

# Jefferson County Community Services

Timothy Ruetten  
MS, LMHC, CASAC  
Director

County Government Building  
175 Arsenal Street  
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Telephone (315) 785-3283  
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**Community Services Board Meeting  
Minutes  
For March 26, 2025**

Pat Fontana  
Board Chairperson

**Call to Order:** Pat Fontana called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**Presenters for Community Greenhouse:** Jessica Henry, Juan Heredia and Karen Strife.

**Members Present:** Tina Bartlett-Bearup, Maureen Cean, Jennifer Draper, Pat Fontana, Michelle Graham, Joey Horton, Aileen Martin, Michelle McElroy, Melissa Rookman and Molly Smith.

**Members Absent:** Dr. Sarah Delaney, Stephen Kowalick and Karen Marcum.

**Guests Present:** William Bowman, Randy Fipps, Jordan Jones, Austen LaBarge, Michelle Monnat, Tina O'Neil, Alicia Rupert, Ed Thomas and John Wilson.

Attending virtually were Brooke Bazinet, Tara Lortz, Amy Quonce and Diane Zikowitz.

**Privilege of the Floor:** Aileen reminded everyone of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Walk in Watertown on May 21, 2025.

**Approval of January 22, 2025, minutes:** Motion: Aileen Martin; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Maureen Cean. Minutes passed.

**Approval of \$1,750.00 request for 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Walk:** Motion: Jennifer Draper. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Michelle Monnat. Request was approved.

**Director's Report:** See report (which was emailed to everyone).

**2024 Budget Modification:** Pivot (Recovery) Motion approved through ASA subcommittee and is waived for the CSB. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Joey Horton. Abstention: Melissa Rookman. Budget modification approved.

**2025 Pivot Preliminary Budget:** Preliminary budget approved through ASA subcommittee and is waived for the CSB. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jennifer Draper. Preliminary budget approved.

**Approval of By-Laws:** Motion to waive By-laws. Motion: Michelle Monnat. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Molly Smith. Maureen Cean opposed. By-laws need 2/3 of members to vote. The vote will be at the next CSB meeting.

**Approval of Standing Rules:** (Change Rule 6) Motion: Tina Bartlett-Bearup. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Michelle Graham. Opposed: Maureen Cean. (Add Rule 12) Motion: Aileen Martin. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tina Bartlett-Bearup. Opposed: Maureen Cean. Both changes approved.

**Next tentative meeting date:** April 23, 2025, at 4 p.m.

Adjournment at 5 p.m. Motion: Joey Horton. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Aileen Martin.

Respectfully submitted,



Lois Boshane  
Secretary

CSBMinutes032625

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## **Director's Report March 26, 2025**

### **Community Services Office:**

-Added a security alcove due to potential threat from client/family member. It was time as we were the last department to install a security barrier.

### **County/State/ Federal Initiatives:**

-Bi-County Mobile Crisis Program has been awarded to CHJC. Passed HHS last night and will go before the BOL on April 1. The contract will be from April 1 to December 31, 2026 April to- July 1 is startup time with an anticipated go live date of July 1.

-Regional Abatement Funding RFP yielded 6 awardees (see handout). All submissions were awarded in full (total of \$692,488).

-Homelessness package was presented to HHS whom voted yes on the initiatives. This includes a \$141,147 street outreach contract with ACR Health and a \$167,000 data collection and analysis package with FDRHPO. The current Warming Center agreements will move from seasonal (November 1-April 30) to year round. We are also in regular discussions with L.E. and Justice to collaborate on further homelessness initiatives.

-As of 3/24/25 3 SAMHSA grants have been abruptly ended. These were contained in the Covid supplemental appropriations Act and American Rescue Plan. It looks like these were slated to sunset in June but the commissioner is very concerned about further cuts by DOGE (Dept of Govt Efficiency).

- **Local Services Plan:** Links were opened late last week. I will be sending the existing LSP along with a sample of the reporting form that is due June 1.

### **Local/Community Concerns/Issues:**

- Homelessness steering committee had a meeting a couple weeks ago with county and city officials as well as local provider representatives. We will be collecting data on actual numbers of street homeless. Have reached out to FDRHPO for ideas and possible assistance We are also researching funding options for a no/low barrier congregate shelter for both m/f.
- We continue to be in a holding pattern for restoration service payment. Community Services had received over \$1.4 Million in bills. I am supposed to be touring Marcy with a couple legislators but OMH has failed to schedule anything. OMH had a meeting earlier this month with the LGU's and spent 45 minutes teaching us about sequential intercept mapping. By the time the call was done OMH had already been made aware by text and email that the call was insulting and a waste of time for about 90% of the DCS's on the call.

## **2024 Annual Reports:**

Last month I sent out an email regarding the submission of the 2024 Annual Reports.

- Please complete within Microsoft Word and submit electronically to me by **no later than Tuesday, April 30th, 2025.**
- For those of you that have not seen one of the Jefferson County Annual Reports or would like a refresher on the content, please let me know and I can provide you with the last report that your agency submitted.

## **Suicide Prevention Coalition/Traumatic Loss Team:**

- Our next projects include developing a training catalog and training request form to add to our website and collaborating with FDRHPO in relation to a grant that would fund the Gizmo project across all elementary schools and libraries within Jefferson County.
- Development of Traumatic Loss Team - will be meeting to start discussing procedures, policies, etc.

## **AOT/ETA:**

- AOTs:
  - 18 Active AOTs
  - 1 Pending transfer from Oneida
  - 1 step down to ETA
  - 17 successful discharges since 2017
- ETAs:
  - 10 active
  - 8 successful discharges since 2018
- Significant Events:
  - Completed this month as a result of noncompliance/decompensation - 1
  - Admissions for AOT/ETA clients as a result of noncompliance/decompensation - 1
  - Significant Event Reports to OMH - 1
  - Violation of Probation or Parole - 0

## **DA/PD/JCCS MH Collaboration:**

- Continuing on a regular basis
- LEOs also reaching out regularly - 22.09, Education regarding 9.41, connecting inmates to appropriate care
- Assisting in the MH/LEO collaborations across counties as well

## **Other:**

- Presentation of Bylaws (will need a 2/3 vote) and Standing Rules Amendments (will need a majority vote)