



# RPC - Tug Hill Region

Jefferson County - Lewis County - St. Lawrence County

## REGIONAL PLANNING CONSORTIUM

Tug Hill Region – 2020 2nd Quarter Board Meeting

June 11, 2020 – 10:00am-12:00pm

GoToMeeting

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### 1. Call to Order

*Called to order by Tim @ 10:04. Beth Solar offered housekeeping.*

### 2. Introductions (Name, stakeholder group, agency/organization)

*Roll call by stakeholder group and performed by Beth Solar. Attendance list available for review. David Nelson is no longer with Claxton-Hepburn as of June 8, 2020. Beth Solar will reach out to leadership at Claxton-Hepburn for replacement representative to hold that H&HS seat.*

### 3. Confirm Quorum

*Voting Quorum as stated in the RPC Tug Hill bylaws are not met by today's attendance. Minutes will have to be approved at our next meeting. At the next Board meeting, we will discuss on amending the bylaws to allow for suspension of the voting quorum requirement to pass meeting minutes and electronic voting.*

*Jennifer Earl: Opening electronic voting and to amend the quorum requirement has been beneficial for other RPC boards.*

### 4. Approve Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2020 1st quarter meeting- UNABLE TO APPROVE AT THIS MEETING DUE TO NOT MEETING QUORUM

*Discussion opened concerning minutes- Allie MacPherson from OASAS recommended there be an edit to the OASAS report language. OASAS refers to telehealth as telepractice. Edit recommendation was noted and will be made prior to the approval of the minutes.*

### 5. Tug Hill 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report and discussion

*See attached document.*

*Beth Solar presented the RPC quarterly report prepared for OMH and other stakeholders. This report was prepared by each RPC region as well as the RPC project director and assistant project director. Tug Hill's top three issues – transportation, workforce and Children & Families/C-Yes Each coordinator is to create a quarterly report to be shared with stakeholders and publically shared on the webpage. Beth reviewed document: listed meetings that occurred during the first quarter, moving HH/HARP/HCBS as well as C&F moved to two meetings/2 locations to ensure region collaboration. HH/HARP/HCBS was successful- C&F only one was attended. Both meetings will continue with 2 dates/locations to continue cross the region collaboration.*

*Top 3 issues were listed.*

*1) Transportation, collaborating with Southern Tier on top barriers and look at recommendations. Next steps- continue to collaboration with other regions. Sharing results of transportation survey from Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization (FDRHPO). Survey was done mixed modalities. Interested to look at the challenges during this pandemic vs pre. Results will not reflect the COVID issues. Beth Solar asked for input on information/scenarios to add TH data.*



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*Beth Solar did receive information on OASAS/SUD transportation issues and will be added. Note, pandemic both complicated and showed some opportunities for transportation.*

- 2) *Workforce- stigma in SUD could allude to shortage. Many providers are having a difficult time finding staff who want to work in the BH/SUD field. Tug Hill will create a survey on the regional provider's ability to host externship/internship. Then target programs to offer nursing programs, allied health, CASAC. An example shared, Cayuga Community College social work program is having trouble finding placement for their students. Tim Ruetten asked if agencies who are willing to contact him and he will help facilitate. With this information we are hoping to give those who have no exposure in the field an opportunity to peak in.*
- 3) *Children & Families- The challenge identified is working with C-YES and communicating with families, where providers are making referrals to C-YES but there is a communication breakdown. Lindsay Newvine (StL Cty SPOA/SPOE, C&F co-lead) reported that the CSPOA/C-YES meeting for 3/23/2020 was cancelled and currently not rescheduled. Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors continues to host C&F meetings and intend on rescheduling the CSPOA/C-YES meeting. Our region looking forward to these meetings to resume.*

## **6. SUD Bed Finder pilot program update**

*Mirrored after Finger Lakes pilot on a real time database to have all their providers to access and view how many beds are available/hold/male/female/services provided. Beth Solar explained two phases to participating agencies – first phase will be 820 and 817 beds. The intent is to add 819 beds in phase two. Discussion on 817 beds in the Tug Hill region – Rose Hill at St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center and Hamilton Hall, an ATC, should be included in phase one. The difference between this project and OASA, is that it's updated several times a day and updated in real time, beds on hold, and if either male or female bed. Beth Solar reported that progress was made, but temporary hold on activities due to COVID. The Finger Lakes Project has received a lot of traffic- and have been able to measure high times of traffic (morning, afternoon, weekdays, or weekends).*

