



Office of Addiction  
Services and Supports

Office of  
Mental Health

Office for People With  
Developmental Disabilities

## 2023 Goals and Plans Form

### Livingston County Community Services

**Goal 1:** Expand workforce across MH, SUD and DD organizations

**Goal 2:** Improve access to crisis services

**Goal 3:** Continue Trauma Informed Care Initiatives

**Annual and intermediate plans for addiction services:**

Develop plan for use of opiate settlement funds with stakeholder input

**Annual and intermediate plans for developmental disability services:**

Improve communication with local, regional and state groups to determine long term plans for housing and day program operations.

**Annual and intermediate plans for mental health services:**

Increase workforce - particularly for children's services

Increase access to crisis services

**LGU Representative Name:** Lynette Greene

**LGU Representative Title:** Director of Community Mental Health Services

**Submitted for:** Livingston County Community Services

## Livingston County Community Services Plan for Mental Health Services – 2023

Livingston County's behavioral health workforce was among the smallest in NYS prior to the COVID pandemic. Since that time here, as everywhere else, there has been a mass exodus from the field as professionals seek better paying opportunities with the benefit of working from home. At the same time the acuity of individuals seeking community services has increased significantly.

The LGU is committed to addressing workforce issues as a top priority, in mental health services but also with the SUD and OPWDD providers in the community to strengthen the entire behavioral health workforce.

Children's mental health services are struggling. There are currently psychiatrists practicing in the Livingston County clinics and this is particularly concerning among the complex youth issues we are seeing. Livingston County will be actively recruiting a child and adolescent psychiatrist for 2023. Waitlists are long for Home-based crisis intervention and care management services further increasing the gap in service provision for youth. The LGU will be working with our partner providers to develop a recruitment and retention model.

Finally, as existing services become challenged by workforce issues, the burden increases on crisis services, which are limited to 9am-5pm M-F currently. Therefore, law enforcement becomes the first point of individual in crisis – often leading to poor follow-through with services, negative outcomes and increased stigma. Livingston County will explore ways to partner with law enforcement to improve the safety and quality of this care.

## Substance Use Disorder Plan – 2023

In 2023, Livingston County will work on developing and implementing plans to address the Opiate Use Disorder with the input of community stakeholders. New and/or expansion of prevention, treatment and recovery programs will be the primary objective distributing funds from the Opiate Settlement.

Our partner in providing SUD programming, CASA-Trinity is and will continue to be a major provider of treatment programs (outpatient and residential). They are expanding the number of hours of service provider in our county jail, provide prevention programs in our schools and have developed a strong recovery program in the southern area of the county.

## Developmental Disabilities Plan – 2023

The last 2 years have been particularly challenging for these programs in our county. None state-operated group homes were shuttered and all the day programs. Communication with OPWDD has been difficult and we as a community services board have not been able to get answers as to what the plan for the future is. Our goal in the coming months is to establish open lines of communication with regional offices so that we may gauge what our future needs will be.



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## 2023 Needs Assessment Form

### Livingston 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):

#### **Case Management/Care Coordination** Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Need description (Optional): Gap in children's care management services appears to be attributed to workforce shortage, however with the increase in volume and acuity of MH issues in children and youth combined with shortage of inpatient beds the need is greater than ever.

#### **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): Although there are crisis services available during business hours, after hours emergencies are often referred to local EDs or CPEPs. Local non- 9.39 hospitals are not equipped to manage the population and can be a burden on the EDs while CPEP's are often crowded with long waits. When hospitalization is not necessary, collaboration and coordination with outpatient services and/or the LGU is inadequate.

#### **Housing** Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): MH housing in the county is limited to supportive housing. There are no treatment apartments or group homes that allow individuals the level of care they need in their own community. The closure, whether permanent or temporary of DD group homes in our county has been challenging for individuals and their families to get the services they need close to home.

#### **Inpatient Treatment** Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Need description (Optional): Although there is a shortage of inpatients beds across the lifespan, the lack of beds for children throughout the region is increasing risk to those youth and also putting an increased demand on care management and HBCS services that are already struggling with workforce shortages.

**Outpatient Treatment** Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Need description (Optional): Again, with the workforce shortage there is a need for expansion of outpatient services across the lifespan, however, there are currently no child psychiatrists practicing in the county and this is viewed as high priority.

**Prevention** Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional): Addressing prevention now is the only way to prevent a future behavioral crisis like the one that exists now. Unfortunately, we are currently in a position that forces us to put resources into crisis intervention and treatment.

**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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