

TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
MH – ASA – OPWDD Subcommittee Meeting

APPROVED

February 4th, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Via: Hybrid

Member Sue Medina Vicki Fergus
Attendance: Nadia Constant Shannon Westbrook
Larissa Brower Evelyn Vavra
Tina Lounsbury Gayle Pado
Laura Smith Renee Nuzek
Bob Williams
John Crosby
Kim Bailey

Guest Erica Robinson
Attendance: Karen Warfle
Denise Brennan
Tricia Tomm
Emily Jackson
Jennifer Payne

Mental Hygiene Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services
Staff Attendance: Sarah Begeal, Deputy Director of Community Services
Danielle Fabregas, Clinical Program Director
Angelica Deyo-Cruz, Corporate Compliance Officer
Sue Graves, Secretary to the Director

Meeting called to order at: 9:35am

Topic: Review of the November 2024 Minutes

- MH Subcommittee – Approved with changes
- ASA Subcommittee – Approved as written
- OPWDD Subcommittee – Approved as written

Topic Director's Report – Lori Morgan

Discussion: Updates:

- Resolution for an additional Social Worker approved by the Legislature
- Staffing
 - Dr. Bezirgianian retiring as of 2/10/25
 - Dr. Webster is the new Medical Director
 - New Psychiatrist started on 1/29/25
- Hea Hea
 - Open House held 1/31/25
 - Lori assisting on getting them up and running

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Deputy Director Report – Sarah Begeal

Discussion: Updates:

- Waverly Site
 - Received licensure from OASAS
 - Proving services for MH and ADS
 - Groups to start on 2/10/24
- Staffing
 - New clinician hired for Waverly
 - Potential Clinician for Owego in the background check process
 - Danielle Fabregas is the new Clinical Program Director
 - A lot of internal movement within the clinics

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Clinical Program Director Report – Danielle Fabregas

Discussion: Updates:

- Census
 - Mental Health – 582 admitted clients
 - Approximately 100 more than in 2024
 - ADS – 100 admitted clients, 30 continued care, 15 peer only
 - Highest number of clients in recent years

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Mental Health Report – Tina Lounsbury for Fran Bialy, Chair

Discussion: RSS Report – Larissa Brower

- SOS Team is very busy – 35 people being served in Tioga County
 - Hiring Case Managers for the team
- Housing census is high
 - Wait list for Supported Housing

Public Health – Sue Medina

- Credible Minds Website
 - Brief overview given
 - Local resources on site
 - Managing hot topics
 - March launch date
- 2025 Community Health Assessment process starting
 - Due by the end of 2025
- Tioga County Suicide Prevention Coalition
 - Meeting on 2/5/25 at 1:30 in the HHS Building

HeaHea – Nadia Constant

- HeaHea is a partial hospitalization for eating disorders
- Open House held on 1/31/25
- Officially open for business on 2/24/25
- OMH completed visit and PIP report completed
- Challenges navigated successfully
- Open for referrals & collaboration
- Many thanks for all the support received

Status: Informational - Complete

Other: Pennysaver Articles

- Tina to look at the awareness schedule to see what has been done previously for March

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: ASA Report – Sue Medina for Kylie Holochak, Chair

Discussion: ASAP Coalition – Sue Medina

- Kylie Holochak & Kristin Russell are at CADCA in Washington, DC
- Black Balloon Day being organized
 - Doing window clings this year instead of balloons
- YES groups – activities around substance use
- CLYDE Surveys - Grades 8, 10, 12
 - Tompkins County surveying Candor grades 7-12
 - Possibly doing grades 7-12 for remaining schools
 - Surveys due in October

Trinity– Laura Smith

- In school programs & events
 - Social-Emotional programs
 - Teen Intervene programs
 - 16 in program – 11 have completed
 - Surveys
 - Too Good for Drugs program in classrooms
 - Too Good for Violence program in 14 classrooms
 - Also doing programs in Owego & Spencer Elementary
 - Black Balloon Day
 - Prevention Week
 - Red Ribbon Week
- Workplace Wellness & Trainings
 - Flyer attached
 - Will do trainings at workplaces as well
 - Lori would like to schedule training during the clinic's wellness day

