



2023 Goals and Plans Form

Franklin County Community Services

Goal 1: Housing: Create housing opportunities for community members with mental health and co-occurring disorders in need of safe and affordable housing.

Goal 2: Crisis Services: Ensure that crisis intervention and stabilization services are available and accessible to support Franklin County youth and adults who are experiencing mental health / co-occurring crises.

Goal 3: Transportation: Develop or expand mobile services and Medicaid-reimbursable transportation options to make services more accessible.

Goal 4 (Optional): High-Need Individuals: Enhance collaboration between agencies to provide comprehensive supports to the highest-need community members with mental health, substance abuse, and IDD, and particularly those with co-occurring disorders.

Goal 5 (Optional): Prevention: Strengthen existing prevention and engagement strategies to reduce substance use and improve mental health through education and support for youth, adults, and families.

Goal 6 (Optional): Workforce: Develop and implement strategies to recruit and retain a highly skilled rural mental hygiene workforce.

Goal 7 (Optional): Strengthening Relationships with Law Enforcement: Provide education and support to officers during and after calls involving individuals with mental health needs and co-occurring disorders to promote trauma-informed responses.

Goal 8 (Optional): Adverse Childhood Experiences: Expand trauma-informed, school-based, and community-based services to youth to reduce the need for out-of-home placement and to improve long-term outcomes for youth and families.

Annual and intermediate plans for addiction services:

Prevention

- Expand partnerships between the Tri-Lakes Community Alliance for Addiction Prevention in the south end and the Franklin County Prevention Taskforce in the north end to develop and enhance substance abuse prevention activities for Franklin County community members across the county by quarter 2 of 2023 (Citizen Advocates, St. Joe's, Franklin County Community Services).

- Explore funding opportunities to hire a coordinator for the Tri-Lakes Community Alliance by quarter 2 of 2023 (Franklin County Community Services, St. Joe's).

- Explore a pilot project within Akwesasne that would provide mental health first aid training to community members, allowing them to intervene when family or community

members are struggling with addiction or mental health needs, in partnership with supporting clinicians, by quarter 3 of 2023 (Akwesasne).

Transportation

- Continue to develop a collaboration with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide Medicaid reimbursement for transporting individuals who are accessing addiction services (St. Joe's).
- Continue to increase outreach, engagement, and clinical services through the use of mobile treatment vehicles (St. Joe's).

High-Need Individuals

- Expand substance use disorder treatment and support services for incarcerated individuals in Franklin County through the introduction of peer support workers by quarter 1 of 2023 (St. Joe's, Citizen Advocates).
- Develop a cross-agency task force to coordinate services for high-need individuals with addiction needs and mental health conditions who engage frequently with law enforcement in Akwesasne (St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Police, DSS, mental health and substance use disorder services, Franklin County Community Services).

Collaboration with Law Enforcement

- Note that plans for law enforcement collaboration described above under plans for mental health services apply to addiction services as well.

Housing

- Note that plans for Harrison Place and the Ruth House conversion described under plans for mental health services apply to addiction services also:
 - o Specifically, 8 beds at Harrison Place will be for individuals with addiction.
 - o Ruth House, which is being converted to housing for transition-aged youth, will offer substance use prevention and treatment services to youth with addictions or co-occurring disorders.

Workforce

- Note that plans for addressing workforce issues described above under plans for mental health services apply to addiction services as well.

Annual and intermediate plans for developmental disability services:

Crisis Services

- Raise awareness of CSIDD opportunities to support individuals in co-occurring crisis

through presentations to the Community Services Board and agencies (OPWDD, CSIDD, Franklin County Community Services).

- Create strategies to better support individuals with IDD / co-occurring disorders when they present at hospital emergency departments in crisis situations (Alice Hyde, Adirondack Medical Center, Adirondack ARC, Franklin County Community Services).
- Develop a plan to proactively identify individuals with IDD / co-occurring disorders to prevent the escalation of crisis (Adirondack ARC, Citizen Advocates, Franklin County Community Services).
- Educate staff about the needs of people with developmental disabilities who may require crisis services through a training presentation, including the supports and services available during a crisis (Citizen Advocates, OPWDD).

Collaboration with Law Enforcement

- Note that plans for law enforcement collaboration described above under plans for mental health services apply to developmental disability services as well.

Workforce

- Note that plans for addressing workforce issues described above under plans for mental health services apply to developmental disability services as well.

