



RPC - Tug Hill Region

Jefferson County - Lewis County - St. Lawrence County

REGIONAL PLANNING CONSORTIUM

Tug Hill Region – 2018 4th Quarter Board Meeting

December 12, 2018 – 10:00am-12:00pm

Hilton Garden Inn - Lake Ontario Room

1290 Arsenal Street, Watertown NY 13601

1. Call to Order

Pat Fralick called the meeting order at 10:04am.

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

a. Introduction of New HHH co-chair

New HHH co-chair was introduced, Jessica Gonyou. On behalf of the group, Beth Solar welcomed her and looks forward to a fresh set of eyes on the group and its work.

3. Confirm Quorum

4. Review RPC Tug Hill Board Term results and previous meeting minutes- Electronic Vote results

Jennifer Earl reported that the results of the vote regarding the length of Board terms approved changing the terms to a 3 year tenure.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes from October 11, 2018 Board Meeting

Via the electronic vote also, the minutes have been approved.

6. RPC Tug Hill Board ByLaws review (Motion Required)

Joey Horton moved to approve the ByLaws as submitted, Maureen Cean seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

7. Regional Workgroup Updates:

- **Children and Families Subcommittee – Jennifer Barlow/Alicia Rupert**

There is a one-page resource guide available.

<http://www.clmhd.org/img/uploads/C&F%20Resource%20Page%2011.20.18.pdf>

Prior to hearing the group's report, Beth Solar referred the group to the C&F Resource guide that has been provided. It has numerous resources and links for those directly affected by the transition in children's services.

Jennifer Barlow reported on November's meeting which focused on the new services that will be available January 1st. There was clarification that these services, part of the State Plan Amendment (SPA) services, are now called CFTSS services (Children and Families Treatment and Support Services).



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The State has recently provided a marketing brochure to help inform families about the new services, but the subcommittee members felt additional material would be helpful. Several volunteers will be working to develop these materials for the group to consider.

The group reviewed the three new CFTSS services: OLP, PSR and CPTS. Because anyone can refer to these new services and, for OLP, no BH diagnosis is required, there is hope that children experiencing problems can receive interventions sooner and at a lower level of intensity. These services will end up reaching greater numbers of children than previously possible.

The group also reviewed the designation list of providers who have been authorized to deliver the new services and there was discussion about whether designated providers could limit the groups they served, i.e. just foster care, or if their designation meant that they would be available to serve any eligible children. Clarification needs to be obtained about this.

There was also discussion about the fact that simply being on the designation list does not mean that a provider is ready to deliver these services. Once on the designation list, providers are eligible to then contract with the managed care MCO's to serve their managed care members. Only after a provider has completed the contracting and credentialing processes with MCO's will they be able to deliver billable services and be paid.

- **HHH Workgroup – Angela Doe**
Last meeting was held December 5, 2018

Angela Doe had a conflict arise that prevented her from being at today's meeting, so Beth Solar gave the HHH report. The group is looking at their work together and has decided to focus their efforts on education.

There was extensive discussion regarding how to get the information needed to the people who need it. Sue Hodgson talked about how they have staff at the hospital who perform care management, but that it is a challenge for them to know all of the resources that are available in the community.

Samaritan reportedly uses peers in the ED to connect with patients both during and following their hospital visit, and this has been found to be very helpful.

It was noted that one population that is very important to reach is the group that have not connected with primary care.



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Jane Vail reported that all of these issues are ones that Health Home Care Management is intended to address, so helping people know about, refer to and use these services is important.

8. 11/30/18 RPC-Co-Chairs meeting

Pat Fralick and Jennifer Earl reported on the Co-Chairs meeting that took place in Albany on November 30. They reviewed the issues that had been presented and topics that were discussed as part of the informed dialogue process. Both indicated that the meeting resulted in very productive discussion with State partners.

Pat Fralick shared that the regions that did formal issue presentations had clearly put a lot of work and research into their topics and it resulted in very credible presentation by the RPC's.

The first issue presentation was on the need for same day transportation to be available for clients going to Open Access Centers. The 72 hour advance scheduling is a barrier to clients being able to access same day services.

The MAS representative reviewed the current process and gave advice on using the 2015 waiver form to allow for same day service, also suggested that if MAS is provided with the days and hours of the Open Access sites that they might be able to approve same day trips using that information. Overall, while it was clear that transportation in rural areas is an enormous challenge to MAS, they are willing to try to address specific issues.

It was noted on the Board's discussion of this topic that this is an issue for other same day appointment medical providers, not just Open Access.

The other formal issue presentation was given by the Finger Lakes region regarding OMH's restriction that Physician Assistants are not permitted in Article 31 clinics to assess clients or prescribe medications without completing a waiver process to demonstrate additional training and/or experience. Because Beth White, the Finger Lakes Coordinator, is attending today's Board meeting, Jennifer invited her to share their issue with the group.

