



ESSEX COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH
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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 – July 9, 2025 – 1:30pm-3:30pm**

BOARD MEMBERS:	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
1. Angie Allen (<i>Board</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Audie Sparre (<i>Board, MH & ASA Subcommittee's</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Ernest Hough (<i>Board & ASA Subcommittee</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Bryan Bond (<i>Board & MH Subcommittee</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Cammy Sheridan (<i>Board Vice Chair & MH Subcommittee</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Charlie Lustig (<i>Board & ASA Subcommittee</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Dr. Kristin Mack (<i>Board & ASA Subcommittee</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Jo Ann Husslein (<i>Board & MH Subcommittee</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. John Haverlick (<i>Board & MH Subcommittee</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Kenneth Hughes (<i>Board & ASA Subcommittee</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Krissy Leerkes (<i>Board & MH Subcommittee</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Laurie Kelley (<i>Board & DD Subcommittee Chair</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Leslee Mounger (<i>Board & ASA Subcommittee</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. Linda Beers (<i>Board & DD Subcommittee</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Mary Bell (<i>Board Secretary, ASA & DD Subcommittee</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE:	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Dava Clement (<i>ECMH</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JoAnne Caswell (<i>FF</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valerie Ainsworth (<i>MHA</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ALCOHOL SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE:	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Emily Gokey (<i>ST. J</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traci Ploufe (<i>Prev. T</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE:	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
VACANT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jack Mudge (<i>Mtn. Lake Services</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nina Matteau	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sara Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sara Stone (<i>Care Design NY</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tiffany King (<i>Citizens Advocates</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Terri Morse (*Community Services Board Director*)
- Abbey Cramer (*Administrative Assistant*)
- Marisa Gaddor (*MHA*)
- Ashley Wolfe (*MLS*)
- Zachary Raldoph (*ST. Josephs/Citizens Advo.*)
- Rowena Smith (*MLS*)

