TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

OPWDD Subcommittee Meeting
December 1st, 2026
9:30-10:30am

- **2027 LSP Goal Areas**
  - Increase Workforce
  - Increase Affordable Housing
  - Access to Transportation
  - Crisis System
  - Residential Treatment
  - Transitional Age Services
  - Non-Clinical Supports

- **Review and approve November 2026 meeting minutes**

- **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

- **Additional Group Discussion**

- **Adjournment**

Next meeting: February 2nd, 2027

TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
OPWDD Subcommittee Meeting
Pending Approval
November 3rd, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Via: Hybrid

Mental Hygiene Staff Attendance:
Sarah Begeal, Director of Community Services Danielle Fabregas, Clinical Program Director
Sue Graves, Secretary to the Director

OPWDD Members Present
John Crosby
Gayle Pado (Z)
Shannon Westbrook (Z)
Gabriella Ayres (Z)
Karen Warfle (Z)
Pat Gillule

Absent
Tina Lounsbury
Christine Schweitzer
William Staindinger, III

Guests:
Alex Klinko
Tricia Tomm
Anne Seepersaud

Meeting called to order at 9:35am

Topic: Review of the October 2026 Minutes
- Motion to approve – Karen Warfle, 2nd John Crosby

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Director's Report – Sarah Begeal

Federal Update House Democrat ENC Medicaid
- Updates & impacts on local counties discussed
- There is CMS scrutiny over the New York program
- Could be looking at financial pressure with Tioga County programs
- Could reduce services available and access to care for individuals
- County fiscal impact
- Could see an uptick in Emergency & Crisis services
- Could affect continuity of care
- Estimated $ 7.7 billion annual reduction in funding for New York State
- Unclear what this will look like for Tioga County

Front Door Call
- Hospital reached out to Sarah regarding information on the Front Door
    - Anne shared LifePlan has 24/7 Customer Service available to assist

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Clinical Program Director's Report – Danielle Fabregas

Census

- September 2026 total: 570 of which 198 are kids
- Currently serving one OPWDD individual in the ADS system

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Agency Reports

DDSO/DDRO Report – Alex Klinko

- No updates

John Crosby is looking for information on how many Tioga County people went through the Front Door. If none, then there is nothing to report but if there were, how many and were they connected to services. Alex understood what John was looking for and explained to the group that the answers are not cut and dry for numerous reasons, including the individual not being under any obligation to accept services. Discussion ensued.

Achieve Report – Shannon Westbrook

- Have potentially 4-5 new referrals
- An additional staff member hired
- Individuals are being transported to Broome because Day Hab is full in Tioga County
- Plan is to recertify for a larger capacity
- DAYWOW is growing
- Blended program started with DAYWOW, Day Hab & Pre-voc

FFS Report

- FSS contract supports 12 agencies; 6 of which are in Tioga County
- There are 27 programs in total with Tioga County participating in 15
- Eligibility Support gap recognized
    - Kids under 10 yrs old needing eligibility
    - RFP in 2028 hoping to fill this gap
- Statewide FSS RFP updates
    - Renewed RFP releasing on a regional basis instead of statewide
    - Releasing region 5 in November
    - $ 4.1 million annual funds with $ 7.6 million statewide
    - Briefly reviewed the changes that are coming
- Family Reimbursement ADM waiting for updates
- DBAC developed a formal comprehensive directory of FSS state programs

CCO Reports

LifePlan - Anne Seepersaude

- CCO coverage for kids under 10 yrs old discussed
    - Utilizing natural & community supports (YMCA)
    - Could be eligible for waiver services if unable to participate in natural & community services due to their IDD
    - Must be a justified need
    - Must use what is already available before going to waiver services
    - There are a lot of caveats and small details
    - Call Anne or Tricia from Prime Care for assistance
- LifePlan is supporting over 330 people in Tioga County – referrals being accepted
- Developing a community networking event in Owego with IDD providers – more info to come

John asked how well special need kids are transitioning out of schools. Anne shared that they are working with the schools to make those transitions. John stated he may want to invite one of the schools to the subcommittee meeting. Perhaps Jamie Fabrizio from Owego.

Prime Care – Tricia Tomm
- Currently have no wait list and taking new referrals
- Currently serving 71 people in Tioga County
- Had one new enrollment for Tioga County

Rackers Report – Gayle Pado
- New director hired
- FSS featuring virtual opportunities and events (attached)
- Calendar of events in Tioga County (attached) briefly reviewed
- Rackers-giving event at the Neighborhood Depot, Owego on 11/19 at 11:30am

Catholic Charities Report – Gabriella Ayres
- Trying to get referrals in Tioga County
- Currently serving 20 individuals in Tioga County

Self-Advocacy Report – Karen Warfle
- Reaching out to find a self-advocate representative for these meetings.
- Someone will attend the December meeting.

Camp Badger – Pat Gillule
- Expanding program
- More campers ages 6-65
- Family Camp offered as well
- Staffing changes coming in 2028
    - Anyone over the age of 24 must be served by a staff member from the United States.

Status: Informational - Complete

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:29am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1st, 2026, at 9:30am.