

TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

MH – ASA – OPWDD Subcommittee Meeting

APPROVED

September 2nd, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Via: Hybrid

Member	Katie Wait	Kimberly Bailey-Poreda
Attendance:	Larissa Brower	Renee Nuzak
	John Crosby	Karen Warfle
	Tina Lounsbury	
	Sarah DiNunzio	
Guest	Anne Seepersaud	
Attendance:		
Mental Hygiene	Sarah Begeal, Deputy Director of Community Services	
Staff Attendance:	Angelica Deyo-Cruz, Corporate Compliance Officer	
	Porshea Moore, Peer Advocate	
	Cassandra Horton, Minutes	

Meeting called to order at: 9:35am

Topic: Review August 2025 Minutes – Approved as written

Topic Deputy Director's Report – Sarah Begeal

Discussion: Updates:

- Budget
 - Budget on track
- Staffing
 - 2 vacancies for School Based
 - Clinic has vacancies
 - Challenge with recruitment
- September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
 - Lori presented a proclamation to the Legislature
 - Local Crisis number: 607-687-4000
 - Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm
 - Weekend/Holidays: 607-687-1010
 - Ask to speak with the on-call crisis Social Worker
 - 988 is available – calls are not handled locally
- Mental Health Mobile Crisis
 - Katherine Mikulski hired
 - Weekdays 9:00am – 5:00pm in addition to current crisis
 - This position will enhance what the clinic already has in place
 - Finalizing policies & procedures

- Articles
 - Porshea Moore wrote an article on Suicide Awareness
 - Submitting to the Pennysaver for September

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Clinical Program Director – Danielle Fabregas

Discussion: Updates:

- Staffing
 - Two Social Worker positions open
- Crisis Information
 - Cards available with crisis information
- Census
 - 590 – Mental Health
 - 122 – ADS

] Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: OPWDD Subcommittee – John Crosby, Chair

Discussion: DDSR/DDRO Report – Renee Nuzak

- Talking Points regarding Federal Funding
 - State cuts and impacts on OPWDD discussed
 - Brief data overview
- Issues with finding Medicaid programs
 - Dental & Healthcare

Achieve Report – Shannon Westbrook -Not Present

FFS Report – Gayle Pado - Not Present

CCO Reports

- LifePlan – Anne Seepersaud
 - Ewig Speech & Hearing Clinic at Ithaca College
 - Free clinics during the academic year (all ages)
 - Seeking new referrals

- ST Connects – Emily Jackson – Not Present

- Prime Care – Tricia Tomm – Not Present

Catholic Charities – Gabby Ayres – Not Present

Rackers – Gayle Pado – Not Present

Self-Advocacy – Karen Warfle

- Voices of the 607 meet Thursdays from 6:00-7:00pm
- October is AAC Awareness Month

- ISAAC international hosting an online conference October 28-29th
- International AAC Awareness month established by the ISAAC's LEAD Project Committee
- Thirteen countries participated in the first awareness month
- Events continue to increase in number and scope
- Celebrated worldwide each October
- Goal: Raise awareness of augmentative & alternative communication (AAC) and the numerous ways individuals communicate including using communication devices.
- <https://conference.isaac-online.org> to register
- Follow on social media: #AACaware25
- Upcoming Webinars
 - "Using the Communication Matrix Assessment to Build Consensus: - September 17th
 - Learn more and register:
 - <https://isaac-online.org/english/webinars/>

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: ASA Subcommittee – Kylie Holochak, Chair – Not Present

Discussion: Trinity Report (via email) – Laura Smith – Not Present

- New staff member for the Spencer Schools
- Reaching out to Newark Valley to get programs started
- Waverly will be getting their schedule together for programming

ASAP Coalition – Porshea Moore

- Overdose Awareness Vigil
 - Very good turnout
 - Many agencies & speakers participated
 - Photos placed on vigil bags this year
- Working on back-to-school projects

Coroner/EMS – Bob Williams – Not Present

Sheriff's Office – Trevor Yaeger – Not Present

Peer Advocate Report – Porshea Moore

- 242 Narcan kits were given away in one day
 - 96 kits given away at the Red Door alone

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: MH Subcommittee – Larissa Brower, Chair

Discussion: A New Hope Center – Sarah DiNunzio

- Major funding cut received last month
 - October 1st - 2 positions to be cut with possibly 1-2 additional
 - Cuts will impact services provided

- Statewide cut – all counties affected
 - DSS CAC positions will remain
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness month
 - “Let’s Ghost DV” event (see flyer)
 - October 4th from 12:00-5:00pm
 - Owego Elks Club
 - Carnival games & costume contest
 - \$10 for vendor tables
 - Sign-up on website
 - October 16th – wear purple for Domestic Violence
 - Send photos to Sarah DiNunzio
 - Sarah is writing an article on Domestic Violence Awareness month for the Pennysaver

RSS – Larissa Brower

- Almost fully staffed

Public Health – Katie Wait

- Credible Minds
 - Promos continue
 - Positive feedback from coffee shops regarding coffee sleeves
 - Highest population using site:
 - 13-17 yr olds
 - 18-24 yr olds
 - 35-44 yr olds

Suicide Prevention Coalition – Katie Wait

- Race Dedication Night at Tioga Downs
 - September 6th, 2025
 - Theme “Locks save Lives”

Hea Hea – Nadia Constant – Not Present

Status: Informational – Complete

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:12am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th, 2025, at 9:30am
