



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of
Mental Health

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

2023 Goals and Plans Form

Warren/Washington County Office of Community Services

Goal 1: Strengthen opportunities to prevent mental health and substance use disorders

Goal 2: Increase access for flexible behavioral health and substance use services with a focus on crisis services

Goal 3: Explore solutions for the workforce crisis

Goal 4 (Optional): Focus on prevention of adverse childhood experiences as well as interventions addressing the impact of ACE's

Goal 5 (Optional): Continued focus on housing and residential needs to promote supportive environments for people of all ages

Annual and intermediate plans for addiction services:

With the incoming ARPA funding and opioid settlement funds, there are a number of intermediate plans available to sustain and expand existing programs. The addition of staff positions that are available to provide mobile services to individuals in the community is a current proposal from a community provider along with an additional position for a community outreach coordinator, which would be housed at our local recovery center.

The continuation of prevention programming and education and awareness through the Council for Prevention is also critical for our children and youth at this time. The Council also maintains the Challenge Program, an outdoor wilderness-based treatment program for youth with substance use issues.

AHI is also a community partner and is currently overseeing the R-CORP (rural communities opioid response program) to offer naloxboxes at a variety of agencies as well as public accommodations within our two counties. This project will allow ease of access to Narcan, a lifesaving measure for those that have overdosed on opioids and fentanyl.

There are also additional opportunities for a Family Support Peer Navigator that one of our contract agencies is hoping to receive funding for. One of the major gaps in services in our area is family support for those that have a loved one that is struggling with substance use concerns. Often there is not compassionate advocacy within these systems to support the family and addiction is a family issue. The more support and healing that occurs within the family unit, the better the chances are for individual recovery. Our current models of treatment recognize this tangentially however with the challenges of the last three years, it has been increasingly difficult to build those supports for a variety of reasons.

Additionally, the need for 24/7 substance use mobile treatment is a goal and maybe a reality for Addictions Care Center of Albany to provide with SOR II funding. The agency

is aware of the need and has prioritized the expansion of their mobile program to meet the needs of the community.

Lastly, we have worked with the NYS OMH Diversion Center, who has contracted with People USA to provide 3 rounds of Crisis Intervention Training to our two counties over the next few years. People has also received funding to launch their forensic support team, which intersects across all three disability areas. We have several outreach programs through Baywood and WWAMH that will help those that have had interactions with law enforcement as well as helping to bridge the gap for individuals who are transitioning back into the community.

Annually we plan to focus efforts on the increased access to person-centered substance use services that are flexible and easily accessible. We will continue to work with our communities and contract agencies to engage family and peer supports that will help grow a flourishing recovery community.

Annual and intermediate plans for developmental disability services:

Our annual plan for services in the intellectual and developmental disabilities population is to focus on workforce. This primary goal is also the focus for the intermediate plans as this area seems to have hit the hardest with our I/DD agencies, particularly with their congregate care homes and the COVID restrictions and changes that dictated how staffing was met during the height of the pandemic.

We plan to continue relationship building with local employment offices as well as the Hudson Mohawk area health education center to determine strategies to meet the workforce needs of the I/DD service providers in our region.

Within each of the three disability areas, we continue to keep the lens of racial disparities and cultural competency to ensure that services and interventions are available to all.

Annual and intermediate plans for mental health services:

At this time our intermediate plans are focused on expanding services for accessibility and ease. WWAMH, a community contract agency is working with OMH to open two new behavioral health clinic sites in our community, one will be at a local school and the other will be within a pediatric office.

We also have launched a LOSS team for survivors of suicide to provide community resources and supports through a grant from the NYS Suicide Prevention Center. The expansion and implementation of this team will be further added to our annual plan to ensure that we are able to effectively disseminate the information within our two counties.

There are also additional outreach programs that will very likely be funded with ARPA monies that cover both the needs of those with substance use and mental health issues.

People USA will be strategizing with the Office of Community Services over the next year to market and launch their forensic mobile team along with the expansion of LEAMHRS (Law Enforcement and Addiction and Mental Health Referral System) to add an outreach worker to the program. The program has been very well received and utilized and is need of an additional FTE to meet the needs of the community.

The Office of Community Services is also working closely with community partners and

agencies to implement the Systems of Care model. Linda Wright, our Children and Youth SPOA coordinator is spearheading this and collaborating with providers and informal support systems in the community. In addition, as part of our annual plan we are looking at the overall needs of youth and children in the mental health system to expand more flexible supports, including wrap-around services to families and children. Glens Falls hospital has reported an over 200% increase in their crisis unit over the last year. It is not uncommon for children and youth to be in the crisis unit for far longer than a typical stay as the resources to appropriately support the level of care needed are not readily available locally.

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LGU Representative Title: Program Analyst

Submitted for: Warren/Washington County Office of Community Services



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2023 Needs Assessment Form

Warren/Washington County Office of Community Services

Adverse Childhood Experiences Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional):

Crisis Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional):

Cross System Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): Working with the criminal justice and law enforcement to better serve our communities has been a focus of cross systems work

Housing Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Need description (Optional):

Inpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Need description (Optional):

Outpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional):

Prevention Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional):

Transition Age Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Need description (Optional):

Workforce Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional):

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