

COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

August 20th, 2026

APPROVED

Via Hybrid

Members Present: Shawn Nalepa
Tina Lounsbury
Porshea Moore
Christine Schweitzer
William Standinger, III
Bob Williams
Carolyn Galatzan
Pat Gillule
Kristine Maslin

Members Excused: Fran Bialy
Keith Nichols, MD

Members Absent:

Guests: Jamie Kelley, OPWDD

Mental Hygiene Present: Sarah Begeal, Director of Community Services
Susan Graves, Secretary to the Director of Community Services

Meeting called to order at 9:30am

Category: Meeting Minutes

Topic: Review of the June 2026 Minutes – motion to approve – Bob Williams
2nd Carolyn Galatzan, approved as written

Topic: Director Report – Sarah Begeal

Discussion: Updates:

- Budget
 - 2026 tracking well outside of Criminal Psych which is now running over budget due to an individual receiving restorative services.
 - 2027 reviewed at the Legislature meeting
 - No big changes
 - Exploring succession plans for important administrative roles
- Criminal Psych/730 Comprehensive Bill
 - Currently one individual admitted at approximately \$40,000 per month
 - Local Governments have no jurisdiction on admission, length of stay, retention, progress notes
 - Some admissions last for years

- New legislation on the Governor's desk regarding 730 competency restoration
- LSP (Local Service Plan)
 - Plan approved
 - Copy will be sent to the group
- Accumedic
 - Outage on June 8th and restored July 15th, 2026
 - Manual billing & paper notes
 - Staff happy to be back online
- New Staff
 - Matthew McDonald, MH Intern started 8/17/26
 - Zainab Sheikh, School-based Intern started 8/19/26 for Owego Elementary
 - Candon Westervelt, School-Based Intern starting 9/2/26 for Waverly Elementary
 - Anna Walter, Supervising Clinical Social Worker starting 8/24/26
 - Riley Lenetsky, Clinical Social Worker starting 9/21/26
- AOT Program Updates
 - Sarah has monitored AOT cases since 2015
 - From 2014 to 2025 we monitored 10 individuals (avg. 1/year)
 - AOT referrals have increased in Tioga County
 - 3 new orders in July & August
 - 2 Pending
 - Potential of 5 total with 1 individual on an EVA (Enhanced Voluntary Agreement)
 - ACT is at capacity currently
 - Tioga County's AOT program was approved by OMH in July
 - As part of the program, plans are to hire an AOT Coordinator
 - Resolution to be brought to Legislature in September
- Open Meeting Law
 - Topic has been discussed with county leadership
 - No local law was passed
 - What does this mean:
 - We can offer a link to live stream as a courtesy
 - People joining remotely cannot "participate"
 - Ability to listen with no public comment
 - Board members joining remotely:
 - Cannot participate in the discussion
 - Cannot Vote
 - Cannot be counted toward the quorum
 - Board voted to offer a courtesy link for the public
- Board Membership
 - Resolution being presented to Legislature in September to change the CSB composition to 9 members
 - In-person quorum will be 6
- OASAS Name Change to all 822 Clinics
 - Comprehensive Outpatient Treatment will not be Outpatient Services with OTP (with federal approval or not)
 - Currently unclear whether this is a mandate or not
 - Mandate would require all 822 clinics to have an OTP and offer Methadone as part of MAT treatment
 - Mandating that clinics provide certain services is a concern

- The clinic currently offers Suboxone

Discussion ensued regarding the potential mandate. Porshea Moore, Certified Recovery Peer Specialist, stated seeing 86 contemplating individuals and none of them have a Methadone need.

- C-SPOA
 - OMH to provide additional (new) money to counties specific to C-SPOA (Children's Single Point of Access)
 - County already receives specific funding from the state
 - OMH has created new required activities/work responsibilities for C-SPOA
 - OMH may require a dedicated FTE (full-time employee) for this position
- Medicaid
 - Changes happening that will affect clients
 - Recertifications every 6 months instead of annually
 - Look back timeframes going from 90 days to 30 days
 - May see a decrease in revenue for clients who lose their insurance with the upcoming changes.
 - Currently it is difficult to discern what this will look like at this point

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Committee Reports

Discussion: Updates:

- OD Vigil on August 27th from 6:00-8:00pm
 - Porshea and the ASAP Coalition hold this event annually
 - Huge participation
 - New agencies participate each year
 - Flier regarding event will be sent out to the Board

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Unfinished Business

Discussion: Updates:

- Working on By-Laws
- Draft will be sent out to the board for input

Status: Informational – Complete

Other

Discussion: Certified Recovery Peer Specialist – Porshea Moore

- Seeing a huge increase in Kratom use
- Can be purchased anywhere (gas stations, convenience stores etc.)
- No age restriction
- Marketed as a vitamin
- Severe withdrawals up to 14 days
- Youth are experiencing psychotic episodes with use

EMS – Bob Williams

- Corrine is out on FLMA
- Deputy Director Ellis is in charge currently
- Slight uptick in fire investigations

Coroner Report – Bob Williams

- Toxicology report back for May overdose death
 - Fentanyl & Morphine
- Suicide death of a 15-year-old in Spencer

Rehabilitation Support Services – Kristine Maslin

- RSS and Catholic Charities are parting ways regarding the SOS Team
- Catholic Charities will be the employer & run the program
- History & Structure of the SOS Team explained

Affordable Housing Coalition

- Liz Myers, Commissioner of DSS, created a group to address the housing issues and develop solutions in Tioga County
- Discussions started on what can be done in the community
- Porshea Moore requested to be part of the group

Status: Informational – Complete

Adjournment: There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Tina Lounsbury, Carolyn Galatzan 2nd. The meeting adjourned at 10:26am. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19th, 2026, at 9:30am.