<u>AGENDA</u>	<u>DISCUSSIONS</u>
Call to Order (1:30-1:35)	Meeting called to order at 1:33pm.
Meeting Minutes (1:35-1:40)	June 11, 2025 (General/Alcohol and Substance Abuse Subcommittee)- Motion to approve minutes, moved by Mary Bell and seconded by John Haverlick.
Introductions/ Announcements/ Correspondence (1:35-1:40)	Today's meeting began with a round of introductions.
Subcommittee Provider Reports (1:40-2:30)	<p>Essex County Mental Health –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dava Clement reported on staffing challenges, including recent retirements and resignations, which have affected their waitlist and service capacity. The current waitlist total is 99- including 56 children and 43 adults. The team then discussed potential solutions, including increasing telehealth hours with their current providers and exploring new providers through Iris Telehealth. • Linda Beers emphasized the urgency of providing services to families on the waitlist, while Dava noted that children respond less well to telehealth services. John Haverlick acknowledged the challenges of balancing client needs with staff well-being, and Terri highlighted the availability of private practitioners in the community. • Use of Opioid Settlement Funding – ECMH will be using this funding for the BRIEF Coalition, as two positions have been turned into one. • Essex County recently established the Essex County Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT), in which the goal is to improve investigations and to reduce the incidences of preventable overdose deaths in Essex County. The OFRT will review overdose fatalities, recommend improved practices, address system issues, and recommend measures to prevent future overdose fatalities, as well as promote overall safety in the community. ECMH plans to participate in the first real review in October 2025, providing any relevant history of treatment at ECMH, and providing the Next of Kin Interview as appropriate. <p>Mental Health Association in Essex County –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marisa Gaddor reported on MHA's services, including new chronic disease management groups and peer support in emergency rooms. Valerie discussed funding sources and concerns about mobile crisis services running at a deficit. • 988 has started a monthly newsletter to boost morale and to support staff in getting to know each other as coworkers. They are looking into more ideas to be connected as remote workers. • Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN) is now collaborating with 988 to take after-hours calls for their mobile crisis unit. 988 is 24/7 and available to all community members and would be able to triage callers in crisis to BHSN if a mobile crisis is needed and/or a referral for a continuum of care.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESSHI (Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative) Grant – Resubmission of this application is due on July 14th. Valerie has a positive outlook and fully expects to meet this deadline. MHA is participating in both the Domestic Terrorism Committee and the Opioid Fatality Review Board. <p>Families First –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JoAnne Caswell highlighted staffing issues and challenges with funding sources, including a 2.6% cost of living adjustment that falls short of their needs. Families First currently has 37 staff, 35 full-time and 2 part-time. Staffing has been extremely challenging, along with the lack of funding to pay employees appropriate salaries. JoAnne stated that they will begin meeting with BHSN to clarify issues pertaining to their CFTSS services in conjunction with their clients that are receiving psychiatric/counselling/medical services through local CCBHC Clinics in Clinton County and Franklin County, and to discuss future plans. Families First has implemented a 24/7 crisis coverage plan for the staff that work in the evening and weekend hours. This was so they always have a Management Level Supervisor on call if they have any problems in the field. This started on June 1st. JoAnne explained they have signed a contract with SUNY Plattsburgh for 2-3 human service internships starting in September, which will be unpaid but include mileage reimbursement. <p>Mountain Lake Services –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashley Wilfore reported for Mountain Lake Services on their Article 16 Clinic. John asked about staffing- Ashley reported (almost) 2 social workers and one NP. She presented their current service numbers, noting they support 118 adults in the Article 16 clinic for psychiatry, are capped at 10 for psychotherapy, and support 76 people across all satellite sites for social work services. An Interim Executive Director was appointed on April 10th to support the transition of the departure of Jack Mudge until a permanent Executive Director is appointed. The Board has continued the search for a new Executive Director since Jack Mudge submitted his resignation in February 2025. The residential and clinic teams continue to collaborate at monthly leadership meetings to decrease number of missed visits in the clinic.
Old Business (2:30-2:35)	<p>2025 CSB Retreat Update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning to take place at Heaven Hill on October 8, 2025. Focusing on the topic of HOUSING for the CSB population. There will be 5 presenters on their ideas and plans for addressing the housing shortage in either Essex County or their County (Hamilton and St. Lawrence).
Committee Reports (2:35-2:45)	<p>Operations Committee (Cammy Sheridan, Chair) – Nominating Committee (Angie Allen, Chair) – NEEDS: Full Board (0 member); ASA Subcommittee (0); Mental Health Subcommittee (0); Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee (1) –</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Blanchard resigned from her membership of the DD Subcommittee. <p>Community Education (Mary Bell, Chair) – No report.</p>
Directors Report- (2:45-3:00)	<p>Essex County Opioid Fatality Review Team –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Essex County Health Department and DCS held a kick-off meeting of the OFR with a Mock Review on June 5. Attendees had positive things to say about the event. Some topics for potential improvements include the Suicide Prevention/Postvention Team, establishing a CRAFT (Community Reinforcement and Family Treatment) model in Essex County for addressing opioid fatalities (Zachary Randolph agreed to explore this option with Emily and Sam Hall), educate Essex County EMS on the quick referral process to Alliance for Positive Health for access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), and establishing a point-person at St. Joseph's for having St. Joseph's be part of the LEMHRS outreach experience. <p>Clubhouse RFP –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essex County was approached by Mila Tewell and Nancy Farrell of the Hudson Valley Clubhouse (Poughkeepsie) to discuss the potential of setting up a Clubhouse model in Essex County. Attendees from Essex County were Linda Beers and Molly Lawrence from Public Health, Terri Morse, and Valerie Ainsworth from MHA. A discussion with the CSB was prudent before responding to their interest in assisting with establishing a location in Essex County. The group discussed this potential clubhouse initiative, with Terri presenting an RFP opportunity for five new clubhouses across New York State. Linda clarified that the initiative was proposed by wealthy residents of Keene who are offering philanthropic support, not by another county. The group expressed concerns about the feasibility of a single clubhouse serving our large rural area, but Valerie noted that previous smaller social clubs had been consolidated into one location. JoAnne suggested focusing on peer support programs instead, while Traci proposed a mobile approach using a vehicle and trailer to reach different communities across the county. <p>Housing –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audie Sparre and the DCS met on June 18 (via ZOOM) for the CSB Housing Committee. They discussed the importance of presenting a report about the needs of the population the CSB serves to the Essex County Housing Task Force.
Other Business (3:00-3:15)	<p>Discussion about OASAS services –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Button, President and CEO of Citizen Advocates and St. Joseph's North Country Freedom Homes, discussed results of a recent fiscal audit by the Office of Addictions, Services, and Supports (OASAS). While the audit identified some minor issues, OASAS found no concerns about St. Joseph's overall fiscal viability. James emphasized that the audit was a report card on Citizen Advocates' management of St. Joseph's during a

	<p>critical recovery period, noting that the organization had only 5 days of cash on hand and a \$4 million deficit when they took over in February of 2022. The audit required a \$15,000 recoupment, but James expressed pride in the overall outcome and gratitude for the state's support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda Beers expressed concerns about Saint Josephs reduced involvement in Essex County initiatives, particularly their absence from recent opioid-related meetings, and criticized their lack of communication with community groups. James apologized for their absence at these meetings and committed to having further conversations about expanding or improving services in Essex County. • He acknowledged further feedback about St. Joseph's being unresponsive and promised to copy himself on all outreach to better track and respond to opportunities and concerns. He explained that St. Joseph's had focused on ensuring sustainability after significant cuts, including eliminating 75 positions, and was now able to participate in community initiatives without state support. The organization had previously withdrawn from several counties including Poughkeepsie, Schenectady, and St. Lawrence to focus on the North Country region. • James committed to following up with Linda and Terri about their initiatives and offered to participate in planning committees and meetings.
Adjournment (3:30)	<p>Board meeting adjourned at 2:53pm-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to go into executive session, moved by Linda Beers and seconded by Mary Bell. • Motion to issue an RFP for OASAS services in Essex County, moved by Mary Bell and seconded by Ernie Hough. All in favor – 7. Extensions – 1.

REMINDER: No August Meeting!!

Next Meeting: September 10, 2025 (Development Disabilities Subcommittee)

CSB Retreat October 8, 2025, 9:00-4:00 (Refreshments at 8:30), Heaven Hill, Lake Placid