



County of Onondaga
Department of Children & Family Services

Child Welfare • Mental Health Services • Juvenile Justice • Youth Bureau • School Based Initiatives

J. Ryan McMahon II
County Executive

John H. Mulroy Civic Center
421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Richard Gasiorowski
Commissioner

Amy Cunningham
Deputy Commissioner

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Jennifer Parmalee
Deputy Commissioner

Community Service Board
Meeting Summary

Participants: Jim Yonai, Sara Boll, Liz Nolan, Beth Hurny, Tania Anderson, James Yonai, Vincent Schmidt, Sarah Merrick, Monica Taylor, Dr. Indu Gupta
Staff: Novelette Pierce, Jennifer Parmalee, Karla Silva-Gardner, Mariah Senecal-Reilly, Latisha Burke

Review March 7, 2022: Meeting Summary approved

Updates:

- Staffing:

System of Care (SOC) Manager & Crisis Systems Director positions have been pushed back due to hiring challenges. The pool of applicants was not where we needed it to be. Jenn stated we are in the middle of the interview process for the SOC Manager position at this time.

- Current Events:

Much positive response to county initiatives taking place within schools and the community in light of the Uvalde school attack & Buffalo Tops attack. This is coming from Thursday morning roundtable at Hillside & from superintendents response to Syracuse.com/The Post Standard.

- Organizations are individually supporting staff by “allowing them to be where they’re at” & providing wellness focused activities. Members are in agreement that simply labeling the ongoing current events as a “mental health problem” reinforces the stigma of mental health as opposed the creating space for a solution.

-Local Services Plan:

New York State (NYS) is completely redoing the framework for the Local Services plan. There is an ongoing complete overhaul of surveys, goals, objectives, & format. It will be touched upon during the June 16th meeting, but as of this time it is expected that no official guidance will be released until fall. NYS would like to look at things with a lense of diversity, equity, & inclusion (DEI) and would like to include a DEI survey as well. Due dates for Local Service Plans have not been disclosed as of yet. In order to attempt to get a step ahead of NYS requirements for the Local Services plan, our Children’s & Adult Mental Health Teams are still meeting separately each week as a leadership team & each is looking at their 3 to 6 month goals and documenting them. This foundational work will ideally be of great assistance in creating our Local Services Plan.

- A goal within our adult Team is to launch an adult SOC construct. This would support a coordinated network of formal and informal supports that are working towards the same goal (which would likely be along the lines of success in community, home & relationships) and working under the same philosophical constructs. We would come up with the ultimate goal together as a community. The SOC would need to consist of

Mental health system, physical health system, developmental disabilities system, substance use system & criminal justice system all need to be at the table talking about what goals we are trying to achieve & supporting each other in how we identify individuals and how we respond.

-911 Diversion:

The 911 Divergence program is moving forward with a start date of July 1, 2022 along with the 988 system roll-out. The hours are tentatively set for 11am to 7pm for 7 days a week. There will be 3 providers who will be part of the mobile crisis response (Liberty Resources, Helio Health, St. Joseph's Health) working together. Other crisis services will be available on off hours & we should make an effort to also promote these resources to the public. There is potential for the pilot to be expanded to 24/7 depending on call volume & necessity. The team will be reviewing the pilot every 30 days.

- Also, discussions are moving forward in order for Elmcrest to create children's respite services in a partnership with Upstate. As of this time, it looks like it will be two buildings with 6 beds each which could allow for different populations for each crisis respite & will help ensure there is enough staff for each.

-Harm Reduction Services:

Substance Use & Mental Health Initiatives program approaches Harm Reduction from a public health stance as opposed to the OMH or OASAS funded services overseen by Jennifer Parmalee's department. This program is expanding and includes providing a Naloxone Training Program & distribution of Fentanyl testing strips. Both of these have texting hotlines in order to order supplies.

There is currently a program in progress in conjunction with CirCare that is focused on people who's primary diagnosis falls under SUD. Health staff at the jail will evaluate people to see if they can benefit from transitional services & will then send the referral to the CirCare forensic team. If someone has been justice involved within 30 days of release, they are able to engage in this program. The only criteria is that they need SUD as a primary diagnosis. This will potentially be expanding to accept probation and parole referrals.

A mobile secondary syringe exchange program is also currently in the works. This would resemble ACR Health's operation, but would be able to accommodate a higher need by using an on-demand approach or "ride-about" (if while doing outreach, a person is in need, assistance would be provided at that time).

Another program in the works is the installation of NaloxBoxes. These resemble AED machines, but instead hold Naloxone in order to aid people who have overdosed. Prevention Network currently has 6 or 7 NaloxBoxes out in the community with no vandalism of boxes reported & the boxes receive high usage. The barriers of stigma are removed since the person can get it themselves and doesn't have to reach out to a third party such as the Health Dept. or a pharmacy. Places under consideration for a NaloxBox are: United Methodist Church (E. Genesee St) & Catholic Charities' men's shelter. The first location for individual dose box will be in the central library bathroom.

Adjourn – Next Meeting: Septmeber 12, 2022