



**REGIONAL PLANNING CONSORTIUM**  
**North Country Region**  
**2019, 4th Quarter Board Meeting - Minutes**  
**Warren County Human Service Building**  
**1340 U.S. 9, Lake George, NY 12845**  
**December 20, 2019 – 10:00am - 12:00p**

**Minutes**

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 10:07 am by Suzanne Lavigne
- Confirm quorum – confirmed

2. Approve Meeting Minutes from 10/16/19 – Q3 RPC Board Meeting

Voting Board

- Minutes Approved and will be posted on NC RPC webpage

3. Welcome New and Group Introductions

- 2019 RPC Elections – Final Results

Karen reported on election results. All elected stakeholder groups will have full membership starting January 1<sup>st</sup>. A mix of new and reelected members. New members will serve through 2022. Karen named the new members in each group. DCS and MCO groups' membership will be unchanged.

- Staggered Term Assignments - Random selection was made for staggered terms in CBO, HHSP, PFY stakeholder groups. Enclosed is list of board member and term ending/year.

- Key Partners for 2020 board

Karen reviewed Key Partner group nominations. A retiring member, who may still be available for service, and two new nominations. Can include criminal justice, human service agencies in addition to PPS, Public Health, DSS. Those wishing to nominate a Key Partner for board membership should contact Karen by the early to mid-January. A survey monkey vote will be emailed to voting members of the NC RPC board with Key Partner nominations.

4. Finger Lakes Pilot Project: SUDS Treatment Bed Finder

- Karen introduced Beth White, RPC Team Leader and Coordinator for the Finger Lakes Region. Beth gave an overview of a resource that has been developed by one of their workgroups. The Finger Lakes RPC identified an issue where there was a consistent perception of not having enough detox and inpatient rehab treatment beds, at the same time that providers knew they had open beds. They wondered if some regional coordination effort could address the problem. An RPC Workgroup was formed and participants decided to create a regional "bed board" displaying real time availability of their beds on a webpage.

Beth's detailed presentation is attached. Highlights:

The web page resulted from the collaborative effort of the RPC, one of the region' hospitals who agreed to host the page on their website and cover the minimal annual cost (\$155), and the region's SUD providers.



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For several reasons, the workgroup decided that this resource would be utilized by the providers working with clients to find placement, and it would not be publicized for use by the public and clients directly.

While OASAS has a treatment search function on its website, it is only updated once per day, while the Finger Lakes SUD Bed Finder is updated multiple times throughout the day as bed availability changes. Also, and a critical improvement, the Bed Finder identifies Bed on Hold in addition to Open Beds, which makes the information much more accurate.

In the three month pilot from July through October, Beth reported that over a thousand page views occurred where bed information was being sought. Notably, it is being regularly accessed on the weekends and evenings, in addition to typical working hours. This suggests that it is an important resource for pen Access and other on demand program sites.

The Finger Lakes RPC Board and Rochester Regional Health, the collaborating hospital system, is offering to help other interested RPC regions adopt the Bed Finder for their SUD treatment beds.

- Discussion - Next steps for North Country RPC  
Discussed the fact that availability doesn't necessarily mean access and that the Bed Finder is purely information, not an actual admission process.

North Country doesn't have a lot of SUD beds, could it include different kinds of beds, i.e mental health or community residences? Beth indicated that different bed types could be displayed. Barry Brogan, NC Behavioral Healthcare Network, said they could host. A recommendation was made to include Tug Hill RPC region for a New York North Country bed finder. A suggestion was made to include a couple of Capital region hospitals as many NC folks go there. The board agreed to form a workgroup.

Rob York moved to form workgroup to explore adopting some version of the Bed Finder. Sally Walrath seconded the motion, which passed. Karen will send email re members for the group. Robin Gay, Sally Walrath, Jennifer Neifeld, Barry Brogan, Mary McLaughlin, Suzanne Lavigne, Richelle Gregory and Davia/Deborah from OASAS volunteered to participate in the group. Brandon Titus from St. Joseph's Addiction and Treatment Centers was also suggested.