Annual and intermediate plans for mental health services:

Housing

- By December 2023, complete construction on Harison Place. Develop plans for a SPOA process to accept referrals for individuals with serious mental illness and substance use disorders (12 beds will be available for SMI and 8 beds will be available for SUD) (Franklin County Community Services, Citizen Advocates).
- Convert Ruth House, a transitional housing facility in the county, to a residence that supports women and children, with the potential to support transition-aged youth, ages 16-28 (Department of Social Services). Develop a preliminary plan and begin implementation of individualized, recovery-oriented on-site mental health and addiction services for individuals residing at Ruth House (Community Connections, Franklin County Department of Social Services, Franklin County Community Services).

Crisis Services

- By the first quarter of 2023, renovate the crisis center to create separate suites for adults and children in need of crisis services, allowing children/youth to utilize the crisis center without a parent or guardian present on site (Citizen Advocates).

- Submit an application to OMH for a 589 / Children's Crisis Residence to expand crisis services for children, youth, and adults in Franklin County by the end of 2022 (Citizen Advocates).

- Implement Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) as a trauma-informed community model across Franklin County to reduce crisis incidents and improve client outcomes. In 2022, Franklin County engaged Cornell University to train 16 providers as certified TCI trainers. In 2023, these trainers will provide TCI training within their organizations to approximately 50 to 75 additional providers (Franklin County Community Services).

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Through Franklin County's SAMHSA System of Care grant, implement the school-as-a-hub model within the Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, and Chateaugay school districts. This model provides youth with serious emotional disturbances (SED) with intensive in-school mental health support services, including clinical services, care coordination, family support, youth peer support, and crisis support. The model supports youth with mental health needs in their homes, schools, and communities, with the goals of reducing the need for out-of-home/out-of-school placements and improving long-term outcomes (Franklin County Community Services, school districts, partner organizations).

- Through Franklin County's SAMHSA System of Care grant, expand the provision of in-home clinical and support services for youth in foster care and preventative care in Franklin County. Funding will be used to hire additional clinical and support staff who can serve more families through an intensive service model, with the goals of accelerating permanency for youth and preventing the need for multiple foster placements and/or residential placement (Franklin County Community Services, school districts, partner organizations).

- By the first quarter of 2023, the Franklin County System of Care Council will collaborate to develop a shared mission, vision, and values statement, in addition to a logo. These efforts will be used to increase collaboration and buy-in from county partners and to enhance awareness of the Council and its activities (Franklin County Community Services).

- To increase awareness of available services and improve the ease of navigating services, Franklin County is partnering with Flyer Connect to deploy the ReachWell app. This interactive app streamlines how families are informed about services and updates in the community through a user-friendly interface. Messages can be sent to families in several formats, and the app allows for language translation (System of Care Council, Franklin County Community Services).

- Expand the Family Support Advocate program to additional school districts, including Brushton, St. Regis, and Malone, by quarter 1 of 2023. Family Support Advocates will

work with families on social determinants of health, including housing needs, referrals, and transportation to service appointments (Community Connections).

Strengthening Collaboration with Law Enforcement

- Conduct Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety trainings throughout the county for law enforcement, EMS, and fire/rescue agencies, including one training in the south end of the county and one training in Akwesasne (Franklin County Community Services).
- Conduct outreach efforts within the Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake police departments to expand participation in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training (Community Connections).
- Provide additional training and technical support to officers on data collection to evaluate the impact of current law enforcement and provider collaborations (Community Connections).
- Increase officer awareness about clinical support offered through Clinician and Law Enforcement Partnership (CALEP) through outreach and training, and explore expanding the CALEP programs to new communities, including Tupper Lake and Malone, by quarter 1 of 2023 (Citizen Advocates).
- Reconvene an advisory council of law enforcement and provider agencies to implement sequential intercept mapping for Franklin County by quarter 3 of 2023 (Law Enforcement, Franklin County Community Services).

Workforce

- The Community Services Board and participating agencies will collaborate with the Northern Area Health Education Center / Institute for Career Advancement in Medicine to develop workforce recruitment and retention strategies (Community Services Board, Franklin County Community Services, participating agencies).
- Provide opportunities for participating agencies of the Community Services Board to share ideas and strategies to improve recruitment and retention of the workforce (Community Services Board, participating agencies).
- Explore opportunities to partner with the BOCES New Vision for Teachers program to develop a workforce pathway for the human services field (Franklin County Community Services).

