


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
September 12th, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

MINUTES APPROVED 10.10.23

Present: Jeffrey Boles, James Beaumont; Sheila McEnergy; Sally McConnell-Gist; Cassidy Stanley; and Walaa Maharem-Horan.

Guests Present: Briggs Seekins, Challenge; Anne Seepersaud, LifePlan; Jessica Connor, Northeast Pediatrics; Christopher Kiser, Racker; Lila Balliet, Springbrook; Michelle Gravel, Springbrook; Janette McKay, OPWDD; and Dave Seely and Kristen Colbert, Presence Counseling Services; and Jennifer Goodman.

Excused: Nancy Saltzman; and Allison Weiner-Heinemann

Unexcused:

Staff: Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, DCS; 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 July 2023 minutes, seconded by Sally; all were in favor.
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Privilege of the Floor: None

Announcements/Correspondence: Cassidy shared there is a Re-entry and Recovery Resource Fair being held at the Tompkins County Public Library from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday.

Discussions

BOCES CSE Chair Meeting: David Barr was not able to attend due to staffing issues. James shared conversations on David's behalf. The BOCES CSE meets in person on November 17, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. on the TST BOCES campus and encourages providers to attend. Discussions will be on transition services and resources for transitioning students. It has been noted that many graduating individuals aging out do not have the full spectrum of services available to them due to waitlists in the wake of COVID-19.

Sheila believes protocols should be created. James believes that better connections with schools and providers are needed and suggested fun things to get people out such as spaghetti dinners. James believes that organizing groups to create resource lists, age-specific processes, and parent support groups will be steps in the right direction for guidance. Margo Polikoff of Tompkins County Whole Health is a resource for children with intellectual developmental disabilities in accessing resources and services.

1. Who's Who
2. Create a framework for relationships and processes of services
3. A road map/flow chart to navigate services (include provisional services)

Madison said she would share Southern Tier Connect's flowchart for getting approved OPWDD for general ideas.

Employment: How to better staff the organizations that help support people with developmental disabilities.

Update from Services to Individuals with Disabilities Committee Meeting: Cassidy shared that “ Services to Individuals with Disabilities” is a group of service providers that assist people with developmental disabilities to get employed. Governor Hochul’s goal is to get 20,000 people with developmental disabilities employed. The Employment Resource Team is about various employment resources in the community. James shared that a Community Hab Group is advocating for higher rates of pay for staff working at Community HAB in order to improve the staffing issues.

2024 Provider Fair Ideas: James said last year’s provider fair was a success but wanted to get the subcommittee’s feedback /ideas for improvement for the 2024 provider fair. James suggested a downtown location venue. Jeff suggested holding the fair in March during National Developmental Disabilities Month. Christopher suggested educating graduating seniors about intellectual developmental disabilities careers to attract more interest. James will send out an email to those interested in being on the 2024 Provider Fair Committee in March 2024.

Data Collecting from Agencies: Jamie shared the link to the new data for individuals receiving services that are Medicaid-funded through OPWDD. <https://OPWDD.ny.gov/data>. She also included the OPWDD Community Habilitation Rates, effective October 1, 2023. https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/rates/mental_hygiene/2023/2023-04-/current_fees/opwdd_com_hab.htm Some changes to Appendix K were made permanent and COLA increases for self-direction were backdated to avoid future amendments.

James said the CSB requests updates on the DD monthly meetings. He would like to provide them with data focused on staffing and people served. He suggested providers submit updates of data a couple of weeks prior to the monthly meetings to be more data-driven vs. the provider updates. Jeff suggested submitting data quarterly. Sheila suggested including both staffing and people served in regard to recruitment and retention of the Local Services Plan. James will work on a form.

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.



**The next Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee Meeting is
Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.**