



**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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**Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee**  
**February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Via Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Approved 4.11.23

**Present:** Jeffrey Boles

**Guests Present:** Anne Seepersaud, LifePlan CCO; Briggs Seekins, Challenge; Lila Balliet, Springbrook; Michelle Gravel, Springbrook; Madison Saufley, Southern Tier Connect; Dave Kudgus, OPWDD; Nicole Nucci, OPWDD.

**Excused:** James Beaumont; Sheila McEnery; Nancy Saltzman; Allison Weiner-Heinemann

**Unexcused:** Dorothy Lovelace

**Staff:** Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Deputy Commissioner; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant

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The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Jeff. A quorum was unmet, and the January 2023 minutes could not be approved.  
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**Privilege of the Floor:** None

**Announcements/Correspondence:** None

**OPWDD Transition Services Presentation:** Dave Kudgus, Local School Transition Coordinator at Developmental Disabilities and Nicole Nucci, Developmental Disabilities Regional Office 2-Local School Transition Coordinator Lead shared an informative PowerPoint presentation that gave an in-depth overview of the process.

**Front Door** - Eligibility for OPWDD services is made based on the disability and how much support is needed. Front Door must be before a person's 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday and school districts must be involved for supporting documents during the eligibility process. If found eligible for services, services are for life. Front Door staff will use the information they learn from you to talk to you about the services that might be most helpful. The Front Door refers to a Care Coordination Organization (CCO)/service coordinator to develop a service plan that describes what services one wants and needs. OPWDD staff will review the plan and authorize the services needed.

1. Contact Front Door at (607) 240-4900 for a welcome package/brochure.
2. Front Door representatives will help choose a service coordinator.
3. OPWDD will review the plan and authorize services.

For more information on eligibility criteria or to apply for services, please go to the OPWDD website at: [http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_services\\_supports/eligibility](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/eligibility).

**Available supports for eligibles:**

Housing subsidies

Respite

Assisted Technology

Employment services

Community Habilitation (Day Hab)

Environmental Modifications

**Transition Planning:** School student services are available to students with disabilities until the end of the school year in which turn 21 or until they graduate with a Regents or local diploma. Each student should have a transition plan in place by age 15 to ensure that services will be available when they need them. High school guidance counselors, teachers, other school staff, transition specialists, occupational or physical therapists, service providers, family, and friends can help with the transition planning.

Dave Kudgas and Nicole Nucci can be contacted at (607) 240-4900.

Dave shared that they reach out to all school districts three times a year to inquire about their needs. All information is sent to the schools' quarterly basis, but it is ultimately up to the schools. Nicole said that they also send emails and make phone calls ensuring communication is established. Anne said it is a matter of choice and TST BOCES has quarterly meeting discussions. Dave did not have an answer on how data is collected on schools' active involvement.

Jamie volunteered to follow up on the data inquiry and provide the information for next month's meeting.

Briggs is concerned that parents do not seem to know all of the OPWDD services.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

**The next Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee Meeting is  
April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:00 am.**