



REGIONAL PLANNING CONSORTIUM
North Country Region – 2018, 4th Quarter Board Meeting
December 6, 2018 – 10:00a-12:00p
Warren County Department of Social Services
1340 State Route 9, Lake George, NY 12845
Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – *meeting called to order 10:04am*
2. **Introductions (Name, stakeholder group, agency/organization)**
 - a. New Board Members – Amy Pawlowski (Fidelis) & Deceil Moore (Citizen Advocates Inc.)
 - b. Vacant Seats: 3 KP's & 2 YA's
 - i. *Key Partners – vested interest in the work we do but not covered in the other stakeholder groups; possibly invite transportation providers to the table*
 - ii. *2 Youth advocate seats available*
3. **Approve Meeting Minutes from 8/29/18 - Q3 RPC Board Meeting** – *motion to approve meeting minutes; Michael Lawler 1st, JoAnne Caswell, 2nd – all in favor, motion approved*
4. **Vote needed on RPC By-Laws:**
 - a. Items modified/addressed since last review:
 - i. Board Terms will be for 3 years (Next election will be Q4 of 2019)
 - ii. Quorum = 50% +1 of voting board members (14 voting board members needed) AND 2 members of each of the following groups (CBO, HHSP, PYF, MCO, DCS)
 - iii. Will maintain meeting in person requirement for quarterly board meetings

Motion to approve by-laws; Suzanne Lavigne 1st, Richelle Gregory 2nd – no discussion, all in favor, motion approved

5. **11/30 Chairs Meeting Update:**
 - a. Overview of meeting
 - b. Housing issue update
 - c. *Please see attached 11/30 Chairs meeting minutes (*pending as of 12/19/2018*)*

Pete provided overview of 11/30 Chairs meeting – On a regular basis the Co-Chairs from all RPC regions come together in Albany to meet with State Agency leadership. North Country presented the issue related to housing. Regions also brought forward transportation issues (Southern Tier and Mohawk Valley) specific to open access and transportation to pharmacy. Complex trauma (Capital region). Six regions provided regional updates. Workforce issue related to PAs prescribing in article 31s (Finger Lakes). Once meeting minutes are approved these will be circulated to the board. Will be sharing the informed dialogue background on issues.

Housing issue update – *North Country provided context on the housing issues in our region/combined with Southern Tier.*

Brett Ebner from OMH Housing – regarding MCOs, some MCOs are looking into housing initiatives. At least one MCO is currently funding a housing pilot. State partners working cross agency – OMH starting to work with continuum of care; first of these meetings is next month (January, 2019).

Question from board: *Is it possible for RPCs or Agencies to be involved in the regional CoC meetings that the State is setting up?*

Answer: RPCs will follow up with OMH around this request

Housing Next Steps:

- *State also hopes to include OTDA and DSS in future conversations*
- *NC RPC outreaching Brett Ebner to have a conversation about further next steps*
- *Looking into use of Medicaid for housing because of this being such an important social determinant of health*
- *Utilizing in lieu of services was also highlighted – will follow up with the State for additional information on this*
- *Looking into holding regional ESSHI grant trainings in partnership with OMH*
- *Looking towards the MCOs; CDPHP currently piloting a 15 bed housing initiative*

Additional Dialogue around Housing:

Question: *Has there been any success in utilizing In-Lieu of Services (ILS) relative to housing?*

Response: *The State is not aware of any.*

Question: *Was there any support offered to help make ILS more user friendly?*

Response: *The RPC will follow up with Brett around this, especially using ILS for housing innovation*

Note from board: *It would be helpful to understand how to begin the conversations with MCOs about ILS.*

**Next year there will be two chairs meetings – ongoing opportunity for North Country concerns and resolutions to be taken to the state.*

6. Regional Updates:

a. 10/31 HCBS Training & Panel Discussion:

- i. *Over 60 in attendance*
- ii. *OMH presentation and HCBS provider panel*
- iii. *Next Event scheduled for 1/18 in Malone*

