

**Tioga County Department of Human Services
Advisory Board
November 13, 2024
12:00 p.m.**

Attendance: Kimberly Alfieri, Amy Coots, Geoff Gadow, Holly Lamonski, Mellissa Parsons, Commissioner Marc Rice, Sara Rice, Trisha Tanner, Kail Thompson, Commissioner Sam VanLoon, Diane Weed, Mary Wilson

Call to Order: Saira called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence. Due to a lack of quorum, we will not be approving meeting minutes or treasurer's report. We will vote on 2025 officers at the March 12, 2025 meeting.

Sara thanked the board members for their willingness to serve and their valuable input this past year with a Highland Chocolates gift assortment.

Sara asked for thoughts on changing the Advisory Board meeting time to help with board member attendance. Overall, the time has worked well for the board members. Sara stressed the importance of attending these meetings. Going forward, we will continue to send more frequent reminders to the members of each meeting.

Treasurer's Report: As of the end of October 2024, the Advisory Board balance is \$3,252.78. We are mailing out letters for our Christmas appeal. We usually receive about \$1000.00 in donations. This money is utilized to help with children's sports registrations, clothing, emergency items, and Christmas gifts.

Business:

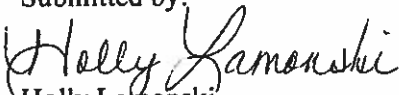
Northern Tier Counseling has joined us today to present on Multisystemic Therapy (MST). Northern Tier Counseling is continuing to meet the needs of our community and currently has 4 fulltime therapists in the Mansfield office. MST is an evidence-based treatment approach for youth aged 12-17 years old. It is more intensive than family-based treatment. We meet 2-3 times a week up to 6 hours per week per family. Appropriate referrals for MST are children who are on probation, are active with Children and Youth Services, who have truancy issues, lack of academic success, drug use, alcohol use, physical and verbal aggression. The caseload for our therapist is between 4-6 because of the amount of time. We are doing research to be able to offer this to a younger population.


Trisha informed the board that the Children and Youth department has been diligently organizing Christmas gifts for 71 children that are in care. The following organizations and businesses have generously donated gifts for the last several years: Trinity Lutheran Church and School, St. Peters Church, Wellsboro Electric, NexTier, AAA, Niles Valley, and Harlands. This Is My Quest, Pop's Culture, and The Rotary has generously assisted with providing our foster care children with Christmas gifts.

Our most recent Court Appointed Special Advocate(CASA) program has dissolved. State representatives from CASA have met with local representatives to help rebuild this program. We have let the state representatives know that we would like to build a regional CASA program, so they have reached out to Potter and Bradford counties.

Sara made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Holly seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by:


Holly Lamonski
Secretary


Sara J. Rice
Administrator of TCDHS