

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

**APPROVED**

Subcommittee meeting date: January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Via Hybrid

Member Evelyn Vavra  
Attendance: Gabriella Ayers  
John Crosby  
Vicki Fergus  
Kim Bailey-Poreda  
Tina Lounsbury  
Gayle Pado  
Shannon Westbrook  
Carley Hoover

Guest Karen Warfle  
Attendance: Emily Jackson  
Tricia Tomm  
Anne Seepersaud

Mental Hygiene Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services  
Staff Attendance: Sue Graves, Secretary to the Director

Meeting called to order at: 9:03am

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Topic: Review of November 2023 Minutes – Approved with changes

Category: Reports

Topic DDSO/DDRO Report – Vicki Fergus

Discussion: Updates:

- 2023 Annual Report released
  - On OPWDD website
  - Includes plain language and translated document
  - Brief overview of highlights
- American Institute Research (contracted with Guide House)
  - December survey for individuals & families completed – closed 1/3/24
  - Survey for providers as well
  - Goal: Guide House to provide final report and recommendations in the Spring

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Director's Report – Lori Morgan

Discussion: Updates:  
• Application pending for volunteer IPA relocation from Binghamton to Crestview Heights  
○ Site to house 3 individuals  
○ Lori approved

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Achieve Report – Shannon Westbrook/Carley Hoover

Discussion: Updates:  
• Taking referrals for regular Day Hab  
• Looking to start a Day Hab without walls  
○ Currently have 3 referrals and 2 pending  
○ Open to other counties besides Tioga  
○ Capacity to be determined  
○ Starting with 4 individuals per 1 staff member  
○ Not a site-based program  
○ 50% of the time will be spent in the community  
○ Referral process goes through the agency  
○ Referral form available on website

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: FSS Report – Gayle Pado

Discussion: Updates:  
• Statewide Family Support Services Council  
○ Needs assessment survey launched  
▪ Resending to Subcommittee members today  
○ Received over 1,000 completed surveys over the past weekend  
○ Pushing for membership  
• Deb Bennett -new Regional Chair  
• Statewide elections coming up on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
• Waiting for the FSS reimbursement allowable list

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: CCO Reports

Discussion: Updates:  
  
Prime Care – Tricia Tomm  
• Focusing on the health component of CCOs  
• COVID outbreak among staff and individuals  
• Care Manager position in Binghamton filled  
• Doing face-to-face meetings

ST Connects – Emily Jackson

- Focusing on program evaluation results
- Policies & procedures updated
- Outreach to emergency rooms & hospitals continue
  - Will expand into other medical areas

Life Plan – Anne Seepersaud

- Transitioning from public health emergency
- Back to in-person for advocacy & member supports
  - Remote services continuing if member chooses

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Racker Report – Gayle Pado

Discussion: Updates:

- Self-Direction program back on moratorium
- Sensory Libraries open
  - Hosting lots of events
  - Hours on website
  - Seeing an increase in visitors and families being helped

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Catholic Charities – Gabby Ayers

Discussion: Updates:

- Accepting referrals
- Wait list expected
- Looking for staff

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Self-Advocacy – Gayle Pado

Discussion: Updates:

- Looking for new members – currently have 5
- Group is meeting weekly and are planning a trip to Albany
- Gayle will let them know to have a representative at the next subcommittee meeting

Status: Informational - Complete

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:30am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 9:00am.

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