



Tompkins County
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

Tompkins County Whole Health
201 East Green Street
Ithaca, New York 14850-5421

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Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee

May 9th, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Approved 6.13.23

Present: Jeffrey Boles, James Beaumont, Nancy Saltzman, and Sheila McEnergy

Guests Present: Jamie Kelly, OPWDD; Tricia Tomm, Prime Care; Courtney Glenn, IYB; Jennifer Goodman, Mozaic; Jessica Conner, CSB; Christopher Kiser, Racker; Leah Perkins, Springbrook; Cassidy Stanley, TC Workforce Development; Christopher Hoebbel, OPWDD Broome; and Michael Musok, OPWDD.

Excused: Allison Weiner-Heinemann

Unexcused: Dorothy Lovelace

Staff: Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Deputy Commissioner

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The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by James.
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Privilege of the Floor: Jessica voiced her concerns about the lack of services for developmentally disabled children 0-21 years of age in crisis and the need for care managers to be more familiar with OPWDD services for them.

James announced that a provider/job fair will be held on Monday, June 5th at the YMCA from 11-1 pm which will have many service providers/agencies of Tompkins County in attendance or submit their brochures with information on the services/resources and job opportunities. He encouraged all to attend. They are working on having all providers update 211 with all their information on services on a consistent basis.

Announcements/Correspondence: James welcomed, Walaa Maharem-Horan, Cassidy Stanley, and Sally McConnell-Ginet who are all interested in membership on the Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee. Cindy shared that TC Workforce Development is planning a disability summit for the downtown Ithaca business area this summer and they are looking for sponsors.

Provider Updates:

Unity House: James:

Residential – no changes; Day Services – continued staffing issues; more collaborative activities with various organizations/companies/colleges including garden classes and theater groups.

FLIC: Jeff shared that FLIC continues to help individuals find employment.

OPWDD: Jamie shared that there is a plan to expand access to home-based crisis intervention support for children as the governor and OMH is investing \$13 million to help vulnerable children and youth. The plan will create 13 new teams and expand 26 existing teams to make critical in-home mental health services available to help individuals remain with their families during mental health treatment and support them in their recovery. OPWDD is partnering with OMH and DD Planning Council to establish two teams that will exclusively serve children or youth dually diagnosed with both DD and MH.

The proposed HCBS is open for public comment and encouraged all to submit comments before the close of business on Thursday. An update to the quarterly report and strategic plan was released and there is a recording on YouTube.

Prime Care: Tricia shared that they are preparing for the public health emergency end; have filled two care manager positions.

Mozaic: Jennifer shared they are accepting referrals for rehabilitation and social work counseling; recruiting social workers; and preparing for the ending of the emergency public health.

Racker: Chris shared that Racker recognized its 75th anniversary with staff appreciation days and celebration events with more planned for the summer; one vacancy in the residential program in Dryden.

Ithaca Youth Bureau: Courtney shared that programs are full but could have more programs if staffing was available; people are coming out in dances, concerts, social activities, and programs; mask policies were lifted except for a few programs; summer camp and the teen traveling program are filled and getting ready to go; Cass and Stuart Park Inclusion programs are full with waiting lists; hourly wage rate increased to \$17.50 to attract more staff but responses have been low.

OPWDD Broome: Chris shared they are connecting with individuals moving toward adulthood; enrolling OPWDD qualified for pre-vocational services; in the beginning stages of a program with the school districts, BOCES and Ithaca College to work on adult transition for those 19 – 20-year-olds still in high school, social engagement and peer appropriate groups. James said BOCES has individuals interested in aggressively working to get information to students before graduation so they can get through the front door before aging out.

Springbrook: Leah had no updates to report.

Tompkins County Workforce: Cassidy shared that a re-entry fair is in the works; a disability employer summit is scheduled for October at Coltivare; Summer Youth Employment and the JobLink Program is accepting applications for 14-24-year-olds; accepting applications for those needing SS benefits advisement and finding employment.

Harmony said that she will need feedback from the SU subcommittee on a review of the current plan and what the plan should be going forward. Feedback should be forwarded to the Subcommittee Co-Chairs. Encouraged the subcommittee to complete a survey being emailed about the most important needs which will help with the local service planning process. This year's local service plan will be multi-year 2024-2027 and will update annually.

Unity House: James encouraged everyone to attend the Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Resource & Job Fair on Monday, June 15th from 11 am to 1 pm at the YMCA of Ithaca.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.

**The next Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee Meeting is
Tuesday, June 13th, 2023, at 10:00 am.**