Coroner – Bob Williams

- Legislature interviewing for a new Coroner tomorrow

- January had 15 cases

Emergency Services – Bob Williams

- Open House planned for 5/17/25
- LETC meeting on 3/5/25- open to membership
- TAM
 - Trainings taking place
 - School cases heard
 - Staff training to recognize when a case should be referred
 - State-County Assessment
 - Updating Plan
 - Due to State in June
 - Outreach program being put together

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: OPWDD Report – John Crosby, Chair

Discussion: DDRO/DDSO – Vickie Fergus
Vickie's last meeting. Renee Nuzek replacing Vickie

- OMBUDS Program
 - Navigational program explained briefly
 - Independent from OPWDD
 - Phone: 1-800-762-9290
 - Email: idd@cssny.org
 - Website: <https://www.cssny.org/programs/entry/iddo>
 - Open & ready to accept calls
- State of the State address
 - New proposals
 - Regional DBL clinics
 - 1 time cost funding
 - Goal is to improve health outcomes
 - Tax credits for those who hire individuals with disabilities
 - Modernization of the Institute of Basic Research (IBR)
 - \$75 million received
 - Transforming Willow Brook School into a center for learning

Achieve Report – Shannon Westbrook

- Day Hab & Day Hab Without Walls
 - Referrals being accepted for both programs
 - Purchasing a wheelchair van in 2025
 - Renovating main part of building (old workshop area)

FSS Report – Gayle Pado

- ADM – family reimbursement services
 - Family Support Services is open to family members caring for individuals & professionals

- Currently accepting new members
- When change happened to reimbursement ADM in June 2022, it made it so those that cared for their loved ones with OPWDD and used CDPAP services were not eligible for Respite reimbursement. This decision is being reconsidered at OPWDD Central Office. Huge win for this population.
- New RFP for FSS to be released late February or early April.
- FSS Member volunteers to be trained on scoring
- Clarifying policies, procedures & site protocols
- FSS looking for members

CCO Reports

Prime Care – Tricia Tomm

- Focusing on the clinical component high risk/high hospital users
- Two Case Manager vacancies in the Binghamton Office

ST Connects – Emily Jackson

- New structure in Binghamton office
 - Case Manager promoted to Supervisor
 - New Care Manager started on 2/3/25
- Focusing on social care networks
- Targeted outreach in Mental Health (Article 31) clinics

Lifeplan – Anne Seepersaud

- Community Resource Tool
 - Grant received to expand this tool
 - Heightening accessibility
 - See attached email with additional information
 - Article 16 outreach to obtain information
 - A lot of 2025 incentives

Racker Report – Gayle Pado

- Self-Direction program is opening with a waiting list
- Traditional Community Habilitation Services open for referrals
- Many events in February (see attachments)
- The new building in Owego is open
- Received accreditation from the Counsel on Quality & Leadership

Catholic Charities – Jennifer Payne

- Currently taking referrals

Self-Advocacy – Karen Warfle

- Shared the challenges non-verbal individuals face when trying to communicate with others. (report attached)
- Blue Envelope Program – Tioga County Sheriff's Department participates in

The "Blue Envelope Program" is an initiative designed to improve

communication between law enforcement officers and drivers with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by providing a discreet way for drivers to signal their condition during a traffic stop, typically by keeping important documents like their license and registration inside a blue envelope with instructions for officers on how to best interact with them; this helps to minimize anxiety and potential misunderstandings during an encounter.

Status: Informational - Complete

Other Discussion: Many expressed need for a list of the acronyms being used during the meetings as the three subcommittees are unfamiliar with each other's acronyms. A list will be in process.

Status: Informational - Complete

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:28am. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, at 9:30am.
