

# *Jefferson County Community Services*

**Timothy Ruetten**  
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**Pat Fontana**  
Board Chairperson

## **Community Services Board Meeting Minutes For May 28, 2025**

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

**Members Present:** Tina Bartlett-Bearup, Maureen Cean, Jennifer Draper, Pat Fontana, Michelle Graham, Joey Horton, Stephen Kowalick, Karen Marcum, Aileen Martin, Michelle McElroy, Amy Quonce (virtual), Melissa Rookman and Molly Smith.

**Members Absent:** Dr. Sarah Delaney,

**Guests Present:** Randy Fipps, Tara Lortz (virtual), Michelle Monnat, Tina O'Neil, Brooke Roes, Alicia Ruperd and Ed Thomas (virtual).

**Privilege of the Floor:** Aileen stated NRCIL staff are engaged with Lewis County Pride. Maureen stated OMH would be starting a review this week of residential programs. Alicia mentioned that Sunday, September 14, 2025, is the Mental Health Walk in Clayton.

**Approval of March 26, 2025, minutes:** Motion: Aileen Martin; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Joey Horton. Minutes passed.

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

**Approval of By-Laws:** Page 2 – adding wording, #10 – Quorum – remove (10) members to now read 2/3 of members. Removing Director – change to 2/3 of members. Motion: Jennifer Draper. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Aileen Martin. Approval of By-Laws passed unanimously.

**Next meeting date:** June 25, 2025, at 4 p.m., COB 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

Adjournment at 4:15 p.m. Motion: Aileen Martin. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Maureen Cean.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lois Boshane*

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Secretary

CSBMinutes052825

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## **Director's Report May 28, 2025**

### **Community Services Office:**

-Will be meeting with CCSI to discuss contracting for certain fiscal duties, ie.CFR management. The current finance staffing pattern is not sustainable w/o intervention given the increasing complexity of funding streams and regulations.

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

-CHJC, and FDRHPO have been working with the two DCS's on the Bi-County Mobile Crisis build. Things are going well and both the contract with CHJC and the MOU between Jeff and Lewis Counties are at the County Atty's office for development.

-Homelessness package was presented to Full BOL and they voted yes on April 1. This includes 24/7/365 shelter options through our existing warming center partners, additional street outreach with ACR Health, and a data collection package with an outside vender.

- OASAS' Transitional Safety Housing Units program, previously funded by SAMHSA and contracted directly between THRIVE and OASAS was cut out of the SAMHSA funding. OASAS will be continuing the program using their reserved Opiate Settlement Funds and have asked counties to pick up the contracts. This is another great example of why direct contracts between state entities and local providers isn't the best way to do things.

- Jefferson County is currently working on the development of a county Threat Assessment Group as per Governor Hochul's executive order. I will be the Co-Lead along with Jefferson County Emergency Management. The county has contracted with Tetra-Tech for the program build. More to come of the different layers of response.

-OMH hosted listening sessions all across the North Country/Tug Hill regions on May 7 and 8. The discussions were rich with information and were attended by a mix of staff and community members. A big thanks to NRCIL for hosting the sessions.

- **Local Services Plan:** Please review last year's LSP and provide feedback/suggestions.

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

- We continue to be in a holding pattern for restoration service payment. Community Services had received over \$1.5 Million in bills. I am supposed to be touring Marcy

with a couple legislators, but it has been difficult to schedule. We are hoping for June or July.

- Mental Health Walk was on 5/21/25. Very well attended and very upbeat. Nice job to all of those involved in planning and running it.

### **2024 Annual Reports:**

Thank you to everyone for submitting your annual reports. I will be working to compile the information over the next month and will release the 2024 Jefferson County Annual Report in June/July.

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

- A training request form was added to our website. We are hoping that this will help to streamline entities in receiving training and/or getting information regarding what type of training would fit their needs.
- Unfortunately, FDRHPO was not awarded the grant that would have allowed us to implement Gizmo's Pawsome Guide to MH County wide, however, we will be moving forward with the plan to work with one or two elementary schools in the fall.
- Development of Traumatic Loss Team - will be meeting to start discussing procedures, policies, etc.

### **AOT/ETA:**

- AOTs:
  - 19 Active AOTs
  - 2 open investigations
  - 1 step down to ETA
  - 17 successful discharges since 2017
- ETAs:
  - 10 active
  - 8 successful discharges since 2018
- Significant Events:
  - 9.60 Completed this month as a result of noncompliance/decompensation - 0
  - 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/DPD/JCCS MH Collaboration:**

- Continuing on a regular basis
- Meeting with DA and PD offices in the near future to discuss CPL 7.30 again
- LEOs also reaching out regularly - 22.09, Education regarding 9.41, connecting inmates to appropriate care

### **Other:**

- Presentation of Bylaws (will need a 2/3 vote)