

TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

MH – ASA – OPWDD Subcommittee Meeting

APPROVED

September 1st, 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

Porshea Moore, Certified Recovery Peer Advocate
Angela Hays, MH Intern

MH Members Present

Tina Lounsbury
Sarah DiNunzio – via Zoom
Katie Wait
Nadia Constant – via Zoom
Kristine Maslin
Porshea Moore

ASA Members Present

Bob Williams
Porshea Moore

OPWDD Members Present

Tina Lounsbury
John Crosby
Renee Nuzak – via Zoom
Gabriella Ayres-via Zoom
Karen Warfle – via Zoom

Absent:

Carolyn Galatzan

Absent:

William Standinger, III
Kylie Holochak - excused
Erica Robinson

Absent:

Gayle Pado - excused
William Standinger, III
Shannon Westbrook - excused
Christine Schweitzer

Guests:

Kari Nichols
Georges Oswald

Guests:

Jessica Fierro
Kristine Russell for Kylie Holochak

Guests:

Kim Bailey-Poreda
Tricia Tomm

Meeting called to order at 9:34am

Topic: Review of the June 2026 Minutes

- MH Subcommittee – motion to approve - Tina Lounsbury, 2nd Katie Wait, approved as written
- ASA – motion to approve – Porshea Moore, 2nd Kristin Russell, approved as written
- OPWDD – motion to approve – Tina Lounsbury, 2nd John Crosby, approve as written

Topic: Director's Report – Sarah Begeal

Discussion:

- Budget
 - Trending well except Criminal Psych is over for 2026
 - Legislation on Governors desk regarding 730 competency restoration
 - Currently have one admitted individual at approximately \$40,000 per month

- Staffing
 - Anna Walter started 8/24/26 = Supervising Clinical Social Worker
 - Riley Lenetsky starting 9/21/26 – Clinical Social Worker
 - Three interns
 - Matthew McDoanld – MH
 - Zainab Sheikh – School-based
 - Candon Westervelt – School-based
- Safety Training
 - Disaster Mental Health training held 8/25 – 8/26/26
 - Staff certified as a Mental Health Disaster Team
- LSP (Local Service Plan)
 - Plan submitted; approved in July
 - Full plan development next year
- AOT Program
 - New manual created and plan approved
 - Resolution in September to hire an AOT Coordinator
 - Huge increase in AOTs from previous years
 - July & August – 3 new, 2 pending and 1 in EVA
 - BGH screening everyone coming in
- OASAS Name Change for 822 clinics
 - Outpatient Services with OTP (Opioid Treatment Program)
 - OPT must carry Methadone
 - Clinic currently does Suboxone
 - Not seeing a lot of need in Tioga County for Methadone
- Children's SPOA
 - Receiving new money for the Children's SPOA program
 - New list of work scopes created
 - May need to dedicate 1 FTE (full-time employee)
- Medicaid Changes
 - Recertifications every 6 months instead of annually
 - Look back payments 30 days instead of 90 days
 - Payments could be affected
- Affordable Housing Coalition
 - Liz Myers, Commissioner of DSS created coalition
 - Please contact her if interested in being involved
- Subcommittee Separation
 - Goal is for better attendance & discussion
 - Meeting schedule starting in October
 - OPWDD Subcommittee – 1st Tuesday of the month at 9:30am
 - MH Subcommittee – 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:30am
 - ASA Subcommittee – 1st Wednesday of the month at 9:30am
 - Subcommittees to meet as a large group for LSP Planning
 - All participants are encouraged to attend in person

Topic: Clinical Program Director's Report – Danielle Fabregas

Updates:

- Census
 - MH – 600 admitted clients
 - ADS – 138 admitted clients
- Social Worker moving to CAC position
- Nearly at full staff
- Seeking a Peer

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Subcommittee Reports

Discussion:

- OPWDD

DDSO/DDRO

- Renee Nuzak shared updates regarding Medicare/Medicaid
- Willow Brook Center for Learning opening summer of 2028
- Accessing Life Podcasts – 16 podcasts available
- Front Door is busy
 - John Crosby requested the numbers relevant to Tioga County for the Front Door
 - Renee to provide a link to the data

Achieve (via email)