LGU Representative Name: Suzanne Lavigne

LGU Representative Title: Director of Community Services

Submitted for: Franklin County Community Services



2023 Needs Assessment Form

Franklin County 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): • Child abuse and neglect are pervasive issues in Franklin County. The rate of child abuse/neglect reports is 26.9 per 1,000 children, which is higher than the state rate of 14.6/1,000 children.

- The number of CPS reports has increased in Franklin County between 2020 and 2022. There were 532 CPS reports in 2020 and 648 in 2021; the projected number for 2022 is 714, which represents an increase of 10.19% compared to 2021. Data from 2021 indicated that CPS reports most often center on inadequate guardianship, a parent's drug or alcohol misuse, lack of supervision, and educational neglect.
- Foster care admission rates are among the state's highest, with 4.2 admissions per 1,000 children. Between January and September of 2022, 48 children were discharged from foster care, while 26 children were admitted. A count on the date of September 30, 2022, indicated that 127 children were in care in Franklin County.
- Franklin County has a high rate of children in poverty compared to the state average (25% in Franklin County vs. 17% in New York State).
- Nearly one-fifth of children (18.8%) in Franklin County faced food insecurity, and more than half of children in Franklin County are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

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): • Franklin County is experiencing increased demand for crisis services for both adults and youth, with providers articulating a need to expand the continuum of crisis services.

- According to providers from Citizen Advocates, mobile crisis visits have increased by approximately 30% to 40% in 2022.
- The gap in crisis services is pronounced in the south end of the county, due to limited crisis services in the Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake areas, and access barriers to services located in the north end, such as the Crisis and Recovery Center.
- Franklin County providers articulated a high demand for crisis services regarding school-aged children. Due to the layout of the Crisis and Recovery Center, a parent or guardian must stay on the premises with the child, creating barriers to care when a family requires respite.
- Franklin County providers further indicate a need for preventative services to reduce reliance on crisis services, such as prompt delivery of outpatient services and timely access to prescribing providers.

Employment/volunteer (client) Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): • Franklin County providers report that employment is a challenge for residents with mental health conditions, substance use conditions, and developmental disabilities.

- For the Franklin County population overall, Census data indicates an unemployment rate of 3.5%. In addition, 49.5% of adults are not in the labor force.

Forensics Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Need description (Optional): • Franklin County Community Services observed an increase in adult 730 cases. When community members with mental health conditions and/or intellectual/developmental disabilities become involved with the justice system, a 730 examination is required to assess their capability to understand the charges against them and to assist in their own defense.

- As of October, there were 12 adult 730 cases so far in 2022, compared with 6 cases in 2021 and 16 cases in 2020.

Housing Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): • Franklin County providers report an increased need for safe and affordable housing, which is scarce in the county. Nearly half of Franklin County renters are rent-burdened (48.55%, spending more than 30% of their income on housing) and about a fifth are severely rent burdened (20.55%, spending more than 50% of their income on housing).

- The most recent point-in-time (PIT) estimate for Franklin and Essex Counties identified 37 households (and 43 individuals) in emergency shelters.
- As of October, there have been 61 SPOA referrals for housing so far in 2022. In 2021, there were a total of 95 housing referrals.
- Franklin County providers also reported an increased need for emergency housing, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing, as the current number of slots is not sufficient to meet the need. Providers from St. Joe's, for example, reported that 25 individuals are on a supportive housing waitlist as of October 2022.
- Franklin County providers reported an increase in housing needs among transition-aged youth and LGBTQ youth.
- According to Franklin County providers, there is a need for homelessness prevention services prior to residents' experiencing eviction from housing.
- Providers from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (Akwesasne) reported an ongoing lack of affordable housing, resulting in crowded and unsafe housing conditions. Housing opportunities in Akwesasne are particularly scarce for individuals with mental health and/or addiction needs.

Inpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): • Franklin County residents in need of 9.39 admissions are experiencing substantial wait times for placement. According to hospital providers, these community members are often waiting in county emergency departments for extended periods due to a lack of appropriate inpatient placements.

