

TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

MH – ASA – OPWDD Subcommittee Meeting

March 4th, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Via: Hybrid

- **Review and approve February 2025 meeting minutes**
- **Director's Report**
- **Deputy Director's Report**
- **Clinical Director's Report**
- **OPWDD Report – John Crosby, Chair**
 - DDSR/DDRO Report
 - Achieve Report
 - FSS Report
 - CCO Reports
 - Racker Report
 - Catholic Charities Report
 - Self-Advocacy Report
 - Other Business
- **Mental Health Report – Fran Bialy, Chair**
 - A New Hope Center Report
 - RSS Report
 - Public Health
 - HeaHea Report
 - Additional Updates
- **ASA Report - Kylie Holochak, Chair**
 - Trinity Report
 - ASAP Coalition Report
 - Coroner/EMS Report
 - Sheriff's Office Report
 - Additional Updates
- **Additional Group Discussion**
- **Adjournment**

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 1st, 2025

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

PENDING APPROVAL

February 4th, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Via: Hybrid

Member Attendance: Sue Medina
Nadia Constant
Larissa Brower
Tina Lounsbury
Laura Smith
Bob Williams
John Crosby
Kim Bailey

Vicki Fergus
Shannon Westbrook
Evelyn Vavra
Gayle Pado
Renee Nuzek

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

Mental Hygiene Staff Attendance: Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services
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

- OMBUS 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
 - Open to family members caring for individuals
 - Access to services except Respite

- RFP released around Christmas
- Individuals being trained
- 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.

DRAFT