

**Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services
Advisory Board**

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

7:00 P.M.

724 PHILLIPS STREET
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360

A meeting of the Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services Advisory Board was convened on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the MH & DS Administrative Conference Room at 724 Phillips Street, Suite 202, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania and via GoToMeeting/conference call.

MEETING CALLED BY Dr. Samuel Dolgopol, Chair & Tina L. Clymer, Administrator

CHAIR Dr. Samuel Dolgopol

RECORDING SECRETARY Beth Bingaman-Lutz

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Ms. Susan Barradale, Mr. Tom Carasiti, Dr. Laurene Clossey, Dr. Samuel Dolgopol, Ms. Dorothy Eberts, Ms. Nellie Gordon, Commissioner Lukasevich, Commissioner Moyer, Mr. Eugene Pelletreau, Ms. Elizabeth Torkildsen, Ms. Amy Kirkwood Albert, and Ms. Suzanne McCool

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Commissioner Guccini

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT Kathleen Peterson and Beth Bingaman-Lutz

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes

Motion by Eugene Pelletreau, seconded by Elizabeth Torkildsen, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of the August 24, 2020 meeting.

Agency Reports

Ms. Clymer added a few remarks related to the programs, they are as follows:

- Under HealthChoices she summarized the status of the Alternative Payment Arrangements and the continued efforts of tracking provider needs. Telehealth and telepsychiatry are still approved services being provided. There has been an increase in crisis calls, 302 petitions, and involuntary hospitalizations. In addition, HealthChoices has seen an uptick in membership due to people being unemployed. Individuals who no longer need Medicaid are unable to be discharged.
- Developmental Services (DS) has seen considerable changes with staff. Sara von Prime is the new DS Waiver Coordinator and we are in the process of interviewing for Sara's replacement as the HCSIS Program Coordinator. Kristy Trautman, DS Deputy Administrator, has been doing a great job and positive changes have been happening within the department. In addition, work is being done on getting 14 waivers processed.
- The Mental Health Department submitted a grant and was notified they will be receiving \$30,000.00 in funding for youth peer services. A partnership with Youth Era has been established to provide services for a Youth Peer Support Specialist and Virtual Drop-In Center for Carbon, Monroe and Pike Counties.

Additionally, she highlighted the status reports from HealthChoices, Mental Health, and Developmental Services Departments. No motion required.

Financial Report for HealthChoices

Motion by Suzanne McCool, seconded by Eugene Pelletreau, and carried unanimously to accept the unaudited financial statement as of August 31, 2020.

Financial Report for MH, DS, and EI

Motion by Eugene Pelletreau, seconded by Dr. Clossey, and carried unanimously to accept the unaudited financial statement as of August 31, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS**County Human Service Plan**

The board was reminded that the plan was accepted by the state without any revisions needed. Ms. Clymer reported on a recent virtual meeting. Leslie Perryman from the Housing Committee is working on homelessness prevention and having financial resources available so individuals can be supported. There are concerns about when the moratoriums on evictions and foreclosures are lifted. Also mentioned are efforts by Michael Tukeva, President of Pocono Mountains United Way, who is providing support to individuals who have been affected by COVID and housing issues. In addition, there are education and training programs being provided throughout the state relating to racial and sexual orientation disparities. These are available to everyone through video. Many counties and personnel have already been involved in trainings and are encouraged to participate. Ms. Clymer invited everyone to attend the next virtual meeting scheduled for November 5th and said the meeting notice will be forwarded.

State Budget Status

The agency is operating under a five-month budget of level funding. Ms. Clymer reported the Pennsylvania Association of County Administrators of Mental Health and Developmental Services (**PACA**), along with Shelly Lyons Public Affairs and Communications, is helping County Administrators develop a one page document to distribute to local legislators on the importance of needing to at least maintain level funding for the remainder of the year and the effects on local communities if funding is cut.

**C-M-P MH/DS
Advisory Board 2020
Award Dinner and
Nominations**

After the ballots were tallied, Ms. Clymer announced this year's awards. The following individuals were chosen:

- Donna Bucciero
- Chris Cioni
- Jamie Kovacs
- Valerie Vazquez

Motion by Eugene Pelletreau, seconded by Suzanne McCool, and carried unanimously to have all four nominees receive an award.

NEW BUSINESS**Election of
Board Officers
2021
Calendar**

The following 2021 Board positions were presented:

Chair: Dr. Samuel Dolgopol Finance: Commissioner John Moyer
Vice Chair: Mr. Eugene Pelletreau Secretary: Dr. Laurene Clossey

All officers agreed to serve another term. Motion by Elizabeth Torkildsen, and seconded by Commissioner Lukasevich to accept nominations and appoint officers by acclamation.

OTHER**Presentations
and
Meeting Locations**

Ms. Clymer opened a discussion about having the monthly presenters back on the agenda starting in the new year. Most individuals voiced wanting speakers once regular in-person meetings can be held again. The notion of securing a larger Public Community Room where there will be enough room to sit socially distanced and wear masks was discussed. Through conversation, possible locations in Monroe County were mentioned such as the Administration Building where the Commissioners' office is located, the public library, and the safety center. Ms. Clymer agreed to looking into suggestions and added, with no board meetings in November and December, hopefully by next year the country will be in better shape with the pandemic and can start meeting in person again.

Next Meeting	Monday, October 20, 2020
VISITORS	Shirley Meryweather
ADJOURNMENT	Motion by Eugene Pelletreau, seconded by Elizabeth Torkildsen, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.
APPROVED BY	<i>Tina L. Clymer, MS, LPC</i> 