Andrea Deepe leads this work group – first training & panel was held in Glens Falls. So successful looking to hold another on 1/18/2019 in Malone. Unity House, Community Connections, Franklin County, Citizen Advocates, MHA Essex all panelists. Currently seeking panelists for 1/18 event. Two tentative panelist as of now. Seeking varied panelists for next event – MCO, peer, health home, etc. Anyone interested in being a panelist, please reach out to Pete. Venue booked and OMH presenter secured.

b. Telehealth Regulations Call:

- i. *On 11/14 – Representation from OMH, CC's, Other regions*
- ii. *Discussed upcoming regulations*
- iii. *No word yet on release date for updated inter-agency guidance*

Currently meeting on an as-needed basis; held a meeting on 11/14 with OMH, co-chairs and other regions to discuss next steps/when the regulations will be released for comment.

c. Children & Families Subcommittee:

- i. Have created fillable form for CMs' and Families
- ii. Have created workforce data tracker – position vacancies
- iii. Next meeting scheduled for 12/13
- iv. 1 Page resource for Children's Transformation information
 1. <http://www.clmhd.org/img/uploads/C&F%20Resource%20Page%2011.20.18.pdf>

Will have met 3 times this year with several tangible resources created. Fillable form was created because of families having so many people involved in their child's care. This creates one page with a list of people who may come in contact with the family as well as resources of who to call. Have already heard of families utilizing this and placing in their homes.

Workforce data tracker and position vacancies; if your agency is interested in tracking position vacancies please reach out to Pete. Intent to collect meaningful data from a variety of agencies and have a meaningful conversation with the State about workforce challenges. Pete will share this tracker with the board.

Question: *How often is this data collected/frequency?*

Response: *Ideally this is a quarterly collection of data. Tracker went out in November. May make more sense to officially begin collecting for the first quarter of 2019 through March 31, 2019.*

Question: *What is the goal of collecting this data?*

Response: *To illustrate to the State that we do not have the workforce necessary to meet the needs of the population.*

Question about fillable form: *insurance included on this – is it possible to add what your insurance is and when your renewal date is?*

Response: *Great idea – we can consider this*

7. State Partner Updates:

- a. *OMH Update – please reach out to field office if you need any assistance related to readiness for the children's transition. Contracting and claims testing is a major focus right now. Workforce is certainly an issue. Related to infrastructure funding, some MCOs have already closed the application process for this funding. Some MCOs have leftover money from this funding, others have more proposals than money. Also funding available related to crisis – but must be sustainable long term. These proposals go to the MCOs. Any questions about ILS – can certainly contact OMH and we can walk through the process as well. Have not heard of any ILS proposals yet.*

Question: *Can we see what funding is available still?*

Response: Not likely that specific. May be able to put something together generically – encouraging proposals be sent to MCOs

- b. OASAS Update – money available to counties who had not been a part of original SOAR grants - \$150,000 for counties to look at services more available in the county/transportation issues/medication assisted treatment/tele practice. Counties currently working on proposals. Money will also be available to increase the recovery resource centers. Increasing peer services and family navigators across the state as well. No specifics yet – but by the end of the year, other levels of care moving into integrated mental health services. Residential services will be moving in that direction.

Question: Will this create a workforce issue?

Response: There is an existing workforce issue.

Comment: There will be a training issue – more training will be needed to learn about this integration.

Sue Frohlich will be retiring – this is her last board meeting. Deb C. will likely fill in for Sue temporarily.

8. Board Member Updates on current Issues being addressed:

- a. Housing/Telehealth/Clinical Integration/Transportation/Workforce

Joe Simko: OMH Field Office: OMH working with each of the DCS on crisis service benefit planning. New MCO benefits around telephone crisis and mobile crisis. Regulations being revised around residential crisis. This is coming out in the next year. Push on crisis services – community oriented. MCO billable, but meant for an entire population, covered by MCO or not. Purposeful work with DCS so we have a whole comprehensive compliment to crisis services. If you have any crisis services feedback or best practices to share, please work with your DCS.