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- Review of 2019 Strategic Plan and Workgroup Report Outs
  - Children & Families Subcommittee                      JoAnne Caswell and Richelle Gregory  
JoAnn and Richelle that meeting have not occurred since Spring 2019 due to Coordinator transition. A meeting is scheduled for Jan 9, 2020. Invite will go out.
  
  - VBP Workgroup    Mary McLaughlin and Terri Morse  
Terri Morse reported re VBP group. Due to possible DSRIP 2.0, need to refocus. What would group like focus to be with this group? At one point, it was a group mostly to share experiences. Now we have ACO and IPA, what does that mean? Once dust settles, it will be clearer what path to take.  
  
Karen shared suggestion that had been made to hear from the area IPA/ACO's about their progress and plans. Possible event to present this information to interested stakeholders.
  
  - HARP/HCBS/Health Home Workgroup    Andrea Deepe  
Andrea is exploring more panel presentations in mid-2020. These have been reported to have been helpful. Lee Rivers offered to serve as co-chair for this committee.
  
  - Workforce    Kelly Owens  
Kelly reported AHI PPS Workforce is finalizing final compensation and benefits analysis. AHI PPS completing a cohort analysis which will look at the same group of partners that was sent survey in 2015, 2017 and 2019 data. It will be finalized by March 31, 2020 and sent to PPS committee for approval in April.
  
  - Housing  
Suzanne spoke briefly on the strategy of a Housing Workgroup for 2020. The goal is to gather OMH/OASAS providers along with other housing-related organizations for a one-day cross-system gathering with data information to be collected. Roundtable discussions will be held and a cross-system white paper
  
- Updates
  - Joe Simko, OMH  
Capital RFP out for Crisis Residence services. Also new opening up of eligibility for current HCBS providers to expand or for new ones to be designated to deliver HCBS services. He also some info on rates, which still have not been released. Suzanne reflected that difficult to plan without the current rates. Children and Families staff member Nicole Hall will be on maternity leave soon and will be out for several months. Expected out early Jan. FO staff will cover, please let them know of any needs.



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Question was asked if there is any consideration of increasing rates for HCBS travel. In this region, with expansive geography, rates are inadequate. Joe said that there are a few workgroups looking at this and that they know the 60 mile limit is an issue.

Another issue is getting Medicaid for inmates during their last 30 days of incarceration. Joe said this is DSS issue, he will see if there is an update.

○ Davia Gaddy, OASAS

New requirements re physician requirements, attesting to physician follow up vs medical signature. She gave stats about MAT and 820 services. Also gave stats re alcohol, which is still #1 abused substance. Seeing large increase in retired baby boomers. Important not to forget about this critical area. Rob shared that Rob Kent had issued an informative video. Link can be provided to group by Dav. Very helpful resource.

Davia discussed new guidance re MAT and re person centered care, with population health focus. Encouraged people to review. It comes from evidence based studies. Data illustrates vulnerability of people in first 30 days after detox. Should start MAT *before* they leave detox setting. Engagement skills very important to address client's concerns and circumstances.

Also reported info available re gambling treatment services.

• MCO – Report Outs and Discussion

Washington County has very few MAT providers – very difficult. Also seeing huge increase in baby boomers abusing alcohol after retirement.

MVP

Angela Vidile from MVP – Children's services – there is a slow-down in getting the POC's. Reaching out to CMA's and Lead HH's. MVP would like to partner in delivering treatment and outreach with CMA's. Another challenge is the difficulty identifying assessors for environmental modification services. They have to use an out of county evaluator who requests additional reimbursement for extra travel. Also having problems with wait lists for HCBS medically fragile respite. Respite in general is major challenge.

