



May 2018

Dear WNY RPC Board Members,

Since completing my first quarter with the RPC, I would like to thank you all for being so welcoming. I have enjoyed our contacts, albeit somewhat limited. For those of you I have yet to connect with, I am looking forward to spending time together and learning more about how you envision the RPC and its goals.

RPCs have made substantial inroads in this first 18 months of implementation/operation including:

- Creating an inclusive, fair and well-informed group process
- Contributing to the dialogue with state partners resulting in responses to rate extensions, telehealth amendments, transition to the HCBS brief assessments, HARP/Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) materials development and more.
- Collaborating with various stakeholder groups, and within your stakeholder groups, regardless of potential and real competitive concerns.

As board members, you have given your time, energy, shared your intellectual knowledge, heartfelt concerns and your ideas for an evolving NYS behavioral healthcare delivery system. **I want to express my appreciation for all that you do and give to the RPC and acknowledge that what you do is above and beyond, particularly given your other work and personal obligations. Thank you.**

As the RPC continues to evolve, we are entering a new phase that calls for us to further establish ourselves in presenting well-researched recommendations and ideas. To progress with this mindset and process, the co-chairs and I have agreed upon the following action steps to optimize our level of preparedness:

1. We have **cancelled the April 24th RPC co-chairs meeting with our state partners**. We need to better refine our issues and recommendations, check for viability, substantiate them, evaluate, modify and re-evaluate.
2. We are initiating a **“due diligence process”** to assist with the analytical process outlined in the previous step. This requires us to take a deeper look at the concerns we are identifying.
3. Our **first question** for each identified concern will be **“How does our inquiry/response/action enhance quality of services and quality of life for our clients and their families?”**
4. We will work toward a greater **inter-regional dialogue** and alignment in order to unify our voice on issues that impact most/all regions.
5. We will substantiate our case with **data, narrative, cost-benefit analysis**, when possible.
6. We will reschedule our **RPC co-chairs meeting with our state partners** and present our ideas and recommendations in-depth and with data.

During the **May Board meeting, we will engage in a conversation about the due diligence process** and how we move forward regionally and collectively. This process, while shared in all regions, does not displace unique regional concerns/needs but allows for a re-focus of the collective perspective.

The RPCs sustainability depends upon growth and change, evolution and revolution. I am asking for your help, your ideas and your commitment to solidify the RPC as **the collective, credible voice of NYS behavioral healthcare delivery**. Thank you and please know you are welcome to contact me with your thoughts and ideas.

Warm regards,

Donna DeWan, LPC, LMT, CCTP

RPC Project Director – NYS Regional Planning Consortiums
NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, Inc.
41 State Street, Suite 505
Albany, NY 12207
Phone: 518.462.9422
Mobile: 202.870.4844
Fax: 518.465.2695