*Will reach out to ensure everyone is invited. Due to this project relying on the voluntary participation of providers, it may not be all inclusive if the provider does not agree and commit to update frequency.*

## **7. RPC Annual Update: Provided by Lori Kicinski, RPC Project Director and Katerina Gaylord, RPC Assistant Project Director**

*RPC Q1 2020 report was a tool to share with all the NYS Offices/stakeholders as the spring 2020 State/Co-Chairs meeting had to be cancelled. This report is a compilation of the work among all the regions from January to March. The entire report will be posted on the webpage as well as sent to the TH RPC board members so everyone can review the statewide activity. A Letter of*



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*Understanding with RPC and OMH was in effect until June 22. OMH was asking RPC under these state of emergency to assist with a survey on PPE with the LGUs. This is seen as a compliment to the strong network and communication with the RPC stakeholders and the coordinators.*

*A "COVID tracker" has been developed – to track topics and feedback from 3/15-6/15/2020.*

*Currently, an RPC coordinator team is working on a dashboard and/or report to present findings from all regions. This information will close on 6/15/2020 and then a new phase of collection will be conducted.*

*Continued open line of communication with Gary Weiskopf NYS OMH Office of Planning, to further collaboration/dialog so "all boats are going in the same direction."*

*Implementation of the MCO Roundtable has been well-received by the MCO stakeholders across the RPC. Two topics for discussion will be integrated BH/PC and Care Management. The first call is expected in Q3.*

## **8. OMH Update – Laura Zocco**

*MCTAC will host webinar on Adult HCBS transition to Adult Rehabilitation Services on June 11, 2020. The registration link was by invitation only. If you didn't update your designation for HCBS services, recommend you update first and then request a registration link.*

## **9. OASAS update – Allie MacPherson**

*Thank you for input on reopening suggestions/recommendations. Guidance should come out next week on reopening for in-person services. 820 uninterrupted services with OASAS and OTDA announcement recently released and should alleviate stop-payment issues.*

## **10. Open Floor**

- *Laura Zocco-Adult HCBS to Rehab webinar is today 3pm, issues registering it was by invite only of those only on the distribution list.*
- *Allie (OASAS) thanking everyone for working so hard during this pandemic. Reopening guidance is currently being reviewed and hoping to have it out within the next week.*
- *C&F increase in residential referrals for kids. Haven't exhausted all the steps to have approval for Residential services*
- *Molly- HH eligibility is changing. Guidance is not available but imagine impacting lower need individuals currently serving. Number of individuals that are seen as maintaining, at low-risk/acuity. What are the supports available for these individuals?*
- *Jim S.- Daily calls for SUD providers. Daily updates regarding COVID 19- telehealth best practices and transition help. This was/is extremely helpful.*

## **11. Save the Dates:**

**a. Tug Hill 2020 BOD Meetings: Location of meetings will be subject to current social distancing guidance at that time.**

- 3rd qtr: September, 10th 2020 10a-12N**
- 4th qtr: December, 10th 2020 10a-12N**



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- b. Workgroup and Subcommittee meetings will also be subject to current guidance. Please visit [www.clmhd.org/rpc](http://www.clmhd.org/rpc) for more information on the other RPC regions and upcoming events**

## **12. Adjourn**

*Request for Motion to adjourn made by Time Ruetten. 1<sup>st</sup> made by Ray Babowicz, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Maureen Cean.*

*Meeting adjourned at 11:24am.*



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## Attendees:

