



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
February 13th, 2024, 10:00 a.m. Via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Minutes Approved
3.12.2024

Present: Jeffrey Boles; Sheila McEnergy; Sally McConnell-Gist; Walaa Maharem-Horan; Cassidy Stanley; and Nancy Saltzman

Excused: James Beaumont; Allison Weiner-Heinemann; and Khaki Wunderlich

Unexcused:

Guests Present: Kristin Letourneau, IYB; Carrie Peters, Southern Tier Connect; Jennifer Goodman, Mozaic; Gabrielle Ayers, Catholic Charities; Madison Saufley, Southern Tier Connect; Melinda Sheppard, Southern Tier Connect; Christopher Kaiser, RACKER; Tricia Tomm, Prime Care; Michele Gravel, Springbrook; Bethanie Melcher, Challenge; and Kristen Wells, Gadabout.

Staff: Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, DCS; Margo Polikoff, RN, CSCN; and Karan Palazzo, LGU Administrative Assistant

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The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Jeff. Sheila motioned to approve the January 2024 minutes, seconded by Sally; all were in favor.
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Privilege of the Floor: None.

Announcements/Correspondence: Jennifer of Mozaic reminded the subcommittee that their facility is providing rehabilitation counseling and accepting referrals for social work counseling and psychiatry. They have received referrals from Life Plan CCO and encouraged those who have clients in need of services to make those referrals online at www.mozaic.org.

Discussions

Options to Engage with Students and Families – Jennifer Goodman shared some opportunities to connect with families and students including a Prom on May 10, 2024, with provider tables available for families to meet service providers as well as the 2024 BOCES graduation on June 21, 2024. Their various TST BOCES Teams are very interested in hearing from Challenge, Unity House, Murray Center, etc. to do Monday presentations. She encouraged providers to reach out to her to schedule an in-service at jgoodman@tstboces.org. Their webpage for parents and families could be set up to present connections to community service organizations if anyone is interested. Please contact get set up.

Gadabout Presentation: Director, Kristen Wells provided an overview of the door-to-door transportation services for older adults and people with disabilities within Tompkins County. Gadabout is a not-for-profit organization and is separate from TCAT. Gadabout operates two different types of service. They operate regular Gadabout service, and they also have a contract with TCAT to operate TCAT's paratransit service. Gadabout operates both types of service simultaneously with the same fleet of buses. Some drivers are paid, and some are volunteers.

Regular Service - Service for older adults (>55 years+) and people within Tompkins County; Monday – Friday, 8 am- 4:30 pm.

ADA Paratransit: ADA Complementary Paratransit is a specialized, door-to-door transportation service for people who are not able to ride the fixed-route transit system because of a disability. Paratransit service operates in the evenings and on weekends. Days and times are dependent on the TCAT bus routes that serve the areas in which you will be traveling. Paratransit service operates on days that Gadabout is closed as long as TCAT is running on that day. Gadabout also has a contract with TCAT to operate TCAT's paratransit service.

Gadabout is in the process of updating their system to include new dispatch scheduling software and GPS. They anticipate providing same-day requests.

Provider Updates

IYB- Kristin Letourneau, Program Specialist in Recreation Support Services introduced herself and will be attending the monthly meeting representing IYB.

Walaa shared that she and a group of parents met with Anna Kellis to discuss the issues, concerns, the challenges faced by transitioning individuals, and the issues of local therapists leaving the field. She shared her contact information in the chat for those interested in adding data to the newly created Google Drive as she is compiling the information to be addressed.

Challenge – Bethanie shared that they are accepting referrals for the pre-vocational program and supportive employment services.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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**The next Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee Meeting is
Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**