JoAnne stated that they did not seem overly concerned about anything DEI related. Noting that while diversity and inclusion practices were not a major focus, there were concerns about cultural identity documentation in service plans. She then began to explain the financial challenges facing the organization, with key programs either losing money or barely breaking even. JoAnne discussed the introduction of new programs like CCBHC which have unfortunately created conflicts with existing services, and expressed worry about potential Medicaid cuts that would significantly impact the agency's operations.<br><br>**Mountain Lake Services-**<br>• Rowena Smith shared some updates regarding the Article 16 Clinic.<br>• MLS would like to decertify Clarence Oliver Drive in Willsboro. Rowena explained that the site has not been used for day habilitation services for about a year, and its closure will not negatively impact on available opportunities.<br>• The board members inquire about potential alternative uses for the property, given the housing crisis in Essex County but Laurie mentioned that OPWDD regulations and the need for staff housing need to be taken into consideration. Mountain Lake Services will explore other options for the property. OMH has very specific rules about housing usage that have been funded by them.<br>• **Approval to close Clarence Oliver Drive- Motion moved by Linda Beers, seconded by Angie Allen. All are in favor.** |

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| **Old Business**<br>(2:30-2:35) | **2025 CSB Retreat Update (Housing)-**<br>• This year's Community Services Board retreat will be moved to October 8, 2025, and will be held in Lake Placid at the Heaven Hill.<br>• Terri proposed extending the retreat frequency from annual to every 18 months, with one in-person general board meeting in the spring and another in the fall. John suggested that the frequency should be based on the usefulness of the retreats, and if they serve a purpose, they should continue as is.<br><br>**Financial Review Committee Schedule of Meetings in August-**<br>• The Financial Review Committee, consisting of Cammi Sheridan, Laurie Kelley, Sean Ganter, and Terri Morse, plan to meet with each provider in August to review their financials and discuss their performance. Ken Hughes expressed his positive experience with the fiscal review committee and hoped to participate again in August. |
| **Committee Reports**<br>(2:35-2:45) | **Operations Committee (Cammy Sheridan, Chair) –**<br>Terri discussed a potential New York State By-Laws change- Voting by email language will need to be added to the By-Laws.<br>• Proposed language:<br>"Between meetings, the board may take a single action to vote by email. The vote is official, and binding provided:<br>*1. a majority of board members vote.*<br>*2. the voting board members' votes are unanimous.*<br>The vote by email will be ratified at the next Board Meeting."<br>• Ken Hughes expressed concerns about missing emails, particularly those marked as spam, and suggested using a platform like Doodle Poll for voting. Laurie and Charlie also raised concerns about notification and the potential use of texting for urgent votes. Terri proposed leaving the voting period open for up to 2 days to accommodate different email checking habits.<br><br>**Nominating Committee (Angie Allen, Chair) –**<br>• RESOLUTION: Add Ernest Hough to the Community Services Board Membership from 4/12/2025- 12/31/2028. Linda Beers moved motion to approve; Jo Husslein seconded.<br>• NEEDS: Full Board (0 member); ASA Subcommittee (1); Mental Health Subcommittee (1); Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee (1)<br><br>**Community Education (Mary Bell, Chair) –** Mary Bell shared information about a Suicide Prevention Event in Crown Point on Sunday June 8, 2025, from 1-8pm. |
| **Directors Report-**<br>(2:45-3:00) | • Terri Morse discussed the Court Navigator position, stating that it has been submitted to the County for posting. OMH has reached out to her twice in the past 2 weeks to provide updates, one being that it is possible for the Court Navigator to be in a contracted relationship. Terri asked for thoughts on contracting with MHA or an outside source for this position but it was unanimously decided that further information needs to be provided to the board before further discussion or voting can be done. |

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| **Other Business** (3:00-3:15) | Opioid Settlement Funds allocation –<br>• Motion to adjourn general meeting and enter into executive session at 3:35PM- Moved by Linda Beers, seconded by Charlie Lustig.<br>• At 3:37PM, a motion was moved by Mary Bell and seconded by Angie Allen for funding to the Mental Health Association as per submission of $130,259.<br>• At 3:39PM a motion was moved by John Haverlick and seconded by Angie Allen for funding to the Prevention Team of $17,325.<br>• At 3:43PM a motion was moved by John Haverlick and seconded by Mary Bell for funding of $40,000 to Essex County Mental Health. |
| **Adjournment** (3:30) | Motion moved by Angie Allen and seconded by Mary Bell to adjourn at 3:45PM. |

***Next Meeting:*** **May 14, 2025 (Development Disabilities Subcommittee)**