



## Goals and Objectives 2024 Community Health & Dutchess County Department of Behavioral

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### Goal 1

Goal 1: Title Increase housing opportunities for people with behavioral health needs

Goal 1: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 1: Description Dutchess county is facing a housing crisis that is impacting the entire community. In 2022, the county completed a housing needs assessment (uploaded document). Market conditions and affordability have impacted all residents and individuals with behavioral health needs are a part of that group. Homelessness impacts an individuals wellness in many ways and it is difficult if not impossible to focus on improving mental health without a roof over your head. The stability afforded to those who have consistent and adequate housing is so important and is a right that should be provided to everyone regardless of their cognitive ability, substance use or mental health challenges. Our local homeless shelters have many individuals who have significant developmental and behavioral health concerns. This population of people requires specialized intervention when approaching and planning for permanent housing. We intend to work with our local housing partners to coordinate and address the needs of people with unmet behavioral health needs that are homeless.

Goal 1: OASAS? Yes Goal 1: OMH? Yes Goal 1: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 1: Need Addressed 1 Housing

Goal 1: Need Addressed 2 Cross System Services

Goal 1: Need Addressed 3 Outpatient treatment

Goal 1, Objective 1: Title Partner with community agencies to provide mental health and substance use services for individuals experiencing homelessness

Goal 1, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 1, Objective 1, Description By 2025, there will be a community based provider who is able to offer substance use treatment services within the emergency shelter system. These services will be flexible, low barrier and on-site to reduce obstacles to treatment.

Goal 1, Objective 2: Title Develop an on-site county run mental health unit to overcome obstacles to housing associated with behavioral health needs

Goal 1, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 1, Objective 2, Description By 2025, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health will develop a small unit (2 clinicians) who are able to provide on site mental health services to overcome mental health needs that interfere with a person's ability to secure housing.

Goal 1, Objective 3: Title Advocate for the development of additional housing units

Goal 1, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 3, Description By 2027, the LGU will offer ongoing conversations with the community around housing for individuals with behavioral health challenges. This may be done through the "100 cups of coffee" model or public forum, or a combination. This is intended to address the "Not in my backyard" by actively engaging the community in conversations around the topic of housing.

Goal 1, Objective 4: Title Increase recovery housing options

Goal 1, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 1, Objective 4, Description The LGU will work with community based providers to increase recovery housing options that can accommodate people with a wide range of behavioral health needs.

Goal 1, Objective 5: Title Pursue IRA development with the State and local providers

Goal 1, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 5, Description Dutchess County residents desperately need respite resource for the I/DD population. This need is to be explored thoroughly and aggressively with OPWDD at the local and state level as this issue has been discussed for at least 15 years and little, if anything, has been accomplished. One provider within the County used to operate a respite facility but that program appears to no longer be a viable option. Consumers, families, and caregivers need this option.

## Goal 2

Goal 2: Title Increase the number of peer advocates and certified recovery coaches

Goal 2: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 2: Description Dutchess County recognizes the value that people with lived experience bring to the table. We aim to increase the number peers (youth and adults) involved in decision making.

Goal 2: OASAS? Yes Goal 2: OMH? Yes Goal 2: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 2: Need Addressed 1 Workforce

Goal 2: Need Addressed 2 Non-Clinical supports

Goal 2: Need Addressed 3

Goal 2, Objective 1: Title Increase peers in sub-committees and advisory board

Goal 2, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 2, Objective 1, Description By 2025, there will be at least one individual with lived experience on each of the mental hygiene advisory board (Community Services board) sub-committees and on the full board. This valuable input will assist in developing a local services plan that accurately reflects the service needs of the community.

Goal 2, Objective 2: Title Increase training opportunities for peers

Goal 2, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2026

Goal 2, Objective 2, Description The LGU will hold training opportunities or collaborate with partner agencies to increase workforce for people with lived experience. This may include a certified recovery peer advocate (CRPA training) or peer advocate trainings.

Goal 2, Objective 3: Title Create a youth advisory board

Goal 2, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2026

Goal 2, Objective 3, Description The LGU will create a sub-committee of the Community Services Board, or other advisory council, which will be comprised of youth who have used the behavioral health services in Dutchess County. The intent of this group will be to inform the improvement of the service delivery system for youth.

## Goal 3

Goal 3: Title Improve the emergency response system within the 988 catchment area to better match the needs of the community with the appropriate service

Goal 3: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2024

Goal 3: Description Over the course of the last several years there has been increased dialogue in our community about having behavioral health experts respond to behavioral health crisis rather than police.

