



**Mohawk Valley Regional Planning Consortium  
Board of Directors**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 10am-12:30pm**

Herkimer College  
Robert McLaughlin College Center  
100 Lou Ambers Drive Herkimer, NY 13350

**Meeting Agenda**

*10:00am - 10:30am*

1. Welcome & Introductions Susan Matt  
Sue Matt called the meeting to order at 1003am and welcomed everyone. Board members and gallery attendees introduced themselves – See attendance grid.
  
2. Approval of Minutes Sandra Soroka  
Edits noted: Page 2, iii Issue: Transportation to open access, third line should read “state” Under transportation should read “State partner” and on the sixth line after ex: it should read “bus”.  
Motion to pass the minutes with the above stated edits was made by Sue Matt, first made by Jennifer Earl, seconded by Desiree Railine, all in favor. Minutes approved.
  
3. Board Survey Reminder Jacqueline Miller  
Survey was sent out and to date, have only 12 responses received. Jacqui will send the link again and has encouraged participation to provide board feedback and direction of the region.
  
4. Mohawk Valley RPC 2018 Jacqueline Miller  
The board identified that there was a critical shortage in behavioral health providers capable of prescribing psychotropic medications; the board identified that there was lack of transportation to pharmacy; the HHH workgroup focused on education and training of services and held networking events; the Children and Families subcommittee identified there is a need to for families to understand the changes occurring and the services that are being offered. See attached documents for further details.
  
5. Mohawk Valley RPC in 2019 Jacqueline Miller  
VBP Readiness: Mohawk Valley is to pilot BHCC/VBP workshop; HH/HARP/HCBS – Financial Sustainability & Misses. Tracker created for lost mileage reimbursement for agencies when travel is greater than the allowable 60 miles and there is a no-show or late cancellation; Increase peer empowerment workforce in collaboration with COPE; Increase family voice while providing education on the upcoming changes. Fire side chats are scheduled for Herkimer, Fulton and Montgomery counties. A networking event has also

been scheduled to provide more education about the Children's transformation at a regional level. See attached for more details.

6. Updates:

a. RPC Director Update

Cathy Hoehn

Search for RPC Project Director still open, please share for anyone interested. The position is posted on Indeed. Cathy will remain interim until position is filled.

b. VBP Workshop

Susan Matt & Sandy Soroka

NYC hosted a VBP workshop that brought together many stakeholders. MV would like to also hold one of these events. This would be an opportunity for BHCC to come together with MCO's and providers. This would be an informative session to help identify how to do the work in the organizations and provide guidance for readiness. This would be an invitation only event and would like suggestions on who should attend this from each agency. Would like this event to really reflect the needs of the Mohawk Valley Region. There will be an opportunity to submit questions, "what keeps you up at night". If there is an agency that has any innovative projects in the works and would like to share, this would be an opportunity to present.

*10:30am – 12:00pm*

7. Ad Hoc Workgroup Reports

a. Health Home, HARP, HCBS -

Jacqueline Miller

See attached for details. There is conversation re: the 60 minute requirement for pre-vocational appointments and Employment support. A tracker has been created to be able to present the data to the state partners. There was discussion at the last meeting about the universal referral form from the Capital region. It was identified that most if not all info was on the form.

b. Children & Families Subcommittee

Jacqueline Miller

See attached. There are fire side chat events scheduled in each county. There is also a networking event scheduled similar to the adult HCBS event that was had.

c. COPE- Learning Circles

Kate Hewlett

Definition of the program and vision of the program presented. Discussed networking event that was held. Future plans: would like to have learning circles (specific to role), provide assistance to employers to write job descriptions of the peer role, and assist with the purpose of the peer workforce. Stressed the importance of the peer support. Would like to provide trainings, piggyback on events already scheduled in the community. There is a peer conference scheduled in CNY region already. This program is striving in Otsego County and would like for it to be just as strong in the other counties of the Mohawk Valley Region. Currently COPE has 3 committees. If there is anyone that has lived experience, they are invited to be a part of COPE. There is no certification needed. COPE is viewed as a solution to fill the void. There was a question about billing for peer services under OMH license: it is not allowed under article 31 clinical services, but is allowed under OASAS license for peer services for individuals that are not eligible for HCBS services. Jennifer Earl has brought attention to the misunderstanding of the peer role, and suggested that an event to provide education to others in the workforce understand the benefits of the peer role.

