



Capital Region RPC: Transitions in Care Ad Hoc Work Group

December 3rd, 2020: 1pm-2pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 813 8698 7907 Passcode: 126198

1. Introductions: (Name, agency/organization, title):

- C. Russo, Regional Planning Consortium, Project Coordinator
- R. Handler, Director, Behavioral Health Services St Peter's
- K. Donvito, Deputy Commissioner, Rensselaer County Dept. of Mental Health
- L. Lewis, Unity House, Service Director
- S. Lasko, Adult SPOA Coordinator, Albany County
- B. Stewart, Program Director, Psych Columbia Memorial Hospital
- S. Bastien, CEO, Four Winds Saratoga
- S. Watson, OTDA, Program Manager Homeless Services
- K. Jobin-Davis, Ex Director, Healthy Capital District Initiative
- J. Lyons- Columbia County Mental Health Center
- N. Robinson- Children's SPOA Coordinator, Columbia County
- T. Harrell- Albany County, Behavioral Health Systems Manager
- D. Plusch- Rensselaer County, Children's SPOA Coordinator

2. Focus Areas: Break into Taskforces

- **Standardized Form (K. DonVito, S. Bastein, N. Robinson):** Hospital to hospital transition management, standard template for referral process, streamline form to send to network that is standard, less paperwork, inpatient access from ED setting, transfers- utilize resources that are available, wide range of requirements from hospital to hospital, tracker through Health Commerce System, supposed to be up to date real time, inaccurate, could OMH/Central Party able to manage that on tracking basis
- **Regional Huddles B. Stewart, D. Plusch) :** Pull together key stakeholders from multiple health systems, real time mechanism for escalating, current email group to let people know psychiatric diversions, making diversion decisions, what do regional resources look like, global responsibility to meet client's needs regionally, utilization of beds, gather for 10-15 minute huddle to discuss decisions regionally, should be made aware and kept apprised of status, instead of email become operational huddle to initiate immediate contact when necessary
- **Payer Landscape (S. Watson, L. Lewis) :** Research NYC initiative where MCO/insurance provider, ability to pay or provide funding for beds, available to their members/on reserve, look at funding sources for crisis beds, higher regional capacity (housing, beds), ways to engage payers in Regional conversations

3. Regional Response:

- **Update on current state of Region:**

Four Winds- Inpatient all open, Outpatient systems running on virtual basis, individual, partial hospital and for intensive outpatient, not accepting COVID+ patients, CDPHP & Beacon both contracted with Valera Health- able to provide Behavioral Health and Primary Care Services, LearnWell.org, just purchased large practice, about 150 therapist, expanding into Upstate NY, have virtual platform with both prescribers and therapists

Challenge to provide inpatient services to COVID+ due to distancing, children/adolescent- Pinefield may have unit for COVID+ youth, check with OMH

Columbia Memorial- Haven't had to reduce capacity, ER volumes have been very strong since the Spring, seems to be building, population not held well by virtual mental health, seeing increased need, trying to get intensive outpatient care, no approval yet

Rensselaer County CSPOA/SPOA- Sending and receiving referrals, young adults being discharge without stable place to discharge to, not much has changes, case managers still visiting clients in home/community, driveway/front porch visits, anticipate this changing very soon, RTF side- AWOL's, all youth being quarantined after, strain on capacity due to isolation, new programs- Healy House (under 12 yo) has cut program time, few weeks to 4-5 days for respite, accessed through crisis, similar program for 13-18 yo/ North Star, under Parson's/Northern Rivers, have triage numbers, crisis/stabilization services for kids- catchment beyond 5 county mobile area? Natasha- **Northern Rivers does service this area as well, Columbia/Greene County** ability to make direct referrals, don't have to go through County Mobile Crisis, Northern Rivers has own youth Mobile Crisis. Housing remains issue on every level, meeting with housing providers/OMH/LGU to convey issues and lack of housing resources in area, housing first providers discharge due to disruptive behaviors, those very difficult to re-house, put on OMH radar. RSS Living Room launched in Rensselaer County, opened with limited capacity as alternative to Emergency Room, may be room for them to assist with those waiting for an intake.

Unity House- Live beds- 1st week in January, 15 SMI beds in Ren County, permanent supportive housing, Hillside View project, closing this week, construction to begin in January, 26 SMI units live by end of 2021. Total of 41 new units in Rensselaer County, received Capital award from OMH to rehab 1st building and convert into 6 bed Regional Crisis Residence, must be live within 18 months of receiving award (November 10th 2020), 6 bed are for step down from inpatient or diversion from emergency department, regions covered- Rensselaer, Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga

Capital District Healthy Initiative- Staying Healthy Initiative, new mental health services guide, support people making referrals, similar guide for SDoH, appreciate any feedback
Albany County Adult SPOA-Outpatient capacity, lost number of prescribing staff/clinical staff in all clinics, less than 10 slots left for new referrals, insurance limitations, and challenge in trying to find appointments for individuals, don't have staff to carry caseload for any new patients, influx of people from NYC/out of State, City Mission during code blue holds 260 people, presenting with serious mental health needs, difficulty meeting those needs

St. Peter's Health Partners- High volume from outpatients, more than 50 referrals a day to outpatient mental health clinic, opened up beds since we last met, 51/60 beds open, been full, recent decline in patient consensus, testing all patients prior to admission in Emergency Dept. try to maintain COVID- free environment

OTDA- As part of CARES Act HUD is making 150 million dollars in funding for mainstream voucher funding, similar to Section 8, awards are percentage of public housing units already online, housing authority just needs to request additional vouchers, is apartments in community but participant needs to have diagnosis or disability to access, may assist with outpatient community struggling with housing Lyons- Columbia County SPOA- Continuing to operate as usual, recently had residential openings, housing continues to be huge problem, no shelter, people end up in hotels, weren't able to expand staff, been at capacity since March 2020

Questions about this process can be answered by your RPC Coordinator:

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