<b>Jim Scordo</b>	CBO
<b>Molly Ormsby</b>	CBO
<del><b>Karen Boliver</b></del>	CBO
<b>Maureen Cean</b>	CBO
<b>Brad Smith</b>	CBO
<b>Ed Thomas</b>	CBO
<b>Jayne Smith</b>	HHS
<del><b>Claxton Hepburn</b></del> <b>Currently Vacant</b>	HHS
<b>Travis Bulluck</b>	HHS
<b>Jennifer Barlow-Gagnon</b>	HHS
<b>Felicia Parker</b>	HHS
<b>Ray Babowicz</b>	HHS
<del><b>Kathy Connor</b></del>	PYF
<del><b>Mathew Bradley</b></del>	PYF
<b>Tammy Bush</b>	PYF
<del><b>Angelica Durham</b></del>	PYF
<b>Stephanie Pestillo</b>	MCO
<b>Angela Vidile</b>	MCO
<b>Jennifer Earl</b>	MCO/Chair
<b>Patricia Fralick</b>	DCS/Chair
<b>Tim Ruetten</b>	DCS
<del><b>Jay Ulrich</b></del>	DCS
<b>Laura Zocco</b>	State
<b>Allie MacPherson</b>	State
<del><b>Doug Sitterly</b></del>	State
<del><b>Barry Brogan</b></del>	KP
<del><b>Sam Purrington</b></del>	KP
<b>Mike Lively</b>	KP
<b>Pat Fontana</b>	KP
<del><b>Bill Bowman</b></del>	KP

Gallery Attendees: Lori Kicinski (RPC-PD), Katerina Gaylord (RPC-APD), Karen Rappleyea (RPC North Country), Jessica Gonyou ( HHH workgroup lead), Alicia Ruperd (LGU lead C&F subcommittee), Lindsay Newvine (C&F subcommittee), Leesa Harvey-Dowdle (CHHUNY), Emily Childress (RPC-Southern Tier), Jacqueline Miller (RPC-Mohawk Valley), Anita Seefried-Brown (Alliance for Better Communities), Joe Simko (OMH)

**\*Accepted and Approved by Tug Hill RPC Board of Directors on September 14, 2020\***

# Tug Hill Seaway



**DCS Co-chair:** [Tim Ruetten](#), Jefferson County

**Community Co-chair:** Jennifer Earl, Government Liaison, United Health/Optum

**RPC Coordinator:** [Beth Solar](#)

**Board Membership:** [Tug Hill RPC Board Members](#)

Click [HERE](#) to visit the Tug Hill Seaway RPC web page

## Meetings Held During Quarter 1

- Tug Hill BOD 1st Quarter meeting : March 12, 2020 ([Click here to review agenda](#))
- Tug Hill HH/HARP/HCBS workgroup January 15, 2020 (Jefferson County location)
- Tug Hill HH/HARP/HCBS workgroup January 22, 2020 (St. Lawrence location)
- Tug Hill C&F subcommittee February 19, 2020 (Jefferson County location)
- Tug Hill C&F subcommittee February 26, 2020 (St. Lawrence location)
- Tug Hill HHH workgroup and OMH HCBS education presentation March 4, 2020 (Jefferson County location)
- Tug Hill HHH workgroup and OMH HCBS education presentation March 18, 2020 (held via virtual platform due to restrictions)



## Q1 Top 3 Issues: Identification & Issue Development/Due Diligence

- **Transportation** – Due to rural barriers such as lack of public transportation, limited bus times and routes, and limited taxi service, clients are unable to reliably receive services that require non-medical transportation.
- **Workforce** – Stigma associated with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders have contributed to a workforce shortage in the human services and nursing fields; many providers report hardship with hiring staff.
- **Children and Families** – Local children’s services providers have expressed concern with the lack of communication and timely follow-up with C-YES after referrals have been submitted.



# Tug Hill Seaway continued

## Next Steps

- Collaborate with Southern Tier RPC and Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization (FDRHPO) on the results of their transportation surveys to inform Tug Hill on their own regional transportation opportunities.
- Workforce: Develop survey for regional providers to find interest and ability to accommodate externship requirements for allied health, human services and nursing programs from local educational programs (i.e. Jefferson Community College and BOCES).
- Following regional meeting of CLMHD, C-SPOA, DOH, OMH, and C-YES, C-SPOA coordinators will report back to the RPC C&F Committee to share opportunities identified for improved communication for the children and families they serve.

## Achievements & Upcoming

- Continue collaboration with Southern Tier and Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization to work on transportation issues regarding access to and timeliness of non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT).
- Reschedule “Know your MCO Event” that was previously scheduled for March 18, 2020 once in-person meetings are permitted.
- [North Country / Tug Hill SUD Bed Finder Pilot Project](#) – Tentative go-live date early July 2020

