



2023 Goals and Plans Form

Essex County Mental Health Services

Goal 1: Increase availability of supportive/therapeutic housing for County residents (a) with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), (b) with substance use disorders, (c) at-risk youth, and/or (d) people with Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD)

Goal 2: Establish crisis stabilization/respice services for youth and adult for youth and adults (a) with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), (b) with substance use disorders, (c) at-risk youth, and /or (d) people with I/DD

Goal 3: Identify and quantify the breadth and depth of the shortages ad/ore vacancies within provider agenices.

Goal 4 (Optional): Increase integration of care through a System of Care by leveraging Essex County providers' capacities involving human services, education, health and the justice system.

Annual and intermediate plans for addiction services:

In Essex County, our focus is to utilize referrals coming through the LEMHRS (Law Enforcement Mental Health Referral System) as a way to encourage those with SUD to engage in services. Typically, the people who are coming to us through that system are the more "ill" community members, than those coming from other resources.

Annual and intermediate plans for developmental disability services:

Improving prevention services for children at the highest level of need is our focus. We want NO child sitting in the ER with no place to go for higher level needs of service.

Additionally, we want to figure out how to restore our children's respice services for beyond that of <24 hours. We had a wonderful respice system in place years ago and we would like to figure out a way to restore that system.

Annual and intermediate plans for mental health services:

Our biggest need for mental health services is meeting the need of school-based services. This is a workforce issue. In Essex County, the closest Social Worker of Mental Health Counselor colleges are 1.0 to 1.5 hours away. Unless someone lived her prior to college and has plans to return to Essex County to provide schools, we have a very difficult time recruiting staff. Additionally, the available moderate-income housing in Essex County got swallowed up by persons coming from other regions to live in and work remotely in the Adirondacks. We are in a housing crisis.

LGU Representative Name: Terri Morse

LGU Representative Title: Director

Submitted for: Essex County Mental Health Services

NYS Issue Category	Local Need	Goal	Objective
<p>a) Housing</p>	<p>Local Need a: Based on CSB subcommittee reports, there are insufficient housing opportunities in Essex County for individuals recovering from substance use disorder(s) who are in need of a structured residential environment.</p> <p>The only housing resources available in Essex County for people with serious mental illnesses are rent stipends via MHA or HUD. Consumers in need of more structured, supervised and supportive services are referred to out-of-county resources.</p> <p>There are 16 -21 year olds needing residential services who have been identified through SPOA. They are not eligible for foster care, not ready for independent living, unable to live with family, and at risk of homelessness and involvement with the criminal justice system.</p> <p>The supportive housing available for people with I/DD is not enough to support the need.</p>	<p>Goal a: Increase availability of supportive/ therapeutic housing for County residents (a) with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), (b) with substance use disorders, (c) at-risk youth, and/or (d) people with Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD).</p>	<p>Objective a1: Identify and monitor all funding initiatives for development of sustainable housing programs for county residents.</p> <p>Objective a2: Participate in county-wide task force focusing on affordable housing.</p> <p>(Note: This objective supports Objective 1.1b of the Statewide Prevention Agenda 2019-2024) <i>Objective 1.1 b) Support housing improvement, affordability and stability through approaches such as housing improvement, community land trusts and using a “whole person” approach in medical care.</i></p>
<p>c) Crisis Services</p>	<p>Local Need c: As noted by the National Alliance on Mental Illness in a posting on May 6, 2020, “the coronavirus [COVID-19] pandemic is pushing America into a mental health crisis.... Federal agencies and experts warn that a historic wave of mental health problems is approaching: depression, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide.... Data show</p>	<p>Goal c: Establish crisis stabilization/respite services for youth and adults (a) with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), (b) with substance use disorders, (c) at-risk youth and/or (d) people with I/DD.</p> <p><i>Note: This goal supports the</i></p>	<p>Objective c.1: Development of Behavioral Health Community Crisis Stabilization Services for children and adults in Essex County to include mobile crisis teams, respite, domestic violence interventions, ER diversion protocols, a safe location for after-hours services and telehealth services.</p> <p>Objective c.2: Explore collaborative solutions utilizing local ERs, law enforcement, peer services, substance</p>

	depression and anxiety are already roiling the nation”.	<i>2021 NYS LSP Guidelines issue category (c) crisis services and (p) mental health care coordination.</i>	<p>use services and mental health services to mitigate escalation of crises in Essex County.</p> <p>Objective c3: Explore with North Country County Directors the implementation of long term stabilization services for people with I/DD (including youth and adults).</p> <p>Objective c4: Research and explore the suitability of implementing a Methadone program in Essex County.</p>
d) Workforce Recruitment and Retention	Local Need d: Workforce recruitment and retention is a continuing problem for Essex County local government and voluntary service providers.	<p>Goal d: Identify and quantify the breadth and depth of the shortages and/or vacancies within provider agencies.</p> <p><i>Note: This goal supports the 2021 NYS LSP Guidelines issue category (d) workforce recruitment.</i></p>	<p>Objective d1: Tabulate workforce shortages and vacancies.</p> <p>Objective d2: Obtain designation as a federal qualified shortage area.</p> <p>Objective d3: Collaborate with county-wide partners to identify solutions for affordable housing and subsidies for child care.</p>
m) Coordination /Integration with Other Systems for SUD Clients	Local Need m: To address the NYS Department of Health emphasis on increased collaboration and integration of behavioral health services within the broader health care system.	Goal m: Increase integration of care through a <i>System of Care</i> by leveraging Essex County providers’ capacities involving human services, education, health and the justice system.	<p>Objective m1: Establish a concrete resiliency-building framework for a) professional staff members; b) agencies/ departments serving their constituencies; and c) school-aged children.</p> <p>Objective m2: Offer programs in trauma-informed care (ACES training) for human services providers, educators and the community at large.</p> <p>Objective m3: Participate in and support the missions of both the Essex County BRIEF Coalition and the Essex County LEMHRS Partnership.</p> <p><i>(Note: This objective supports Objective 1.1d of the Statewide Prevention Agenda 2019-2024) Objective 1.1 d)-- Integrate social and emotional approaches across the lifespan and establish support programs that establish caring and trusting relationships with older people. Examples include the Village Model, Intergenerational Community, Integrating social emotional learning in schools, Community Schools, parenting education.</i></p>



2023 Needs Assessment Form

Essex County Mental Health Services

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):

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):

Housing Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Need description (Optional):

Prevention Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional):

Residential Treatment Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

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? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Need description (Optional): Our System of Care is working on children transitioning from high school to adulthood. We don't have a solid system in place for those in the OMH system transitioning to the adult OMH system. This should not remain a "high" need list for long.

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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