Goal 3: OASAS? Yes Goal 3: OMH? Yes Goal 3: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 3: Need Addressed 1 Crisis Services

Goal 3: Need Addressed 2

Goal 3: Need Addressed 3

Goal 3, Objective 1: Title Set up a comprehensive 911 to 988 diversion system such that non emergent 911 calls are handled by the 988 call center

Goal 3, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2024

Goal 3, Objective 1, Description This project will be part of the development of the 988 call center in Dutchess County which currently covers Dutchess, Sullivan and Ulster county. The aim here is to ensure that uniformed officers are not responding to behavioral health emergencies unless that is the best viable option. It also reduces the number of ambulances deployed to behavioral health emergencies, ensuring that the individual receives support from a mental health professional.

## Goal 4

Goal 4: Title Increase opportunities for outreach and engagement with the whole community with a focus on individuals experiencing health disparities

Goal 4: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 4: Description Dutchess county has an increasing population of people who either do not speak English or English is a second language. According to data collected in the community health improvement plan (attached) mental health and substance use supports are rated as one of the highest needs expressed by all people who were surveyed. The LGU recognizes that there are pockets of communities within the county that have significant challenges accessing service due to transportation needs, poverty and stigma as well as language barriers. We aim to break down these barriers to accessing care.

Goal 4: OASAS? Yes Goal 4: OMH? Yes Goal 4: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 4: Need Addressed 1 Prevention

Goal 4: Need Addressed 2 Refugees and immigrants

Goal 4: Need Addressed 3 Non-Clinical supports

Goal 4, Objective 1: Title Utilize the DBCH Recreational Vehicle "Clinic on Wheels" to increase access to care

Goal 4, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 1, Description Programming for the RV will be developed over the next few years and will provide mental health screenings, connection to care and ongoing counseling supports to rural and urban parts of the county that have

been shown through data sources to reflect communities experiencing reduced access to care.

Goal 4, Objective 2: Title Partner with community based organizations to share resources and build relationships with black and brown communities.

Goal 4, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 2, Description the LGU will partner with local grassroots organizations regularly, creating a comprehensive health disparities committee to ensure that we are reaching communities in need of behavioral health services.

Goal 4, Objective 3: Title

Goal 4, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 4, Objective 3, Description

## Goal 5

Goal 5: Title Decrease untimely death by overdose and suicide in Dutchess County.

Goal 5: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 5: Description Overdose and suicide deaths in Dutchess County are on the rise (data is attached). Given this grim reality, the LGU is posed to work with community partners and coordinate several initiatives in order to prevent deaths of despair by suicide and accidental overdose.

Goal 5: OASAS? Yes Goal 5: OMH? Yes Goal 5: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 5: Need Addressed 1 Crisis Services

Goal 5: Need Addressed 2 Prevention

Goal 5: Need Addressed 3 Non-Clinical supports

Goal 5, Objective 1: Title reduce suicide by firearms by collaborating with firearm safety instructors

Goal 5, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2024

Goal 5, Objective 1, Description The resiliency Council for Suicide Prevention will meet with gun shop owners and firearms instructors on an ongoing basis to distribute resources and educate people about suicide prevention and gatekeeper trainings.

Goal 5, Objective 2: Title The LGU will facilitate an overdose and fatality review to identify system breakdowns

Goal 5, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 5, Objective 2, Description Overdose and fatality review will be an ongoing, quarterly process in which cases are reviewed by a group of stakeholders in order to identify system breakdowns. Patterns will be collected and analyzed in order to make system changes to prevent untimely deaths.

Goal 5, Objective 3: Title Increase the targeted distribution of Harm Reduction supplies to the community by developing an overdose response network, spike alerts and harm reduction kit leave behinds

Goal 5, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 5, Objective 3, Description Dutchess County would like to improve its real time response to overdoses in the community. We currently do not have a coordinated effort with first responders to respond to recent overdoses. This will be developed and implemented over the next years.

## Goal 6

Goal 6: Title Increase access to inpatient and outpatient mental health services

Goal 6: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 6: Description Dutchess County is in desperate need of additional public mental health providers. There are very high caseloads, long wait lists and the need to pause intakes by our current providers. Part of this is a workforce issue. Providers state that because they are unable to recruit and retain staff, this remains an ongoing problem. However, capacity was an issue prior to the current workforce crisis we currently find ourselves in. We have two main providers for public mental health services in Dutchess. Astor provides services for children and youth and Family Services provides adult services. We also have other options such as PROS. However, we see a need to increase capacity for access to regular clinic services for adults and children. Dutchess County also does not have any in-patient beds for youth. Data provided to us by the Westchester Medical Center Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital indicates that 288 children were sent out of Dutchess County in one year for inpatient hospitalization. Having our youth sent out of county to Westchester or even further makes an already challenging situation for youth and their families worse. Transportation becomes a barrier to visitation and participation in treatment, furthering the disparities that many of our families face. Additionally, treatment of individuals with an IDD diagnosis within our public mental health system is very difficult to find. Individuals on the autism spectrum who may have a co-occurring psychiatric condition often find that they are excluded from our treatment system due to a deficit of clinicians able to work with this population.

