

TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
MH – ASA – OPWDD Subcommittee Meeting

Pending Approval

February 3rd, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Via: Hybrid

Member Katie Wait Colleen Arnold
Attendance: Nadia Constant Gabriella Ayers
 Georges Oswald Tina Lounsbury
 Sarah DiNunzio Anne Seepersaud
 John Crosby Karen Warfle
 Carolyn Galatzan Renee Nuzak
 Lyndsey Paulin Teresa Edwards
 Kim Bailey-Poreda
Guest Kari Nichols
Attendance:
Mental Hygiene Sarah Begeal, Interim Director of Community Services
Staff Attendance: Danielle Fabregas, Clinical Program Director
 Angelica Deyo-Cruz, Corporate Compliance Officer/CSPOA
 Sue Graves, Secretary to the Director

Meeting called to order at: 9:37am

Topic: Review January 2026 Minutes

- MH Subcommittee – Approved as written
- OPWDD Subcommittee – Approved as written
- ASA Subcommittee – No Quorum – Review in March

Topic Interim Director’s Report – Sarah Begeal

Discussion: Updates:

- RFP
 - Waiting for contracts to go out
 - Met with three of the awardees
- AOT/EVA (Enhanced Voluntary Agreement)
 - State aid received for ATO support & coordination
 - Received \$300,000 in January with \$185,000 annually thereafter
 - EVA guidance in development
 - Litigate risk with High Risk AOT’s in the county
- DFC, STOP ACT & CARA Grants
 - Grants have been transitioned over to Public Health to oversee
- Mobile Crisis
 - Starting this month with Kate Mikulski
 - Peer was not retained
 - Looking for another Peer to fill the position

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Clinical Program Director Report – Danielle Fabregas

Discussion: Updates:

- Census
 - Mental Health - 556 clients
 - ADS - 84 clients & 34 continued care
- Staffing
 - Close to being at full staff

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: MH Subcommittee -Angelica Deyo-Cruz, Chair

Discussion: A New Hope Center – Sarah DiNunzio

- Currently have 1 opening for a counselor advocate
- ANHC is a recipient of the RFP funding
 - Transitioning staff to better serve people
- February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
 - Outreach to high schools being done
 - Morning announcements
 - Wear Orange Day – February 10th for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
- Annual Hotline training
 - Thursday, February 5th via Zoom
 - 10 individuals are currently signed up
 - If interested, please register

Rehabilitation Support Services – Colleen Arold

- Seeking two direct care managers
- Housing
 - 1 opening in the CR
 - 2 openings in the TAP program
 - 4 openings in Supported Housing

Public Health – Katie Wait

- Working on the CHIP Plan
 - First meeting with community partners last week
 - Working on priorities
- Suicide Prevention Coalition
 - QPR training on March 4th for the LEPC
 - Worked on strategic planning at the last meeting

Hea Hea – Nadia Constant & Georges Oswald

- LCSW & LMSW hired
- Ready to move forward
- Marketing
 - Two television interviews done
- Hoping to start seeing clients next week

- Accepting referrals
- Admission paperwork being completed
- Tracking data
- More outreach with schools
- Took kit to be shared with the community

Sarah would like fliers for the clinic if they were available

MH Monthly Articles

- January – Sarah DiNunzio wrote an article on Human Trafficking
- February – She will write an article on Teen Dating & Violence
- March – look up and review in March

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: OPWDD Subcommittee – John Crosby

Discussion: DDSO/DDRO Report – Renee Nuzak

- 12 Podcast episodes launched in July 2025
 - Stories told by self-advocates
- Employment update
 - Signed in September
 - Implementation plan discussed
- Front Door Numbers for Tioga County
 - John asked for these figures to be reported monthly
 - Renee to bring next month

Achieve – Shannon Westbrook – Not Present

FFS Report – Lyndsey Paulin for Gayle Pado

- Front Door
 - Process/approval is very quick in Tioga County
- Self-Direction has no wait list
- Major staffing changes
 - Dustin Zimmer leaving to be a Residential Director
 - His position is not being filled
 - Marion O’Dell – Residential Director leaving for a new position in Homer
 - Will be hiring for this position
- February Events
 - NORA Project “Raising Kids Who Include” – acceptance & pride
 - Racker Racers (pinewood derby)
 - March 21st at the Depot in Owego
 - Paint day for cars
 - Racker Family Advisory Board
 - Seeking recipients to come and share

CCO Reports

LifePlan – Anne Seepersaud

- Educational Webinar February 10th, 3pm – “By Choice Trust”
 - People with disabilities on Social Security, Medicaid
- March 5th Virtual Summit
 - Helping people with IDD & complex health needs
 - Information regarding Summit being emailed
 -

John asked how many people are being served by LifePlan in Tioga County

- Currently 274 individuals
 - This number has increased by 30-40 people over the past 6 years
 - Over 20,000 in 38 counties

Catholic Charities – Gabby Ayers

- Pathways to Employment
 - Focusing on employment services
 - Success stories shared
- Supported Employment has 15 individuals
- Not accepting Community Hab referrals currently

Self- Advocate – Karen Warfle

- In August-September completed a referral for placement in a certified residential setting for her son
- OPWDD denied due to the packet not being complete
- No communication between OPWDD and Karen until denial was received
- No notification of what was missing before denial
- Disconnect between OPWDD & the people who are being served
 - Lack of communication & too many layers causing delays
- Karen feels she needs to handhold to ensure people complete the information they are supposed to be completing
- This is not the continuity they used to have.

Lyndsey understands housing reviews are on a drastically different timeline. Housing is worked on statewide. Renee will take these concerns to leadership at this Thursdays meeting for them to address. John would like to hear the results of that at the next subcommittee meeting

Status: Karen stated Maureen and Racker do a phenomenal job with the work they do.

Topic: Informational - Complete

Discussion: ASA Subcommittee – Kylie Holochak – Not Present

ASAP Coalition -per email

- Kylie & Porshea are in Washington DC for CADCA’s National Leadership Forum
- CLYDE results should be back soon. There was some additional work on the backend that the survey developer needed to do to compile the data since the Candor School District completed their surveys through their

BOCES

- Super Bowl commercial on Drinking & Driving playing between the 2nd and 3rd quarters
- Kristin Russell will be back at the end of February
- Email received from William Standinger, III regarding the family movie event last summer. He spoke with the owner of the theater, and he believes the event went well. The owner stated the movie choice is the most important decision of the outcome so perhaps that should be considered if the event is done again.

Status:

Informational - Complete

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:28am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026^h, at 9:30am

DRAFT