

WNY Chemical Dependency Consortium  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday March 19, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

Time Started: 12noon  
Time Ended: 12:40pm

Members Present:

Matt Smith  
Melanie Witkowski  
Rachel Linderman  
Jackie West  
Bill Penman  
Ed Cichon  
Bruce Nisbet  
Sherri Bensley  
Jennifer Seib  
Kathy Kaiser  
Tye Pope  
Jodie Altman

Approval of minutes:

February minutes were not presented to the Board prior to the meeting. A motion was presented by Bruce Nisbet and seconded by Sherri Bensley to present them with the minutes of this meeting at the next meeting in April. All present agreed to this.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Penman reported no expenses incurred over the last month. Current balance is \$18,057.42.

Membership Update:

Bill Penman presented the Board with the annual letter to the membership re: dues. The Board approved the letter. Bill will send it to the Committee Chairs who have agreed to forward it to their members.

#### WNYCDC Website:

Matt Smith reported no changes to the website. He encouraged all Board members to email Kate Chudoba ([Kchudoba@wnyunited.org](mailto:Kchudoba@wnyunited.org)) with any information they may want shared on the website. Matt also reminded the Board that any coalition grant info is located on the website.

#### 2021 Holiday Awards Luncheon:

The Board discussed our annual luncheon and the idea of another virtual luncheon vs an actual in-person luncheon. The Board was in favor of having a “live” luncheon with a virtual option as well. Since our annual luncheon is held in November, Ed brought up a concern that in November 2020 when we had a virtual one, there was a spike in COVID due to the holidays and expressed concern that this could happen again. The Board agreed with this and decided to switch the luncheon to Friday October 15, 2021 and to call it an Awards Luncheon instead. The Board agreed that the last luncheon held at Classics 5 was successful and that we would like to have it there again. Jackie West agreed to contact Classics 5. Tye Pope, Rachel Linderman and Jodie Altman agreed to help in the planning of the event. Once the location is secured, the Board suggested that something be put into the contract that addresses any issues that may arise if the luncheon is canceled due to COVID.

#### Truetox Training:

Matt Smith reported that Truetox would like to work with us again to provide trainings as they are trying to come into the WNY area. The Board reviewed the list of trainings and Sherri Bensley identified that the trainings were more geared towards treatment and not prevention. The Board agreed that Units 2 and 4 would be acceptable to use for training in our area. Matt will contact Truetox to schedule these virtually. The Board suggested they be held on Fridays from 9:30am to 11:30am if possible.

#### SOR Grant:

Value Network has been awarded the grant, but Bruce Nisbet reported that there are no specific details to report at this time.

#### Meeting Reports:

##### Prevention:

Sherri Bensley reported her Committee talked about the OASAS listening sessions regarding the COVID Relief Act. They also discussed the SOR Grant.

Treatment:

Kathy Kaiser reported that her Committee talked about the virtual meetings re: the proposed OASAS/OMH integrated agency. It was agreed upon that the meetings tended to be redundant at best. Bill Penman also spoke about reimbursement rates and not knowing how that would develop once the agencies combined. Value Network provided some updated information on the awarding of the SOR Grant. OASAS also spoke about the mobile vaccination sites in our area.

Public Policy:

Ed Cichon reported that his committee spoke about the American Rescue Plan, Marijuana legalization, OASAS/OMH integration and SAMHSA grants that may be available.

The next meeting will be at 12 noon on Friday April 16, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Jodie Altman MS, CASAC.