- Franklin County providers reported significant barriers to securing inpatient services for individuals with complex needs—particularly regarding individuals with IDD diagnoses who are exhibiting aggressive behavior. Providers report a lack of inpatient referral options to meet the needs of these community members

- The most recent data available indicates that of the 752 Franklin County residents receiving OPWDD services through Medicaid, 360 were dually diagnosed. Per Franklin County providers, it is particularly challenging to secure 939 placements for individuals who have both IDDs and co-occurring disorders.

Prevention Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): • While substantial substance use prevention approaches are being implemented in schools across the county, Franklin County providers articulated a need for community-based prevention and education as well, covering topics such as smoking/vaping cessation, as well as alcohol, marijuana, and opioid dependence.

- Providers also reported an ongoing need for NARCAN training, given the impact of the opioid crisis in Franklin County. One agency, Citizen Advocates, provided NARCAN training to 176 individuals in 2021 and 52 individuals in 2022 (as of October), with additional trainings scheduled.

- In Franklin County, substance use treatment admissions were most frequently related to alcohol use (38.9%), followed by opioid use (37.8%). In general, Franklin County providers are reporting an increase in alcohol consumption among clients served, requiring intervention.

- Franklin County providers, including providers serving Akwesasne, report a need for healthy, accessible, and developmentally appropriate activities for youth as a key aspect of prevention.

Residential Treatment Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): • According to providers, Franklin County is experiencing a high demand for 820 services, which are focused on stabilization and reintegration.

- Franklin County continues to receive many SPOA referrals for youth in need of residential treatment facilities, and there is a waitlist for this placement type. In 2021, there were 59 SPOA referrals for youth residential treatment facilities. As of October, there were 50 referrals for youth residential treatment facilities in 2022.

Respite Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): • Franklin County providers report high demand for 589 crisis services for both youth and adults.

- Providers from Citizen Advocates, which offers crisis respite services through the Crisis and Recovery Center, report that beds are typically full, and thus are not always available to community members when they require the service.

- Franklin County providers articulated a need for peer-run respite services for adults with mental health needs.
- To date, OPWDD has not developed a rate that supports crisis respite services, which creates barriers to crisis services for individuals with IDD diagnoses.
- Franklin County providers also report a need to expand crisis respite options for children and youth. Hospital providers from Alice Hyde, for example, report that parents are bringing children to the emergency department due to a lack of respite services.

Transition Age Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Need description (Optional): • Franklin County providers are reporting an increase in both housing and service needs among transition-aged youth (those between ages 16 and 24).

- A 2022 survey on housing and service needs of transition-aged youth was completed by 69 providers in the county. Approximately half of the respondents described mental health and addiction services as insufficient for transition-aged youth, while approximately three-quarters of the respondents indicated that housing and support services are insufficient.

- Providers report that transition-aged youth with intellectual/developmental disabilities who age out of school need higher-level community supports. However, IRAs in the county lack adequate staffing to house and support these individuals, resulting in extended wait times.

Transportation Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): • According to Franklin County providers, transportation is one of the most significant barriers to service provision. Transportation was one of the most frequently cited barriers to services in a recent survey of individuals using mental health services in Franklin County.

- Community members in the south end are often located very far from services, without access to personal or public transportation.

- Hospital providers reported transportation barriers for community members with mental health conditions transitioning from the emergency department to inpatient placements.

Workforce Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): • Franklin County is experiencing substantial challenges with the mental health, addiction, and IDD workforce in terms of both recruitment and retention.

- Franklin County is considered a health professional shortage area, with just 17 providers per 10,000 people.

- Franklin County providers reported numerous open positions that remain unfilled, while the need for services in the community is high. Compounding the issue, affordable housing for the workforce is extremely limited, as is affordable childcare. Franklin County providers report that appropriate candidates sometimes turn down job offers due to these barriers.

Justice-Involved / Law Enforcement Collaboration Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): • Providers and law enforcement officials within Akwesasne reported an increase in the volume of calls regarding high-need community members—those experiencing mental health conditions and co-occurring disorders. Some of these community members engage often with law enforcement, straining existing resources.

- Franklin County providers reported a need to build upon early successes regarding law enforcement collaborations by expanding to additional police departments. These collaborations include officer training in the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model, as well as dedicated mental health clinicians who work with law enforcement.

- Franklin County providers are also reporting an increase in the incidence of clients with complex needs, which challenges service provision. For instance, clients with complex needs in agency-supported housing are sometimes experiencing eviction due to criminal behavior related to substance use.

LGU Representative: Suzanne Lavigne

Submitted for: Franklin County Community Services