Beth White said that their region has numerous Article 31 clinics who are frustrated that, in the face of a known severe prescriber shortage, they cannot fully utilize PA's in their treatment programs. PA's are permitted to assess and prescribe for BH conditions in Article 28 settings and in FQHC's. The presentation invited OMH to view this discussion as an opportunity to embrace PA's as a means of addressing the workforce and prescriber shortage. All programs hire new clinicians



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and have proper orientation, onboarding and supervision practices in place to support their best level of practice and quality services. Instead of the waiver process, the Finger Lakes recommends establishing guidelines to similarly include PA's in full practice in Article 31 clinics.

The State's response included sharing that they are currently in the process of revising Article 5pp regulations and will take this recommendation into consideration as that process takes place.

Jennifer Earl reported that the meeting also included discussions about transportation to pharmacies and shortage of suitable housing for both clients and professionals in some areas. The State did indicate that they are not intending to eliminate the CR level of care and that it will remain an important resource for clients going forward.

Beth Solar shared that regions that did not present an issue or an informed dialogue topic presented brief reviews of their activity. Tug Hill's report was included in the Board materials for the group's review.

9. What's on our radar in 2019 –

Develop a Tug Hill specific VBP workgroup; Organize and help facilitate the multiple collaboratives meeting that was suggested at the October Meeting; continue with the Children and Families Subcommittee work already in progress; continue with the HHH workgroup work already in progress.

Pat Fralick provided an overview of the Board's recent reset discussions. She acknowledged how many groups are working on similar issues in the community and how important it is for RPC Board members to help see that these are referred to the RPC as we have the ability to escalate things to the State in a unique and impactful way. She shared that the Long Island RPC recently convened a meeting of various decision makers and collaborative leaders, and that it was very useful discussion. Plans are to convene a similar meeting for the Tug Hill region.

Challenges were noted about the number of initiatives being directed by DOH and the burden this causes on the provider agencies required to implement them. The issue of medical marijuana was given as an example. Is this a topic that the RPC can address with the State? Jennifer reminded the group that the RPC's charge is to work with issues related to Medicaid managed care, and that some concerns fall out of that area.

With all of the issues facing stakeholders, Pat Fralick noted that it is important identify those having the most impact and focus efforts in those areas.



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The VBP workgroup has been paused for now, and our other two groups, the C&F Subcommittee and the HHH workgroup, have discussed how to best focus their efforts going forward. She thanked everyone for their contributions in the recent strategic discussions.

10. Reporting needs from State partners – discussion

Pat Fralick asked the group to discuss what type of reporting out by State partners would be useful at Board meetings. It was noted that any key highlights of new initiatives and data regarding topics being discussed could be useful. It was also discussed that prior to the board meeting a survey poll would be sent out to the members to solicit what information they would like the state partners to specifically bring to the meetings. These polls will be sent out to the members approx. 30 days before the meeting to allow for their responses and afford the state partners with time to prepare.

11. Open Floor – For any stakeholders to provide any BH updates

No additional topics were raised.

Next BOD Meeting is March 27, 2019. Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown. Going forward all BOD meetings will be the 4th Wednesday of that quarter at the same time (10am-12N) at the same location. The only exception will be December of 2019, that quarter falls on Christmas so the meeting will be November 13, 2019.

Pat Fralick shared with the group that the issue of meeting location was thoroughly reviewed and that the current location continues to be the most sensible option.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, Sue Hodgson moved to adjourn at 11:55. The motion was seconded by Richelle David and passed unanimously.



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Jim Scordo	CBO
Jennifer Barlow	CBO
Justin Jones	CBO
Maureen Cean	CBO
Angela Doe	CBO
Ed Thomas	CBO
Susan Hodgson	HHS
Vicki Perrine	HHS
Christina O'Neil	HHS
Jane Vail	HHS
Joey Horton	HHS
Philip Edie	HHS
Kathy Connor	PYF
Richelle David	PYF
Mathew Bradley	PYF
David Bayne	PYF
Stephanie Pestillo	MCO
Curt Swanson-Lewis	MCO
Jennifer Earl	MCO/Chair
Patricia Fralick	DCS/Chair
Alicia Ruperd	DCS
Jay Ulrich	DCS
Pat Fontana	KP
Chris Emerson	KP
Larry Calkins	KP
Barry Brogan	KP
Kerin Scheible	KP
Bettina Lipphardt	KP
Laura Zocco	State
Marni Millet	State
Doug Sitterly	State

Gallery Attendees: Beth White – RPC Finger lakes Coordinator, Peter Griffiths – RPC NC Coordinator, Jessica Gonyou – TLS, HHH Workgroup Co-Chair