Fidelis shared there is a new Albany rep based in the area to help resolve issues and support providers. Also said feel free to contact them when folks are uninsured. They are happy to work with providers and clients to get people enrolled in health care.



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Discussion with MCOs - How do we maximize the relationship?

Joe reported on January 9, 2020 at Crandall Public Library, there will be a “Know your MCO” event to hear from MCOs and connect with them. One of biggest barriers in this transition is simply learning who the parties are and their role. These kind of events help to bridge those gaps, form relationships and partnerships. Karen will send the Eventbrite link. Thirty people signed up already. There will also be the C&F Subcommittee meeting in the afternoon to help consolidate people’s travel. One CBO shared it’s been awesome working with Fidelis, a real learning experience.

- Announcements Karen Rapplelea
  - New staff at RPC
  - 2020 Board meeting dates/locations

Karen gave RPC staffing update. Assistant Project Director position has been filled and should free Project Director Lori Kicinski, the new Project Director, to get out to the regions. The Western NY RPC Coordinator has been hired though the Capital Region remains opened.

Karen gave 2020 Board dates and locations. Meeting in various locations so that same people not always having to travel so far.

- Adjourn Meeting  
Sally Walrath moved to adjourn, Valerie Ainsworth seconded.



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**ROLL-CALL – 2019 Board**

Andrea Deepe, Chair HHH Workgroup	CBO	Warren Washington Association for Mental Health, Inc.	Y
	CBO		
JoAnne Caswell, CoChair C&F Subcom	CBO	Families First	Y
	CBO		
Sally Walrath	CBO	Lakeside House	Y
Valerie Ainsworth	CBO	MHA Essex	Y
Christine Venery	H&Hs	St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Health Services	Y
Jessica Fraser	H&Hs	Hudson Headwaters Health Network	Y
	H&Hs		
Meredith King	H&Hs	UVM: Elizabethtown Community Hospital	Y
	H&Hs		
	H&Hs		
Anne Griffin	PYF	N/A	N
Mariane Simas	PYF	N/A	Y
<b>Lee Rivers, NC RPC CoChair '21</b>	PYF	Community Connections of Franklin County	Y
	PYF		
	PYF		
	PYF		
Bob Kleppang	LGU	Hamilton Co	Y
Rob York	LGU	Warren/Washington Co	Y
Richelle Gregory, CoChair C&F Subcom	LGU	Clinton Co	Y
Terri Morse, CoChair, VBP	LGU	Essex Co	Y
<b>Suzanne Lavigne, NC RPC CoChair</b>	LGU	Franklin Co	Y
Angela Vidile	MCO	MVP	Y
Carl Rorie Alexandrov	MCO	CDPHP	N
Jennifer Earl	MCO	United HealthCare	N
Stephen Furlong	MCO	Fidelis (plus Courtney Gagnon)	Y
Joseph Simko	NYGOV	OMH (plus Ben Rose, OMH)	Y
Davia Gaddy/Deb Czubak	NYGOV	OASAS	Y
Doug Sitterly	NYGOV	OCFS	N
Mary McLaughlin, CoChair, VBP	Key Partners	Adirondack Health Institute	Y
Barry B. Brogan	Key Partners	North Country Behavioral Healthcare Network	Y
Kelly Owens	Key Partners	Adirondack Health Institute – Workforce Proj. Mgr	Y

*Newly elected board members (2020-2023) in attendance: Robin Gay (CBO), Jennifer Neufeld (CBO), Catherine McFarland (HHS).*



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2020 Meetings:

January 9	10a-12:30p	Know Your MCOs	Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls
January 9	1p-2:30p	Children & Families Subcom	Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls
March 27	10a-12p	NC RPC board meeting	UVM CVPH Health Center, Plattsburgh
June 26	10a-12p	NC RPC board meeting	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lake Placid
Sept 25	10a-12p	NC RPC board meeting	Courtyard by Marriott, Lake George
Dec 18	10a-12p	NC RPC board meeting	TBD, Warren County