Goal 6: OASAS? Yes Goal 6: OMH? Yes Goal 6: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 6: Need Addressed 1 Cross System Services

Goal 6: Need Addressed 2 Inpatient Treatment

Goal 6: Need Addressed 3 Outpatient treatment

Goal 6, Objective 1: Title Partner with Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital on the Behavioral Health Center for Excellence

Goal 6, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 6, Objective 1, Description Over the next few years, Dutchess County has committed to working closely with our local 9.39 hospital. Through this process we aim to do perform quarterly site visits, review ongoing data and outcome metrics provided to us by the hospital to inform programmatic planning and decision making and advocate for in-patient beds for youth in Dutchess County.

Goal 6, Objective 2: Title Bring in at least two new providers of article 31 services to Dutchess County

Goal 6, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 6, Objective 2, Description Contract with or approve operations of at least two new providers of adult and youth out patient services in the county to increase capacity to treat and prevent the furtherance of behavioral health challenges.

## Goal 7

Goal 7: Title Improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and development challenges

Goal 7: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 7: Description Dutchess County has a commitment to improving the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental challenges and their families. Through the ThinkDifferently initiative, and All Abilities Action plan has been developed that outlines a roadmap to accomplishing this in various ways.

Goal 7: OASAS? No Goal 7: OMH? No Goal 7: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 7: Need Addressed 1 Non-Clinical supports

Goal 7: Need Addressed 2 Employment/volunteer (client)

Goal 7: Need Addressed 3 Housing

Goal 7, Objective 1: Title Enhance the awareness and utilization of legal instruments related to health care, end of life and financial planning as they relate to persons with I/DD

Goal 7, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 7, Objective 1, Description Provide trainings, forums, discussion groups and presentations a in concert with the Providers Council, providers' forums, social media and various contact rosters.

Ensure families are aware of their options in estate planning, trusts and guardianship to protect their assets and IDD individuals' potential entitlements

Goal 7, Objective 2: Title formulate a Special Education Bootcamp Committee of professionals and, parents to discuss the Special Education System in Dutchess County.

Goal 7, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 7, Objective 2, Description In the first quarter of 2024 conduct at least 1 Special Education Bootcamp meeting to begin formulating outline of needs of the special education community.

Goal 7, Objective 3: Title Partner with community based organization to promote the hiring of individuals on the autism spectrum

Goal 7, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2024

Goal 7, Objective 3, Description Anderson Center for Autism will provide the Autism Supportive Employment training to local businesses/ employers.

Goal 7, Objective 4: Title partner with local recreation programs to offer all abilities programming

Goal 7, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 7, Objective 4, Description ThinkDIFFERENTLY Event Planning Committee combined will discuss with at least 6 organizations, programs, agencies, etc. about all abilities programming.

Goal 7, Objective 5: Title Partner with the Regional Housing Collaborative to promote housing opportunities for people of all abilities

Goal 7, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 7, Objective 5, Description NY Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation has created a Regional Housing Collaboratives (RHCs) meeting. RHC is committed to gathering housing stakeholders regionally for the sole purpose of resourcing and creating housing opportunities for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). RHCs will include landlords, Housing Navigators, housing developers, NYS Government i.e., OPWDD, NYS Homes & Community Renewal, funders, and provider agencies and each will be led by the New York Housing Resource Center (NYHRC) team

Goal 7, Objective 6: Title Develop a community Certification Program for new and existing buildings for exceeding ADA standards

Goal 7, Objective 6, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2026

Goal 7, Objective 6, Description Dutchess County ThinkDIFFERENTLY will begin to formulate a Community Certification Program for new and existing buildings/ businesses in Dutchess County. The creation of best practices for accessibility and inclusion beyond standard ADA compliance on new projects and remodels. The ThinkDIFFERENTLY Community Certification program will promote businesses and locations that commit to design spaces that are welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for all.



Office of Addiction  
Services and Supports

Office of  
Mental Health

Office for People With  
Developmental Disabilities

## 2024 Needs Assessment Form Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

### **Crisis Services** Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

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

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

### **Forensics** Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

### **Housing** Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

### **Inpatient Treatment** Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

### **Non-Clinical Supports** Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes  
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

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

**Prevention** Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

**Refugees and Immigrants** Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

**Respite** Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

**Workforce** Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

**LGU Representative:** Jean-Marie Niebuhr

**Submitted for:** Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health