



REGIONAL PLANNING CONSORTIUM

North Country Board Meeting #2
March 17, 2017 – 10am-12pm,
Holiday Inn Resort Lake George-Turf
2223 Canada Street, Lake George, NY

- 1. Call to Order** – R. York called the meeting to order.
- 2. Roll Call/ Introductions (Name, stakeholder group, agency/organization, title)** – each board member introduced themselves. *See attached attendance.*
- 3. Welcome Co-Chair and Key Partners** – R. York formally welcomed Beth Lawyer as co-chair and welcomed our Key Partners. R. York also formally welcome Richelle Gregory, the new DCS in Clinton County. Noting nothing formally needed by the board to seat Richelle on the board.
- 4. Announcements** – R. York discussed the announcement of Pete Griffiths beginning 3/20 as new North Country RPC Coordinator for both the Tug Hill and North Country regions. R. York also directed the board to the adult HCBS update related to elimination of the full CMH assessment. *See attached update.*
- 5. Approval of January 19th Meeting Minutes (Motion needed)** – R. York asked for a motion to approve the 1/19 minutes including stakeholder minutes. Motion: Mike Lawler; Second: Anne Griffin – no discussion (all in favor and motion carried).
- 6. Open Board Seats (2 Key Partners, 2 Youth Advocates)** – R. York reminded the board we have 2 seats currently opened for key partners and 2 seats currently opened for youth advocates. R. York shared the definition of Key Partner and Youth Advocate to remind the board what we are looking for. Announcement that previously appointed Key Partners, Alan Higgs and John O’Neill are retiring and unable to serve. Comment/suggestion from Barry Brogan for nominations for Office for the Aging.
- 7. Confer on Key Partners Appointments - Review Nominations (Motion needed)** – R. York asked for a motion to appoint Sue Ann Caron, Essex County DSS, as a Key Partner. Motion: JoAnne Caswell; Second: Steve Miccio – no discussion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. *See attached Key Partner Nomination.*

8. **NEW ITEM: Confer on Youth Advocate Nomination – Review Nomination (Motion needed) –** PYF stakeholder group will be the only voting party. R. York asked for a motion from PYF group to appoint Brennan Williams to a Youth Advocate seat. Motion: Steve Miccio; Second: Anne Griffin. All PYF in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. *See attached Youth Advocate Nomination.*
9. **Upcoming milestones and deliverables – RPC Lens –** R. York reviewed the RPC Vision slides
 - a. **Regional Issues Survey –** AH reviewed regional issues survey. Survey will be distributed 3/17 and due back 3/24. Results will inform creation of workgroups.
10. **Stakeholder/Committee Report –** R. York asked if any stakeholder groups would like to report out since our last meeting on 1/19. Update from CBOs Bob Ross – related to unique rural challenges, within each issue; other regions may experience this and may not be unique to the North Country. He suggested we compare notes on this issue with southern tier and western NY counties, as we all share the same challenges serving rural population. In preparation for the Co-Chairs meeting, it would be great if we can identify the rural issues ahead of time versus waiting for waivers.
11. **MCTAC Training** *See attached power point presentation.*
12. **Adjourn Meeting (Motion needed) –** R. York asked for motion to adjourn meeting. Motion to adjourn: Anne Griffin; Second: JoAnne Caswell.

Milestones:

- **May 22nd:** At least two tangible items selected as a Region to bring to Co-Chairs Meeting
- **June 8th:** Co-Chairs Meeting with Central State Offices (Office of Mental Health, Department of Health, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, Office of Children and Family Services)

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Second Quarter: Friday, May 19th, 10am-12pm**
- **June- Co Chairs Meeting, closed meeting**
- **Third Quarter: Friday, July 21st, 10am-12pm**
- **September- Co Chairs Meeting, closed meeting**
- **Fourth Quarter: Friday, October 20th, 10am-12pm**

Questions about this process can be answered by your RPC Coordinator, Peter Griffiths via email, pg@clmhd.org or phone, 518-424-1014

