

**WNY Chemical Dependency Consortium  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, March 18, 2022  
Virtual Meeting**

**Time start: 11:00**

**End time: 12:13**

**Members Present:**

Matt Smith X

Beth Anzalone X

Melanie Witkowski

Ed Cichon x

Robin Mann x

Bill Penman x

Jackie West x

Jodie Altman x

Shannon Ford x

Bruce Nisbet x

Mike Prutsman x

Jennifer Seib x

Tye Pope

**Approval of minutes:**

Bruce Nisbet-first

Ed Cichon-second

passed

**Treasurer's report:** Bill Penman shared the balance for our account is \$16,694.60. Finances remain status quo. Only activity were service charges for the last two months, Membership will be going up for 2022 to \$200.00. Bill shared the draft letter with the change in the dues amount.

Everyone accepted the letter as written.

The group also discussed the attachment of the MOU to go out with the membership letter. Matt will work on the MOU and send before the next meeting to be approved. This will fulfill the OASAS request for MOU's with consortium. It has been brought up by OASAS several times at agency site visits. A Signature line will be provided as to secure partnerships.

**WNYCDC Website.** Things remain the same, no new information. Kate Chudoba (WNY United) will continue to add any new campaign information –Take It to the Box and other SOR and WRARC projects will continue to be added. There is also money for coalitions to apply for funding for small projects. Please check out the website for details.

Please remember to send any information to [Kchudoba@wnyunited.org](mailto:Kchudoba@wnyunited.org) at WNY United

**SOR-**Matt presented an update on the regional "Take it to The Box" campaign.

This features an ad to be shown in movie theaters across the area as well as Red Box.

Billboards for the campaign will be ending soon. Stickers and palm cards are available for pharmacies to place in bags for their customers.

Look forward to another campaign starting in April to support DEA Drug Takeback Day. Billboards, red box, movie theater, small print, and facebook advertising expected.

National Drug Take Back day will be held April 30, 2022.

**Training update: Matt will call the committee together to make suggestions for the upcoming trainings to be sponsored by CDC.** Two training events will be, with the likelihood of the April one being pushed back.

Topics would still be:

Spring: Harm Reduction

June: Cultural Responsiveness

These two trainings can possibly be held at NACS if Covid allows us to meet in person

Ed brought up Workforce and a topic for a possible training - "What to Expect Your First Week of Your New Job"?

The group thought that was a great topic to explore.

Beth suggested we try to do two tracks; one for Prevention and one for treatment as they might have different expectations.

**Updates:** Matt shared the Suicide prevention Coalition had their annual meeting. He has stepped down as vice chair

Jennifer shared information on the advocacy for MAT in county jails and prisons. There is an RFA out and it's for 1, OTP. This doesn't seem convenient for treatment providers. There is push back because feasible for one agency to provide the service.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Prevention: Matt shared the report for Melanie**

Most of the discussion revolved around the Prevention Guidelines. Deadline for Comments is March 24<sup>th</sup>. ASAP requested that we get comments back to them and they will put a document together with all comments and asked all to forward. They also asked if we would forward to our LGU's and ask them to send their comments as well.

#### **Treatment: Jodie Altman reported**

No updates from Opiate task force

OASAS-program reviews-they will be sending requests for documents up to 2 months in advance

Tobacco Policy revision-Webex on OASAS website

Medicaid rate enhancement-OPT by April

Covid restrictions-no updates

Value Network-

- a. Training Series-for partners and affiliate members-April 1,2022
- b. OASAS-transportation grant-waiting for OASAS contracts
- c. Advocacy-workforce was the main topic for the legislative
- d. Matt Padoa Grant-Best Self, VN,UB/MD,NY Partners-24/7 MAT program, value network

Telehealth- Extended as per guidance-discussion: PTS cutting in for in person visits

The group also discussed that OASAS was surprised about residential beds-haven't been holding beds for Covid patients.

KED has a special wing for those testing positive

Best Self has an apartment set aside for that as well.

#### **Public Policy: Ed Cichon**

Ed reviewed and shared his comments from the legislative meeting.

He also shared the difference in the COLA numbers in each of the Senate (5.4%) and the Assembly (11%). We discussed the need for agency's to call the staffing office and share our support for these budget changes.

**End of the meeting discussion and announcements:**

Mike shared that the merger with CASA-Trinity is official on April 1, 2022. Things have been going smoothly- staff seems happy and seeing the advantages of being part of a larger entity.

Jody shared that the transition with KED and Best self is going well, too.

Shannon shared her experience with working with two counties and wearing multiple hats.

Ending discussion circled back to workforce issues. People are leaving our agencies to find better paying jobs. Great discussion on what Prevention can do to increase funding. It was suggested that Prevention take a look at joining Laurie Cole's group.

Jodie made a motion to end the meeting

Bruce seconded

Passed

Meeting ended at 12:13

**Board terms**

Matt Smith 10/22

Beth Anzalone 10/23

Jodie Altman 12/22

Robin Mann 10/22

Ed Cichon 10/22

Bill Penman 10/22

Jackie West 10/24

Mike Prutsman 10/25

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