

TIOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE  
**PWDD SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**  
OF THE TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD  
**APPROVED**

Subcommittee meeting date: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Via Hybrid

Member                    John Crosby  
Attendance:            Vicki Fergus  
                              Kim Bailey-Poreda  
                              Tina Lounsbury  
                              Gayle Pado  
                              Shannon Westbrook  
Guest                     Kathy Nichols-Newell  
Attendance:            Karen Warfle  
                              Emily Jackson  
                              Anne Seepersaud  
Mental Hygiene        Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services  
Staff Attendance:     Sue Graves, Secretary to the Director

Meeting called to order at: 9:04am

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Topic:                    Review of January 2024 Minutes – Approved as written

Topic                     Presentation

Discussion:            Kathy Nichols-Newell, Lt. Governor of the NY District, Susquehanna Division  
                              Owego Kiwanis Club gave a presentation on the Kiwanis Aktion Club.

- Highlights
  - Club meets the first Tuesday of each month
  - Location: Owego Boys & Girls Club
  - Time: 1:30 – 2:30pm
  - Local adults , 18+ with disabilities
  - Individuals can join at any time (no maximum age limit)
  - No membership fee for the first year; \$8.00 thereafter
    - Fundraisers for membership fees planned
  - Overview of Program is attached
  - Event
    - Club will be participating in the Rural Ministries Spring Clean up on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 9:30-3:00pm

The group was grateful for this information and thanked Kathy for presenting.

Status:                    Informational - Complete

Topic:                    DDSO/DDRO Report – Vickie Fergus

Discussion:            Updates:

- March is Development Disabilities Awareness Month

- 2024 theme “World of Opportunities”
- Three videos released focusing on empowerment
  - The Art of Advocacy
  - Look Beyond
  - Sexuality & People with Developmental Disabilities
    - See attached email with further details
  - Opportunity for individuals to share their own “I Am” messages
- Upcoming Solar Eclipse
  - Event - April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024
  - Information being provided on how to stay safe
- Three evaluations are going on currently
  - Self-Direction – Guide House conducting
  - Care Coordination – American Institute of Research
  - Managed Care Evaluation – Guide House
    - There will be a review of all aspects of the research findings
    - Draft report will be released soon
- “Get Outdoors & Get Together Day”
  - To be held June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024
  - Hosted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation & State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
  - Partnering with Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
  - Further information attached

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Director’s Report – Lori Morgan

Discussion: Updates:

- Waverly site is a go
  - Will have Mental Health and Substance Misuse services
  - Goal is to have open by this coming Fall
- County Plan
  - Next month will bring plan to the subcommittee for review and updates

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Achieve Report – Shannon Westbrook/Carley Hoover

Discussion: Updates:

- Day Hab facelift has started
- Three individuals enrolled in Day Hab Without Walls
- Three more are looking at the program

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: FSS Report – Gayle Pado

- Discussion: Updates:
- Results of the OPWDD Reimbursement Providers Survey
    - Changes to allowable and non-allowable list
    - Meeting to review changes
  - \$ 124,133 in grant funding
    - Top three priorities
      - Respite
      - Reimbursement
      - After school/Camps (doing an RFP)
    - Local RFP process underway
  - Seeking new members at the Regional Level
    - Open to Providers
  - Deb Bennett is the new Co-Chair from the Tompkins Area

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: CCO Reports

Discussion: Updates:

ST Connects – Emily Jackson

- Following best practices & tasks to make the program better
- Trainings taking place
- More tabling & network events

Life Plan – Anne Seepersaud

- Status: Taking referrals
- Topic: New Program – Link to Better Health – TriaDD (flyer attached)
- Program funded by a grant from the CDC in collaboration with the NYS Department of Health
  - Program to help assist those with intellectual or developmental disabilities link to services such as:
    - Help with medical appointments
    - Connect with social services like SNAP, HEAP and so forth
    - Help guide individuals through the healthcare system
    - Connect with preventative services such as screenings and well care visits

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Racker Report – Gayle Pado

- Discussion: Updates:
- Adaptive Game Night/Bingo in April
    - Sponsored by the Voice of 607 Advocacy Group
    - Event is open to all

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Catholic Charities – Not Present

Topic: Self-Advocacy – Not Present

Topic: Other Business:

Discussion: Tina opened a discussion on Consumer Directed Personal Care and the state budget cut. The governor changed the program. Discussion ensued. Anne Seepersaud saw a mass email and a lot of concern was expressed. A number of individuals could be affected by this change.

Status: Informational - Complete

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:53am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 9:00am.

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