

**WNY Chemical Dependency Consortium  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, January 19, 2024  
Virtual Meeting**

**Time start: 11:00**

**End time: 11:45**

**Members Present:**

Matt Smith X	Bill Penman x	Jodie Altman x	Gulsum Suluzzio x
Beth Anzalone X	Jackie West x	Jennifer Seib x	
Ed Cichon x	Shannon Ford x	Erica Zych x	
Robin Mann x	Erica Sebastian x	Shelia Harding x	

**Approval of Minutes:**

1<sup>st</sup>: Ed Cichon

2<sup>nd</sup>: Bill Penman

**Treasurer's report:** Bill Penman reported the treasury has \$9,257.04 (\$ 10,000.00 in a CD)  
Payments made to Prevention Focus- \$512.65 for the Gold Key Awards. Speaker Hotel payment-  
\$295.23

Matt also shared that Melanie Witkowski has agreed to re-join the Board and Matt motioned her return for a 3 year term

Motioned was seconded by Jodie Altman. Board approved the motion

**Membership:** Bill reported membership remains the same

**WNYCDC Website.** Things remain the same, no new information. Kate Chudoba (WNY United) will continue to add any new campaign information 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-**

"Take It to The Box" campaign will continue for SOR 3 Please continue to share info with Dave Mussen at Prevention Focus

**Training update:**

\* Dark side of the Web will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is rescheduled from earlier this year. It will be held virtually from 10-11:30. There is a new registration for this event so please have staff re-register.

The Prevention Council will handle the registration. Please contact Darlene to register participants Robin will work on credentials from OASAS.

39 people have registered so far for the training.

Ed met with a small group to discuss future training opportunities. Trying to find some trainings that fill the full spectrum and would appeal to as many people as possible. So the goal is find trainers for five categories” Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction, Peer Support and Recovery.

The group is looking for a Comprehensive Overview in each category: One training day possibly with different tracts. There was a brief discussion of having a consultant act as the Mc for the day. A July date was suggested for this event. This discussion will be continued.

Bill thought it would be helpful to find someone who might be able to help with the passage of the 115 waiver and how it works for agencies. There will be some webinars coming up that might help with this.

Jen also added that we should contact Value network or Lauri Cole’s group to ask for some insight.

Group added we need someone to focus on our region and what it means to us.

Bill offered to reach out to Andrea Wanat

The topic also discussed a separate training for “Direct Care” employees as well as recruitment into the SUC fields. Maybe a discussion with local universities and colleges would be included.

One last mention of who we can afford to send to trainings. Keeping it short (maybe 1 Hour each topic) would be manageable for all agencies.

Committee reports:

**Treatment: Jodie Altman**

- 1) Problem gambling Learning Thursdays will begin Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>
- 2) Masking recommended by DOH in residential settings
- 3) CRIA funding institute on addiction
- 4) 2024 trainings are listed on OASAS website
- 5) OASAS/OMH –guidance for Social Workers, liscenses: CASAC,LMCH what you can and cannot do

Workforce: still some issues Justice Center has slow response which effects staffing.

**Public Policy: Ed Cichon**

1. Discussion of the COLA-need to voice our concerns as the amount is not keeping up with need
2. State of the State-Gov’s Budget
3. States approval of 115 waiver, 1115 IMD

**Prevention: Sheila Harding**

Prevention Goals 2024:

1. Wellness for the group.
2. Peer to peer support
3. CPP & CPS credentialing

**Meeting ended at 12:05**

**Board Terms:**

Matt Smith 10/23  
Beth Anzalone 10/23  
Shannon Ford 10/25  
Robin Mann 10/23  
Ed Cichon 10/23

Bill Penman 10/23  
Jackie West 10/24  
Jodie Altman 10/23  
Jennifer Seib 10/23

Erica Sebastian 2/26  
Erica Zyck 2/26