- 23 individuals enrolled at Tioga Day Hab – Maximum 20/day
- Day Hab Without Walls has 12 individuals enrolled -additional 4 in process
- Referrals being accepted
- Celebrating unification with Madison & Cortland ARC on 9/1/26 at Norwich location

FFS Report

- No meetings in July or August
- Meeting this Thursday (9/3/26)

CCO Reports

- Tricia from Prime Care – all care managers are back to school
- Looking to do flu shots & education
- 1 opening for a Care Manager position
- No new enrollments for Tioga County

Catholic Charities

- Gabby Ayres reported they are focusing on referrals for Supported Employment & Prevoc Services in Tioga County
 - Currently have 3 individuals for Supported Employment with another onboarding soon
- Working with WEBO to produce a video that should be posted soon

Self-Advocacy

- Karen Warfle & another individual attended Racker Day in the Park (Ithaca) – great event
- Attending a D3 event on 9/26/26 (DBL, Dream & Do Organization) at Corning Community College
- Action Club has an event today at noon at Hickories for new officer installation

John Crosby requested for all participants in the subcommittees attend in person starting in October.

• ASA

ASAP Report

- Kristin Russell reported the CARA Grant has ended
 - They have reapplied but no word yet
- Adding school meetings and action planning for 2027
- In year 9 of the DFC Grant
 - Sector Reps almost filled – waiting for two people
- In year 4 of the STOP ACT Grant (last year)
 - Looking to reapply
- Summer Family Friendly Events successful
 - Movie nights
 - 30 family packs of tickets for the Tioga County Fair given away
 - Over 400 surveys completed at events
- Youth Advisory Council (youth lead) being developed
- OD Vigil was postponed due to weather. Looking to reschedule

CASA-Trinity

- Jessica Fierro present representing Trinity
- The Owego office has moved to Elmira
- Two school employees are still with Trinity
 - Josh is in the Waverly Schools
 - Kim is in the Spencer Van Etten Schools
- Intervention in Tioga Central Schools done
- New programming being introduced in schools
- 17 Teen Intervenes done across various schools
- Blues Program (more Mental Health skills based) will be in Spencer Schools

Coroner/EMS

- Bob Williams reported Will Ellis will be the EMS contact until Corrine returns
- EMS classes have started
- LEPC meeting was co-chaired by Public Health
 - Representatives from the DEC & National Weather Service presented
- TAM trainings will include both Broome & Tioga Counties
- Coroner Report – 3 overdose deaths through June

- One was a Morphine & Fentanyl combination
- Mental Health

A New Hope Center

- Sarah DiNunzio reported the Domestic Violence Shelter is full (9 beds)
- Primary source of funding is through the NYS Office of Victim Services
 - Funding is competitive
 - Funding decisions are all application based
 - Tioga County did not receive increased funding but had no major cuts
 - Broome County had a 70% cut
- A New Hope Center currently has an Intern from Binghamton University
- Safe Harbor – currently gearing up for school groups
 - Grade level education & programs
 - Spencer VanEtten, Newark Valley, Candor
- Safe Harbor Team met in August and is looking for more partners including youth representation
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month – information forthcoming
- Open House for A New Hope Center's 40th Anniversary October 2nd, 2026
 - 20 Church Street from 4:00-7:00pm
 - Chance to win an overnight stay at Belva Lockwood

Rehabilitation Support Services (via email)

- Front Street CR is full (10 beds) with 5 individuals on a waiting list
- Tioga Apartment Program is full (9 beds) with one visitor starting 9/1/26
- Tioga Supported Housing has 21 of the 22 beds full
- Megan Zobel hired to manage the Apartment Program & Supported Housing starting 9/7/26
- Social Club and Drop-in Center welcoming referrals

Public Health

- Katie Wait shared the Suicide Prevention Coalition applied for a capacity grant
 - Suicide safety planning for schools
 - Access to Lethal Means
- Race Dedication Night at Tioga Downs this Saturday 9/5/26

Hea Hea

- Nadia Constant & Georg Oswald reported having 6 patients from February – June
- Numerous struggles have forced them to close for now
- Current situation is not sustainable
- Looking into various alternate cash flow opportunities
- Looking forward to serving patients in some capacity.

Status: Informational – Complete

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:16am.