

**Tioga County Department of Human Services
Advisory Board
November 15, 2023
12:00 noon**

Board Attendance: Isobel Anderegg, Jim Bodine, Amy Coots, John Eckman, Kristin Hamilton, Holly Lamonski, Timothy McBride, Sara Rice

Guest Attendance: Jenny Bowen, Janice Chamberlain, Shane Nickerson, Mellissa Parsons, Marc Rice, Diane Weed

Remote Attendance: Nichole Luckovich, Lyndsey Stiger

Call to Order: Kristin Hamilton called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence. Introductions were made around the room.

Secretary's Report: Kristin asked the Advisory Board to review the minutes from the August 2023 meeting. Any questions, concerns, discrepancies? No voiced concerns. Jack made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Jim seconded. 8 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sara states as the end of October 2023, the balances is \$1,353.76. With a projected amount of \$1000.00 in donations, our budget for 2024 is expected to be \$2,350.00. In 2023 we used Advisory Board funds to purchase groceries for a family, little league registration fees for four children in care, medication for a youth in care when there was a gap in medical insurance, field trip fee's for two children in care, transmission repairs for a vehicle so that a father could get to and from work, and educational toys for a child in care. Any questions or concerns? No voiced concerns. Kristin is thankful that these funds are there for individuals where no other funding would cover these items. Holly made a motion to accept the treasurers report and budget as presented. Jack seconded. 8 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Agenda Items:

Sara states that we have mailed out the Advisory Board Christmas Appeal letter to individuals in the community. Our goal is to receive \$1000.00 to help support families in the upcoming year. As of today, we have received \$200 in donations.

Sara states that there are Advisory Board member gifts purchased from Highland Chocolates. We are very thankful for each member of the board and truly appreciate the input you bring each meeting.

Sara asked the board to review the 2024 proposed meeting dates. The March meeting is the first public hearing for the Human Services block grant. We are required to host two public hearings. We invite providers to this meeting to get their feedback, input, and trends on what they are seeing and the needs for our county. Amy suggests we change the August meeting date due to it being the same day as family day at the county fair. The meeting date was discussed and changed to Friday August 9th, 2024. With the change, Jack made a motion to accept the 2024 meeting dates, Amy seconded. 8 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Sara wanted to give a quick update regarding AMP(Adventure Motorbike Program). The county commissioners and Human Services Agency felt strongly that the motorbike program needed to continue after Nypum notified us that there was no longer going to be a national program. We hit a few roadblocks however we were able to get the insurance provider to come out and review the program. They insisted that there be a county employee to oversee the program and we found the perfect candidate, Malachi Cunningham. He is a part-time employee and is very passionate about this program. Question—is this program primarily in Wellsboro? For right now, primarily

Wellsboro. We serve children across the county however the state told us we could only use children and youth funds for this program if the children were open for services. Our long-term goal is to make this a prevention program so that we can open it up to the entire county and not just for the children in care.

Canyon Motorsports is willing to work on our bikes and provide the services to maintain the bikes. Marc Rice commended Ed Borsheim for all his hard work to get this program up and running. Kristin has seen a lot of children benefit from this program, so she is appreciative of the hard work it took to keep this program going.

Over the past summer and going forward, we have been having meetings that include the agency, Sam, Inc., the prison, social workers, and the hospital to discuss 302's and mental health concerns within Tioga County. The purpose of these meetings is to keep the line of communication open.

The Overdose Fatality Review Team is being ran through the Partnership. This is going to be a heavy undertaking but is very important. The idea is that a team will come together and review overdose fatalities that include receiving feedback from family members. I am hopeful that this will start to show us data and trends to see what we are missing. We need to make sure we are putting dollars and efforts in the right places. We are hoping this data will provide this.

Diane states that we are also working with BHARP to disperse a survey to the Mansfield Commonwealth University regarding a stigma survey- for substance use and mental health. We are also working with Healthy Tioga, which are groups at the Partnership, to put together a survey for the county to get better data that includes substance use, mental health, and social determinants.

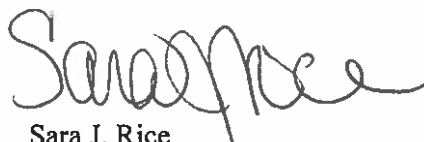
Sara formerly introduced Mary Wilson as the new Children and Youth Assistant Administrator. Mary has brought a fresh perspective to our children and youth program and is questioning processes and spending, which is welcomed. We are very thankful to have her.

Diane would like to inform the board that Meadowlark, a drug and alcohol outpatient counseling facility has opened in Mansfield. Once licensing is complete, they will also be treating mental health.

Jim made a motion to close the meeting, Amy seconded. 8 ayes, 0 nays. Meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Submitted by:


Holly Lamonski
Secretary


Sara J. Rice
Administrator of TCDHS