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	Name	Attendance	Stakeholder Group
1	Andrea Deepe		CBO
2	Angela Vidile	Absent	MCP
3	Anne Griffin		PYF
4	Barry Brogan		Key Partner
5	Beth Lawyer	Absent	CBO
6	Bob Kleppang, LMSW, ACSW		LGU
7	Carl Rorie Alexandrov		MCP
8	Christine Venery		H&Hs
9	Jennifer Earl, M.A., LMHC	Absent	MCP
10	Jessica Fraser	Absent	H&Hs
11	JoAnne Caswell		CBO
12	Jody Leaven	Absent	MCO
13	Joseph Simko		State Gov
14	Linda McClarigan		H&Hs
15	Lisa Sioufas, LCSW-R, ACSW	Absent	MCP
16	Mariane Simas		PYF
17	Meredith King		H&Hs
18	Michael A. Lawler		H&Hs
19	Reggie McDonald	Absent	Key Partner
20	Richelle Gregory		LGU
21	Rob York, LCSW-R, MPA		LGU
22	Robert A. Ross		CBO
23	Rosemary Reif	Absent	H&Hs
24	Sally Walrath		CBO
25	Shelley Shutler		PYF
26	Steve Miccio		PYF
27	Steve Valley, LCSW, MSW		LGU
28	Susan Frohlich, LMSW, CSASC		State Gov
29	Suzanne Lavigne, MHA, CTRS, CASAC		LGU
30	Tom Tallon		Key Partner
31	Valerie Ainsworth		CBO

Adult Home and Community Based Services Update

Today (3/7/17), in joint announcement from OMH and DOH, the state announced the following changes re: to the Health Home program and HCBS services access.

The Full CMH Assessment is being eliminated effective immediately.

- The Brief CMH Assessment will be sufficient for purposes of HARP and HCBS Services.
- CMAs will bill for the Brief Assessment.
- Guidance will be forthcoming.

CMAs will be able to bill e-MedNY directly for Assessments

- This is an interim structure to address the issues of connecting the Plans files and the Billing Support File. Set to go into effect on April 1st, 2017.

Accessing HCBS Services for Non-Health Home HARP enrollees.

- The Conference and the RPC's have been consistently raising with the state the issue that HARP enrollees have choice and if an individual chooses *not to enroll* in a Health Home, that choice should not prevent access to HCBS they are entitled to receive.
- The state announced that they are developing guidance for how HARP enrollees, who do not want to enroll in a HH, can access HCBS services.
- Guidance will be forthcoming

Alternative Assessors.

- The state indicated that they are "exploring" other alternatives for assessors to allow others who know and work closely with individuals to assess them for HCBS services.

Community HARP Referrals: Pending

- Guidance will be forthcoming.

Our collective voice, along with that of others across the state, is beginning to create positive changes in the system. Let's keep up the great work!

North Country RPC: Key Partners

Please note that we have two Key Partner seats open. We will be accepting nominations for this seat on a rolling basis until a Key Partner is appointed by the board. This group is mainly geared toward PPS's, PHIP's, LDSS, LHD and any other interested parties.

Nominations

LDSS:

- Essex County: Sue Ann Caron, Deputy Commissioner of Social Services – Located in Elizabethtown, NY. The LDSS serves thousands of county residents in various capacities, and necessarily networks with all regional service providers. We have always enjoyed a close working relationship with our mental health partners, as such collaboration and cooperation is critical to best serving our mutual clientele.
 - Counties Served: Essex
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North Country RPC: Peer/Youth/Family

Please note that we have two Youth Advocate seats open. We will be accepting nominations for these seats on a rolling basis until 2 Youth Advocates are elected by the Peer/Youth/Family Stakeholder Board Members. Definition of Youth Advocate: 18-25, who have lived experience or have supported someone experiencing mental health issues. The reason why we define youth advocate this way is we have really hoped for someone who is close enough to the actual experience to have relevant contributions

Nomination

Youth Advocate:

- Brennan Williams, Hudson River Regional Youth Partner, located in Rensselaer County
 - “I am a young person who has lived experience in the NYS mental health system. I have been advocating for better services, more inclusion, and person-centered care for the past ten years.”