



Goals and Objectives 2024
Westchester County Community Mental Health Department

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Goal 1

Goal 1: Title Improve access, increase capacity and use of effective treatment approaches for outpatient Mental Hygiene Services.

Goal 1: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2025

Goal 1: Description Westchester has experienced a significant demand for outpatient Mental Hygiene Services for children, adolescents and adults. This includes timely access to effective treatment for individuals experiencing behavioral health challenges. Our existing providers experience significant waiting-list and capacity issues due the increased demand for treatment. The population includes both children and adults with co-occurring disorders (which include co-occurring mental health and substance misuse and mental health and developmental/intellection disabilities.

Outpatient clinic capacity is influenced by both lack of parity in behavioral health insurance as well as workforce issues.

Along with timely access, goal is to increase use of effective (evidence-based/best practices) models of treatment.

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

Goal 1: Need Addressed 1 Outpatient treatment

Goal 1: Need Addressed 2 Workforce

Goal 1: Need Addressed 3

Goal 1, Objective 1: Title Needs assessment of current outpatient services and capacity to expand.

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

Goal 1, Objective 1, Description Westchester County will conduct an intensive needs assessment of current outpatient clinic capacity. This will include comprehensive assessment of each current outpatient agency waiting list, use of evidence-based/best practices, utilization rates, insurance/pay mix and ability to expand capacity. This includes treatment services for children, adolescents and adult with mental health, substance misuse, developmental/intellectual disabilities and co-occurring disorders.

Goal 1, Objective 2: Title Westchester promotion of co-occurring evidence-based/best practices approaches

Goal 1, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2024

Goal 1, Objective 2, Description Westchester formed a Co-Occurring System of Care (COSOC) initiative in 2017. COSOC includes a partnership with major stakeholders including treatment providers with the goal of strengthening co-occurring competent care by addressing regulatory, licensing, workforce, practice approaches and integrated care models. Most recently Westchester was recipient of a \$2.7 SAMHSA co-occurring treatment grant, began an integrated treatment Learning Collaborative and building practice capacity for competent outpatient care.

Goal 2

Goal 2: Title Workforce Challenges, recruitment and retention.

Goal 2: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2025

Goal 2: Description Westchester County has experiences significant challenges in workforce recruitment and retention in all sectors including mental health, substance use and developmental/disabilities service systems.

While the recent 2-year NYS COLA's have been extremely helpful in areas of workforce, there continues to be significant shortages in workforce.

Westchester County DCMH plan is to work with various critical stakeholders including providers, higher education and other partners to strengthen our workforce.

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

Goal 2: Need Addressed 1 Workforce

Goal 2: Need Addressed 2 Workforce

Goal 2: Need Addressed 3

Goal 2, Objective 1: Title Higher Education

Goal 2, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2024

Goal 2, Objective 1, Description Westchester DCMH will collaborative with providers and Higher Education Colleges/Universities to promote human services fields, create both field placement and employment tracks to increase potential workforce pool.

Goal 2, Objective 2: Title Workforce Retention

Goal 2, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2024

Goal 2, Objective 2, Description Westchester County DCMH will collaborate with providers to offer professional learning opportunities to support workforce. This includes promoting evidence-based practices and other forms of career development learning opportunities to support workforce retention.

### Goal 3

Goal 3: Title Housing and Residential Opportunities for Residents with behavioral health, developmental/intellectual disabilities needs.

Goal 3: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2024

Goal 3: Description Westchester County DCMH will continue to address high demand for housing services for individual with mental health, substance misuse, developmental/intellectual and co-occurring needs.

There continues to be lengthy waiting-list for housing including need for higher levels of support and supportive housing opportunities.

NYS and OMH 2023 Rehabilitative and Tenancy Support Services to increase the accessibility of scattered site supportive housing to individuals with more complex needs by providing the support services necessary to promote stability in the community had a significant impact on service delivery system. Westchester has also benefitted from the continued approval of the Empire State Supported Housing initiative grants for providers and for the new funding in the budget for available housing.

Along with housing needs, there continues to be lack of resources for residential substance use treatment facilities in Westchester County. This has led to unserved residents including no adolescent residential treatment beds in Westchester County.

Westchester County DCMH is very concerned about OPWDD recent decision to exclude LGU's from the Access to Residential Opportunities Committee (AROC). Furthermore, OPWDD no longer provides LGU's with monthly emergency needs housing reports. Without this data and involvement in the housing process, Counties are unable to support the needs of our residents and there is a lack of transparency in planning and resource capacity and needs.

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

Goal 3: Need Addressed 1 Housing

Goal 3: Need Addressed 2 Residential Treatment Services

Goal 3: Need Addressed 3 Housing

Goal 3, Objective 1: Title Address Housing needs

Goal 3, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2024

Goal 3, Objective 1, Description Westchester County DCMH will continue to address increased housing needs for individuals with behavioral health (MH/SUD/Co-Occurring). This will be done by maximizing funding opportunities, use of new supportive housing resources and collaborate with our providers to fill vacancies through our Adult Single Point of Access (A-SPOA) process.

Goal 3, Objective 2: Title Expand SUD Adolescent Treatment Bed Capacity

Goal 3, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2024

Goal 3, Objective 2, Description Establish a new adolescent co-occurring residential treatment program in Westchester County.

Goal 3, Objective 3: Title Address OPWDD Residential Opportunities shared planning with LGU.

Goal 3, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2024

Goal 3, Objective 3, Description Westchester County, and NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, address the need for more transparency. accountability and enhanced collaboration with County LGU.



Office of Addiction  
Services and Supports

Office of  
Mental Health

Office for People With  
Developmental Disabilities

## 2024 Needs Assessment Form Westchester County Community Mental Health Department

### **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? No

Need description (Optional): Westchester County identified as "High Need" however did not include in Goal section as have made progress in creating a continuum of crisis services, that includes local investments in 988, 911-diversion and local mobile crisis response teams. With support of OMH and OASAS Westchester is developing crisis stabilization center and crisis respite programs.

There are major challenges and gaps in resources serving individuals with DD/ID, OPWDD eligible individuals. County has recommended OPWDD braid funding with existing County Crisis services to better serve this population in create need.

### **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):

### **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):

### **Residential Treatment 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):

### **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:** Michael Orth

**Submitted for:** Westchester County Community Mental Health Department