



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

June 13th, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Approved 7.11.23

Present: Jeffrey Boles, James Beaumont, Nancy Saltzman, Sheila McEnery, and Allison Weiner-Heinemann

Guests Present: Jamie Kelly, OPWDD; Tricia Tomm, Prime Care; Jennifer Goodman, Mozaic; Christopher Kiser, Racker; Lila Balliet, Springbrook; Michelle Gravel, Springbrook; Cassidy Stanley, TC Workforce Development; Briggs Seekins, Challenge; Kaitlyn Baylon, Catholic Charities; Christopher Hoebbel, OPWDD Broome; and Michael Musok, OPWDD.

Excused:

Unexcused: Dorothy Lovelace

Staff: Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, DCS; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant

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The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by James. Sheila motioned to approve April and May 2023 minutes, seconded by Allison; all were in favor.
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Privilege of the Floor: None

Announcements/Correspondence: James announced that Unity House's spring talent show will be held this Thursday in the big Pavilion at Stewart Park from 10 am to 12 noon.

Provider Updates:

Mozaic: Jennifer shared they are accepting referrals via their website for rehabilitation counseling (but temporarily on hold until) and social work counseling at the Tompkins County facility; they anticipate the onboarding of a social worker very soon.

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 offers peer counseling services.

Springbrook: Lila shared that their new office on State and West 8th Street will be open soon and is posting for an administrative assistant position. Michelle shared that Springbrook has referrals from Access VR for those living in Tompkins County; accepting referrals for pre-vocational and Pathway to Employment (ETP)

OPWDD: Jamie shared that the State budget included a 4% cost of living adjustment as reimbursement for human service providers, including nonprofit providers within the developmental disability service system; the total increase from 2022-2023 is 9.4%; there is a written interim strategic plan report being prepared and will provide an update at the next meeting as it moves forward.

Prime Care: Tricia shared that they continue to follow the guidelines with the public health emergency end; continue to take new enrollments; Prime Care celebrates its 5th year anniversary as a CCO.

Racker: Chris shared that Racker is piloting a Day Program that started yesterday to help the newer staff (and clients) get an idea of how things were prior to COVID in the IRAs as well as getting the clients outdoors without too many concerns. They hope to have it grow throughout the residential departments. Racker is offering a finance and budgeting class on Thursday, June 15 at Founders Way on Buffalo Street; Independence Workshops, 1. Relationships - exploring independence skills at home & in the community on July 20th; 2. Housing Subsidies to learn about OPWDD's housing subsidies on August 17th; filled three assistant manager positions in Ithaca and Tompkins County.

Challenge: Briggs shared that they continue to increase the number of services and enroll people. He appreciated the job/provider fair and it showed how much the community needed it. He was able to enroll an OPWDD-eligible person who had been in the county for two years and received no services.

Catholic Charities: Kaitlyn shared that they participated in and appreciated the job/provider fair last week. They have six new referrals since the last meeting; accepting referrals for community hab and pre-vocation; a current waitlist but looking to hire in the Dryden/Ithaca area; enrolled individuals are receiving services.

Southern Tier Connect: Matt did not have any updates.

Tompkins County Workforce (TCWF): Cassidy shared that they are accepting customers for Ticket to Work and benefit advisement for those on SSI and SSDI. Workforce development specialists are accessible to review the available training being offered. A Re-entry Recovery Mental Health Fair is tentatively scheduled for September 14th.

Job/Provider Discussion:

James thanked Cassidy and Cindy for their help in bringing the much-needed fair together where providers conversed about ideas and learned more about each other's services. More conversations are needed to get more people involved, better/more advertisement and get more interest. TCWF is planning a similar event at the library. Cassidy added that they will be sending out a survey to the providers for their feedback and opinions of this past fair. Jeff suggested presenters/workshops, during developmental disabilities month and a longer day.

Camp Discussion: Jeff suggested that all camps participate in awareness training via MOU for the developmentally disabled and look for funding and resources to support it. Harmony added that this can be discussed and added to the upcoming local services planning meeting with all the subcommittee chairs. She said the local service plan is around equity, diversity, and inclusion, and improving strategies for services to the developmentally disabled in a focused area of camps is important. James will reach out to Courtney of the Ithaca Youth Bureau for input. Jeff will reach out to some other camps as well.

NADSP: James shared that TC3 will offer NADSP training in the Fall and will reach out to Patti for an update before the classes begin in the fall.

Transitions: James shared the providers will attend the CSC meetings on a quarterly basis. CSC chairs will be in attendance from all the school districts to discuss transits, available services, aging out services, and being able to provide families and individuals with necessary information early in the process. A roadmap or step-by-step process for families and work with 211. David Barr will send out the invite to the providers in the Fall.

Workforce: The subcommittee members will attend the Workforce monthly meeting.

Financial Literacy: James shared that Cornell Cooperative Extension offers financial literacy courses to people in Tompkins County with intellectual developmental disabilities and all providers can bring individuals to the classes. Cornell has their own funding stream that pays for the program. Racker and Alternatives also offer financial literacy courses.

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

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**The next Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee Meeting is
Tuesday, July 11th, 2023, at 10:00 am.**