

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**OF CORTLAND COUNTY**  
**Community Services Board**

**Meeting Minutes March 1, 2022**  
**1:00 P.M.**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING – VIA WEB EX**

**Members Present:** Kimberly Corbett (Chair), Renee Hettich, Marianne Odell and Amanda Rainbow

**Members Absent:** Aaron Hammond

**Others Present:** Michele Gravel (JM Murray), Laura Spencer (Person to Person), Angela VanDeWeert (Public Defenders' Office), Renee Nurek (OPWDD-DDRO), Jeff Beal (Retired OPWDD, former Chair, CSB and DD Subcommittee), Christopher Moore (Director Special Education, Homer High School), Madison Saufley (Southern Tier Connect), Cynthia Van Patten Young (Area Agency on Aging), Patricia Schaap (Deputy Director, CCMHD) and Gail Spitzer (Secretary)

**Call to Order:** 1:05 p.m. by Chair, Kimberly Corbett

**MINUTES**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Kimberly Corbett welcomed everyone to this DD Subcommittee meeting asked everyone to sign their names and affiliations into the "Chat" and facilitated introductions (Elizabeth Larkin resigned)

**Agenda Item:** Approval of Minutes from November 2, 2021 and February 1, 2022 Chair, Kimberly Corbett – No quorum

**Agenda Item:** Discussion and election Chair and Vice Chair No quorum – tabled until next month

**Agenda Item:** Presentation: Person to Person Laura Spencer



Person to Person  
Brochure.pdf



PPCA Cortland Power  
Point.pptx

Power point presentation – build community connections try to host 3 events – i.e. bowling, tie dying at Yaman Park, Boat ride Erie Canal – rent private movie theatre with popcorn and ice cream – one on one – create matches with volunteer advocate and protégé` to facilitate friendships – especially important with Covid – largely funded by OPWDD – Zoom events, Pictionary, coffee chats – individuals have to be eligible for services but not necessarily enrolled - but there is help to get people enrolled – serve adults / Referrals are made through case managers – set up meeting with individuals – basic paperwork – simple process / Main office in Fayetteville and 3 counties and 3 program coordinators – work at home –

**Agenda Item:** Community Partner Updates / Reports

Michele Gravel (JM Murray) – Michele reported problem from prior month was resolved – person found residential program in Tompkins County – they provide transportation allowing individual to keep job at JM Murray / FSS respite program; evenings, overnights, day trips – for people in Cortland and Tompkins Counties

Patty Schaap (County Mental Health Clinic) (recently promoted to Deputy Director from SPOA Coordinator) – for SPOA: crisis services in State located in New York City – crisis services result in law enforcement involvement the majority of the time – what can be done to bridge gaps in care going from one situation to another – especially when transitions take a long time to resolve – how else can individuals be supported – Kim Corbett discussed possibly use focus groups to seek solutions – and discussed integrated housing plan recently approved by OPWDD, near JM Murray

Michele Gravel, Kimberly Corbett, Marianne and Patty Schaap discussed the possibility of a focus group, bring together community partners whenever a similar situation arises, requiring quick resolution – similar to a SPOA type of group effort – Chris Moore suggested a point person be chosen with each partner provider; consistent point of contact / Jeff Beal – Crisis respite has always been a challenge – to have this group work together can have a proactive outcome – local responsibility with early notification of someone transitioning and requiring new types of service

Amanda Rainbow (Department of Social Services) - The State is taking over assessments for Long Term Care, calling it Independent Assessors - there will be independent doctor that the patient does not see regularly and an independent nurse employed by Maximus who will do the assessment to see if they qualify for aide service – there is a form that DSS and others will be able to fill out if they'd like to dispute any part of the assessment and provide other information to be considered

Renee Hettich – from a parent’s view, “real world update to encourage you to continue the hard work that you do – my son is now three months into his self-directed budget and he went to a restaurant for the first time, ordered dinner for himself and it is huge – he loves swimming at the Y - your hard work makes a difference so hopefully every update will give you inspiration to do the work you are doing!”

Madison Saufley (Southern Tier Connect) – Upcoming webinar for CSIDD – will be beneficial to everybody – anyone interested can attend Webinar

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**Agenda Item:** OPWDD Report – Cortland Specific Statistics Renee Nurek

Does not have information prepared for Cortland County – Kim explained the information requested to report to this Subcommittee – additionally last OPWDD representative offered attendance by different department of OPWDD – some requests; Jeff Beal, explain “home e-mods, modifications to homes for people with disabilities – Chris Moore, explanation of some home based services (school vs home based services) – Michele Gravel, fiscal person to discuss anticipated budget effects on a provider level (Renee will help Kimberly arrange) / provider presentations – April – Michele Gravel with JM Murray and Marianne Odell with Racker Center – short presentations – Chris Moore; will share presentations with other schools (Kim: line up other presentation

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**Other:** April to include Orientation, will be a very full agenda – may need more meetings than originally planned (no meetings in June, July and August will consider as meetings are virtual and may directly relate to the attendance during the summer months

Gail Spitzer – Minutes and agendas have been posted on the County website: <http://www.cortland-co.org/340/Developmental-Disabilities-Subcommittee> - all approved minutes through the end of 2021

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Kim thanked everyone for attending today – there being no other business or objections, Kimberly Corbett adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

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**Next regular meeting April 5, 2022  
Virtual Meeting – via WebEx  
1:00 p.m.**

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Minutes submitted by Gail L. Spitzer  
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**Approved minutes available on County Website:**  
[www.Cortland-Co.org/433/Mental-Health](http://www.Cortland-Co.org/433/Mental-Health)