

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

**APPROVED**

Subcommittee meeting date: February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Via Hybrid

Member Evelyn Vavra  
Attendance: John Crosby  
Gayle Pado  
Vickie Fergus  
Megan Kaminsky  
Tina Lounsbury  
Kim Bailey Poreda

Guest Karen Warfle  
Attendance: Tricia Tomm  
Anne Seepersaud  
Jennifer Payne

Mental Hygiene Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services  
Staff Attendance: Susan Graves, Secretary to the Director (minutes)

Meeting called to order at: 9:05am

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Topic: Review of January 2023 Minutes – approved as written

Category: Reports

Topic DDSO/DDRO Report – Vickie Fergus

Discussion: Updates

<b>Service – Tioga County</b>	<b>January</b>
Front Door Inquiries	0
Request for Services	0
Eligibility – New Packets	2
Approved Self-Direction	0
Housing – Emergent	3

- Racker Family Network Event
  - Rescheduled to February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Port Watson Center, Cortland, NY from 4-7pm
  - OPWDD will be in attendance
- S8442 Bill
  - Amending Mental Health Law
  - Eligibility & Services in a timely manner for OPWDD individuals (120 calendar days)
  - Front Door will be impacted

- Process explained briefly
- Workgroups being held in February & March to respond to the new legislation
- Front Door Process will have hard target dates

Lori asked how long people have to wait for an eligibility determination. Vickie stated if a complete packet is received, eligibility determination decision is made quickly. Most do not come in completed.

- Update Managed Care – Guide House
  - Final preparations for Spring 2024
  - Service delivery model recommended to achieve objectives
  - RFP for care coordination program
  - Still determining if Managed Care is the way to go

Status: Informational - Complete

Category: Director's Report – Lori Morgan

Topic: Updates:

Discussion:

- Staffing
  - New staff hired
- Opiate Abatement money
  - Received \$ 300,000 (State share) for Tioga County for 2022-2023
  - Unclear of the amount going forward
  - Funding goes through 2032
  - Determination based on three categories
    - Non-whites
    - Completed suicides
    - Overdose deaths
  - Funds can be spent in ten different areas
  - Both restricted and non-restricted funds
  - A tentative plan on how the money will be spent needs to be submitted
- OASAS Grant
  - Received \$89,000
  - Money will be spent on:
    - In-community services
    - Another Peer Advocate
    - Two vehicles
- Governors Announcement
  - \$1 Billion added to the budget for services
- County Plan
  - Will be starting as soon as the new version is released
  - Plan is due to the state in May 2023

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Achieve Report – No Present

Topic: FSS Report – Gayle Pado

Discussion: Updates:

- Released a list of allowable and non-allowable family reimbursement programs
- Survey out for families to have a voice on what is being denied that families need.
- Continue to advocate for families and their needs

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: CCO Reports

Discussion: Prime Care – Tricia Tomm

- Five new enrollments received – none from Tioga County
- Always taking referrals
- One open Care Manager position in Elmira

ST Connects – Not present

Life Plan – Anne Seepersaud

- See individuals in person
- Accepting new referrals
- Launched Customer Service Center

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Rackers - Gayle Pado

Discussion: Updates

- New site in Tioga County is a go
  - Neighborhood Depot will be located behind Mario's in Owego
    - Non-profit hub for the community
    - Need to be in by June 2024
    - Large community room there
    - Will be a flood center as well
      - Room for up to 100 local residence
      - Will have a kitchen and showers
- Racker offering Waiver Respite again
  - Starting in March
  - Those enrolled will bring their own staff
  - May offer overnights in the future
  - More to come
- Governor's budget announcement
  - Disappointing for volunteer agencies
  - Gayle asked everyone to be a voice for the community
  - Lori asked Gayle to bring a letter of support for the group to sign.

- Grand re-opening of the Autism Library
  - Ithaca location open
  - Cortland is next on the list
  - Owego to follow afterward
  - Video shared with the group
  - More inventory with what families need coming
  - Not just for Racker families – anyone with OPWDD eligibility can utilize

Racker Events – Megan Kaminsky

- Rackers Speaker Series
- Modeling All Type of Communication
  - February 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-6pm
- Racker Resource Fair
  - February 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm – 16 vendors
- Paint & Take Event for FSS Eligible
  - March 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>
- Safety at Home, Communities, Families
  - March 13<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>
- May
  - Picky Eaters
  - Neuro Magician

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Self-Advocacy (Other Voices in the 607) – Megan Kaminsky

Discussion: Updates:
 

- Group working on what they would like to advocate for
- Self-Advocates invited to participate in this meeting

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Catholic Charities – Jennifer Payne

Discussion: Updates:
 

- No referrals received for January

Status: Informational - Complete

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:44am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 9:00am.

