



Stakeholder *Spotlight*

**Amanda Pierro, Director of Peer Services/HCBS
Coordinator for Mental Health Association of
Columbia-Greene Counties, Inc.**



How did you become involved with the RPC?

I was invited to participate by the DCS for Columbia County.

Which stakeholder group do you represent on the RPC?

Peer/Youth/Families

What is something you have learned through the collaborative governance process? The collaborative governance process has helped me remember that all our stakeholders have a shared goal. Each of us has different vantage points about what is happening around our communities and the State, together we have a clearer picture of what is happening.

What new relationship(s) have you formed through your participation on the RPC? So many, so many. Before joining the RPC I didn't know most of the people who participate in the Capital Region RPC.

What is your favorite place to visit in New York State? I have so many favorite places in New York. From the busy City to the roaring rapids of the Falls. The rural northern part of the State and the diverse southern tier. But my absolute favorite is the Capital Region. I love how centrally located we are. It's easy to get anywhere by car, train, or plane.

What has been the most surprising part about being involved with the RPC? I'm not sure what has surprised me the most, but I've definitely been inspired by the other members. There are so many passionate, smart, and dedicated individuals that come together at these meetings. I'm always in awe of the people in the room.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? It depends. In the summer blueberry or apple, in the fall pumpkin, mint is always a solid option, and peanut butter can make anything better.

With absolutely no preparation, you could give a 30-minute presentation on what topic? I'm not sure, I could definitely talk for 30 minutes. Most people would tell you I could talk for more than 30 minutes about cooking with my Instant Pot. I could absolutely talk for 30 minutes about all the food I cook.

What do you hope to accomplish through your participation on the RPC? I hope to continue to speak up for those who are impacted by these changes and unable to speak at the table.