

**Olmsted County Human Services Division
Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB)**

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

[Microsoft Teams](#)

A. Call to order

Vice-chair Brandt called to order the Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB) at 8:02 a.m.

Members Present

Susan Ahlquist, Melissa Brandt, Emily Johnston, Patrick Keane, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Jinglin Li, Arhan Mehta, JoMarie Morris, Commissioner Stephanie Podulke, Deborah Trahan, Shirley Westbrook.

Members Absent

Commissioner Jim Bier, Walter L. Smith III, Terre Webster.

Staff Present

Dave Dunn, Leigh Durbahn, Corrine Erickson, Mary Eichten, Jenna Gilbertson, Travis Gransee, Julie Hatch, Tina Jordahl, Commissioner Sheila Kiscaden, Ashley Laganieri, Angie Lettner, Sarah Oachs, Diane Paradise, Bea SanMiguel-Molina, Amy Rauchwarter.

Staff Absent

Amy Thompson.

Guests

Jon Losness.

B. Agenda Changes for Regular Meeting

None.

C. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 14, 2020, CSAB meeting minutes. Motion carried.

D. Chair Announcements

Vice-chair Brandt thanked Chair Alex Alexander for his leadership and service to the CSAB. There are four open members-at-large positions and one consumer. She asked members to think of either having meetings from 7:30 – 9 a.m. or 8 – 9:30 a.m. Some members expressed their preference, but a poll will be taken.

Youth Announcements

Arhan Mehta said the Youth Commission's Conversion Therapy Resolution was discussed at the Health, Housing, & Human Services Committee. After edits were made, the resolution is scheduled to go on the consent agenda at the County Board meeting on December 15. Sarah Oachs acknowledged youth members for their efforts on the resolution.

E. Decision/Informational Item

Chair & Vice-Chair Elections – Sarah Oachs

Sarah Oachs nominated Vice-Chair Melissa Brandt for the 2021 CSAB Chair and Susan Ahlquist for Vice-Chair. Hearing no other nominations, a motion was made and carried by unanimous decision to elect Melissa and Susan as Chair and Vice-Chair.

Pathways Toward Prosperity & Well-being (PTPW) – Mary Eichten & Leigh Durbahn

Mary Eichten gave a high-level overview of the Pathways Toward Prosperity & Well-being (PTPW) project to new members. In January, they started to pilot the program with 17 families from the Family Support team and are in the process of creating a second cohort. Leigh Durbahn said the first PTPW pilot targeted families who are 30 years old or younger, have children in the home, and from different demographics. Young families were chosen because there are studies and literature with similar populations for comparison. In partnership with the family, Mary said the case manager uses the Integrated Services Assessment Tool (ISAT) to identify the different areas of strength and need the family might have. They gave an example of a participant's ISAT score from the beginning of the pilot and compared the score six months later; the family had shown improvement. This assessment is person-centered and driven by the family. A family will leave the PTPW project based on need and other supports. Since the pilot's start, they have been asking staff and participants what works, what doesn't, and they have used that feedback to adjust and make changes. JoMarie Morris added and said both PTPW and the Jeremiah Project are examples of building a continuum of services. Support includes housing, public health services, career development, case coordination, and more. The flexible benefits set is a crucial part of the PTPW. It will allow families to choose how they use the funds and resources they qualify for based on their immediate needs. The next step of this project is to help families understand all the aspects of finances or financial coaching, for example, understanding credit and banking practices. Mary Eichten asks the CSAB members to give feedback on what topics, needs, or barriers they should prioritize. Also, what else should they be considering as they continue to build on this pilot.

Enhancing Advisory Board – Summary of Survey Results – Sarah Oachs & Vice-Chair Brandt

Sarah Oachs thanked the CSAB for participating in the survey and shared the results. One of the questions asked was what members are wondering about. Members responded with having clear membership criteria, identify the Board's value, enhance communication between staff and County Board. Today's presentation on PTPW was an example of how the CSAB can contribute in the future. When staff has the flexibility, the CSAB will be asked dialog and make recommendations. The next step will be to further define this board's purpose and finish editing the bylaws so those can be submitted for County Board approval. This is the same process other boards are

following. For 2021, we will have an update on the March workplan presentation, COVID impacts and set a course for the remainder of the year. Members will receive the bylaws in next month's meeting packet and will be able to make edits and recommendations.

Department Update Q & A

None.

F. County Commissioner & Member Updates/Comments

Stephanie Podulke said the Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) responded quickly to the COVID outbreak among the homeless population. The Warming Center was turned into a COVID quarantine facility for people without homes. The Civic Center is now the day center. Commissioner Kiscaden said the Cares funding has been used in a variety of ways. They continue to partner with the Rochester Public Schools by using Graham Park for food distribution. The bylaws were written by attorneys and might sound very formal. She encouraged the CSAB to have a conversation on how they can give staff and the County Board a citizen perspective.

G. Adjournment

Vice-chair Brandt adjourned the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Bea SanMiguel-Molina.