## 8. Updates from Key Partners

- a. Integrated Agenda- Local Health Department – Dr. Amy Gildemeister  
Prevention agenda through the state. The summit is taking place in March. Prevention agenda is the set of goals that is put out by the state for public health. This is done every 3 years in conjunction with the hospital. There is a long list of topics to choose from. In terms of child/maternal health, which has overlap with this group, talk to women about maternal mortality and morbidity, infant mortality and morbidity. Pregnant and post-partum depression screening. Partner violence screening. Reducing infant health (SIDS). Collaborative strategies to improve developmental screenings. Increasing care coordination and support for children with developmental disabilities. Each health dept chooses the topics based on region statistics. Encouraged the MV to collaborate with the public health dept to work together on the topics that overlap. The PHIP is the “coordination” point for the counties in MV to come together to discuss shared goals. There is a role for others to be involved with the hospitals and other agencies to be involved in this process. The above identified topics are just a few that may have the overlap. There is a much bigger, more extensive list of topics. The list is also broken down by sectors as well. This can be discussed further at the next board meeting.
- b. DSS changes- Changes in Social Services. Tim Seymour  
Opioid use and the relationship with CPS. 2017/18 average # 1100 calls per year related to opioid use. Drugs are primarily marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and meth. These bring petitions and investigations in CPS. Several cases come from domestic violence reports, meth labs within the presence of the child, children born with positive toxicology screenings. 92 foster care placement. 26 directly related to SUD. 66% of foster were related neglect. 78% of all placement rate was related to SUD use. Domestic violence is common, a multidisciplinary group is being formed with catholic charities and DSS staff; parenting education has doubled in last couple years, serving approx. 50 individuals. Increase in court ordered child supervised appointments, from 42 up to 92, foster care supervision up from \*\* to \*\*. SUD screening has increased over the last 8 years. 2015 there was 102 tests, 2018 \*approx.\* >700. Why did this go up? Most of the tests are related to neglect investigations and are now conducted by BEACON. DSS Herkimer has a contract for CASAC intake screening. There has been an increase in trends, BUT there has not been any change in the regulations at this point. Is there going to be an impact with the C&F changes on DSS? Suspect that it will be a positive impact.

Housing: Valley housing coalition has been formed. Pressure from state to form continuum of care for housing. Catholic charities applied for the funding. Awarded 2 year grant to start data collection. 2018 VHC was started. 15 member board formed. OTDA became involved, made a case to join balance of state and it was voted to do so. January 2019 homeless individuals were identified in the county. This included those that are in hotels funded by DSS. The coalition is finishing collecting the data. They are now registered as COC which makes them eligible for more funding. The funding available would be for Rapid Housing, and Supportive housing. The Salvation Army is working with DSS to have a 24/7 warming station.

12:00pm-12:30pm

9. OASAS Updates

Susan Snyder

- a. STR-COTI - # of assessments for Montgomery County- 46 received.
- b. HCBS data - very minimal data available. New staff hired to do HCBS data collection
- c. Opioid Insurance/Parity legislative package – see attached articles

10. OMH Updates

Joe Simko

- a. HCBS data –documents distributed to group.
- b. Cash Advance – OMH working with MCO about the high levels of claims denials. Working with data for Root Cause analysis. OMH has asked MCO to look at the data to work through the data for resolutions. IF there is no resolutions identified, MCO are required to give the providers cash advances for these unpaid claims. There was a webinar for this process. Encourage using the OMH web mailbox for notification of these issues.
- c. RCA – Are an alternative to HH to get an individual connected to assessments for HCBS services that have opted out of HH. The list is available on the OMH website. OMH is aware that there are some gaps and are working on this.
- d. Quality Infrastructure Funding - MCO have the proposals and are in the contracting phase with agencies.
- e. Children’s Transformation – C&F subcommittee is active in the region. OMH encourages conversation into what is working and what is not. Please make OMH aware of any issues that have been identified sooner than later.

11. Open Floor

Susan Matt

- a. Treatment Delivery System Challenges – Conversations about the challenges. What are some things that we are not talking about, that we should be? Already identified is the workforce issues; Redundancy in the HARP/HH/HCBS programs in relation to assessments; streamlining of the services.

**Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

2nd Quarter Board Meeting: Friday June 7th from 10AM-12:30PM at Herkimer College

3rd Quarter Board Meeting: Friday September 6th, from 10AM-12:30PM at Herkimer College

4th Quarter Board Meeting: Friday December 6th, from 10AM-12:30PM at Herkimer College

Meeting Adjourned at 1136am by Sue Matt

Contact RPC Coordinator, Jacqueline Miller at [jm@clmhd.org](mailto:jm@clmhd.org) or (518)469-2669, with comments.