Mary: AHI – Transportation Workshop: Transportation Voucher program – MAS and non MAS; received a grant through the PPS. Volunteer transportation process used – mileage covered. Paid for and non paid for. “First and last mile” – bringing someone to the closest public transportation with the goal of utilizing existing infrastructure and getting people to where they need to go. Criteria for the vouchers. Educating clients how to use transportation (example: bus, uber, lyft). Across the PPS there are multiple groups working on solutions for their area. Potential utilization of the innovative funds for these initiatives. Working to use data for supporting outcomes and decrease hospitalizations. January 11th deadline for innovation funds.

9. Identification of New Issues: No new issues at this time

10. 2018 Recap & Planning/Vision for 2019:

- a. Refer to attached document

Recap of the regional successes and progress in the North Country RPC 2018:

- New Co-Chair, Lee Rivers
- Establishment of 4 task forces to address specific issues
- H/H/H networking event and educational/panel event
- C&F have met 3 times in 2018 with major focus on preparation and readiness for the children’s transformation
- VBP great place for questions related to the future of VBP

- 2019: Hoping to continue to provide education, host networking events, telehealth educational opportunity, workforce data collection, compiling housing report, information sharing with BHCC – continuing to utilize the expertise within the region

Melissa Staats from OMH: work being done in the North Country is really appreciated. Recognized and thank you

Another change in 2019: new DCS co-chair. Rob York will be stepping down from current co-chair role. Rob has been with the RPC since prior to inception. The board thanks Rob for all of his work to help get RPCs up and running in the North Country. Rob will still be involved in the RPC in the future as a DCS board member. New DCS co-chair TBD.

Terri – Essex County is offering a venue space for future RPC board meetings (DSS training room or correctional facility basement – Lewis)

Question for the board – any particular areas of focus you'd like us to move towards for 2019?

Answer: Board would like to prioritize **housing** and **workforce** in 2019

Question: *What will we be working on between now and the 1st quarter board meeting?*

Response: *Data, data, data – will be essential to support any of our future issues.*

HUD vouchers - # of individuals on the list as an example

Workforce – data tracker a great place to begin collecting information

North Country unique challenge re: work force: No upper academic level for clinical social work

Note about salary amount being collected on workforce tracker: salary range would be more comfortable, this is how it is currently captured. Tracker can also include staff for the new services

11. Adjourn Meeting (Motion Needed) – meeting adjourned at 11:27am

Andrea Deepe	CBP	Yes
Deceil Moore	CBO	Yes
JoAnne Caswell	CBO	Yes
Robert A. Ross	CBO	No
Sally Walrath	CBO	No
Valerie Ainsworth	CBO	No
Christine Venery	HHSP	No
Jessica Fraser	HHSP	No
Linda McClarigan	HHSP	No
Meredith King	HHSP	Yes
Michael A. Lawler	HHSP	Yes
Rosemary Reif	HHSP	No
Ann Hutchison	KP	Sent Proxy
Barry B. Brogan	KP	Yes
Reggie McDonald	KP	No
Bob Kleppang, LMSW, ACSW	DCS	Yes
Rob York, LCSW-R, MPA	DCS	Yes
Richelle Gregory	DCS	Yes
Terri Morse	DCS	Yes
Suzanne Lavigne, MHA, CTRS, CASAC	DCS	Yes
Elizabeth Fallone-Torhan	MCO	Yes
Carl Rorie Alexandrov	MCO	No
Jennifer Earl, M.A., LMHC	MCO	No
Amy Pawlowski	MCO	Sent Proxy
Anne Griffin	PYF	Yes
Mariane Simas	PYF	Yes
Lee Rivers	PYF	Yes
Steve Miccio	PYF	Yes
Joseph Simko	State	Yes
Susan Frohlich, LMSW, CSASC	State	Yes
Doug Sitterly	State	No

Gallery Members: Cathy Hoehn, Alexis Harrington, Marissa Joseph, Jessica Robertson, Mary McLaughlin

Please contact RPC Coordinator, Peter Griffiths, with any questions about upcoming meetings or events – (518) 424-1014 – PG@CLMHD.org