


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

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Substance Use Subcommittee

Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee
Tuesday, June 11th, 2024, 10:00 a.m. Via Zoom
Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Minutes Approved
July 9, 2024

Present: James Beaumont; Jeffrey Boles; Sheila McEnery; Cassidy Stanley; Nancy Saltzman; Khaki Wunderlich; and Sally McConnell-Gist

Excused: Allison Weiner-Heinemann; and Walaa Maharem-Horan

Unexcused:

Guests Present: Christopher Kaiser, RACKER; Briggs Seekins, Challenge; Anne Seepersaud, Life Plan; Justin Honkala, Racker; Marlene, Racker; Greg Kadlecik, TST BOCES; Tricia Tom. Prime Care; Jessica Conner, Northeast Pediatrics; Denise Brennan, Prime Care; Gabriella Ayers, Catholic Charities; Jamie Kelly, OPWDD; Jennifer Goodman, Mozaic; Jennifer Payne, Catholic Charities; Michelle Gravel, Springbrook; Lyndsey Paulin, Unity House; Stacy Barrows, Unity House; Bethany Melcher.

Staff: Margo Polikoff, RN, CSCN; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant

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The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by James. Sheila motioned to approve the May 2024 minutes, seconded by Nancy; all were in favor.
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Privilege of the Floor: None.

Announcements/Correspondence: Sheila shared that the Ithaca Special Olympics will be held on 6/14 and 6/15 at Ithaca College and volunteers are needed. Jessica shared that Tompkins County Collaborative Solutions Network was awarded an NYS OMH grant to run youth and caregiver focus groups this summer to obtain feedback on how they feel the county is addressing the needs of people with developmental disabilities and substance use issues. James shared that Unity House held their annual talent show this past Friday. Justin shared that Racker is having their annual exhibition hockey game to benefit Rackers's early childhood programs on July 27th at Cornell's Lynah Rink at 4 pm.

James shared that another successful Transition Provider Fair was held last Wednesday at Ithaca High School. Many providers were in attendance, but community attendance was meager. He feels that next year's event should be held in downtown Ithaca in the evening to accommodate more families and be accessible by bus. James said that they were able to create a resource list from the fair to make it accessible to family members and caregivers. Anne said that LifePlan's website has a free updated community resource tool for services for people with developmental disabilities. She suggested having providers table at TST BOCES on IEP days when families and caregivers can meet with CFC chairs to learn more about transitioning and other services.

Discussions

Local Services Plan (LSP) Goal Review: James gave an overview of the status of the Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee goals as they relate to the LSP. The co-chairs feel that creating four workgroups (that do not have to be subcommittee members) to meet outside of subcommittee meetings to address gaps, and concerns and provide input to help accomplish four major goals.

Workgroups:

- Transition Services Workgroup – to focus on transition planning, research resources, update the resource list, engage with schools, create a road map; and attend the CSE chair meetings
- Provider Fair Workgroup - to prepare, plan, and, organize for the annual fairs in the month of June
- Youth Services Workgroup - to address camp access issues for individuals with developmental disabilities
- Family Support Workgroup – to support families, give real-world advice, discuss challenges and solutions, and share experiences

Jamie suggested adding self-direction and budget timeframes to the Youth Services Workgroup as well as Transition Services.

Co-Chairs, James and Jeff discussed creating a calendar of events, projects, and scheduled activities ensuring all continue to as it will be a living document relevant to changes in leadership/chairs.

YAI Crisis Services Information: James shared that YAI is interchangeable with New York Starts. YAI and its network of affiliate agencies offer children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) a comprehensive range of services. Committed to seeing beyond disability, YAI provides opportunities for people to live, love, work, and learn in their communities. [NYSTART/CSIDD \(yai.org\)](http://NYSTART/CSIDD(yai.org)) for more information on their services.

James noted that INHS is requesting pamphlets/brochures from service provider agencies to share at their locations with their residents.

Provider Updates:

FLIC – Jeff shared that they have a very active peer counseling program.

Challenge – Briggs shared that they are taking referrals, especially for prevocational.

RACKER – Justin shared that they have three openings in their residential program.

Prime Care – Tricia shared that they several new enrollments in Tompkins County and preparing for their Southern Tier Kickoff Picnic on June 27th. Care managers continue to focus on the health components for the clients.

OPWDD – Jamie shared that The Strategic Planning Forums will have two virtual forums on July 22 from 11 am to 1 pm and July 24th from 6 – 8 pm. Registration for all Strategic Planning forums is available on the OPWDD website: www.opwdd.ny.gov/strategic-planning. New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities Commissioner Kerri Neifeld is stepping down from her post at the end of June and Willow Baer will be the acting commissioner. They are waiting for the new self-direction budget template which has been reviewed and should be available soon.

TST BOCES – Greg shared that graduation is June 21st at 10 am.

Mozaic–Jennifer shared that they are providing rehabilitation counseling services at the Challenge facility and are accepting referrals. She noted that there has been an increase in referrals for social work counselors and they have two qualified provider applicants.

Workforce Development – Cassidy shared that they have peer recovery training available.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

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**The next Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee Meeting is
Tuesday, September 10th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**