



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of
Mental Health

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

Goals and Objectives 2024-2027 Essex County Mental Health Services

Terri Morse, Director of Community Services
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Goal 1

Goal 1: Title Supportive/Therapeutic Housing

Goal 1: Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2026

Goal 1: Description Increase availability of supportive/therapeutic housing for Essex County residents (a) with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), (b) with substance use disorders, (c) at-risk youth and/or (d) people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) to provide for 12 families.

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

Goal 1: Need Addressed 1 Housing

Goal 1: Need Addressed 2

Goal 1: Need Addressed 3

Goal 1, Objective 1: Title Working Group

Goal 1, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Mar 31, 2024

Goal 1, Objective 1, Description Creating a CSB Housing Working Group on a quarterly basis that will identify and monitor all funding initiatives for development of sustainable housing programs for Essex County residents.

Goal 1, Objective 2: Title Cross-System Involvement

Goal 1, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2028

Goal 1, Objective 2, Description Director of Community Services will participate in the Essex County Housing Task Force (monthly) and participate on the Franklin Essex Housing Coalition (COC) to stay involved in local housing initiatives.

Goal 2

Goal 2: Title Workforce

Goal 2: Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2026

Goal 2: Description All CSB providers will increase their workforce to be "fully" staffed, based on their definition.

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

Goal 2: Need Addressed 1 Workforce

Goal 2: Need Addressed 2

Goal 2: Need Addressed 3

Goal 2, Objective 1: Title Job Applicant Sharing Portal

Goal 2, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2025

Goal 2, Objective 1, Description CSB to create a collaborative portal for job applicant sharing across provider system.

Goal 2, Objective 2: Title Peers

Goal 2, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2025

Goal 2, Objective 2, Description Increase Certified Peer workforce by 6 within Essex County CSB providers and create a Peer Network across the county/region.

Goal 2, Objective 3: Title Youth Peer Advocates

Goal 2, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2026

Goal 2, Objective 3, Description CSB and System of Care to coordinate with Essex County schools to develop Youth Peer Advocates that will cultivate the current workforce.

Goal 2, Objective 4: Title Recruitment

Goal 2, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2025

Goal 2, Objective 4, Description Utilize various media to promote Resilient Careers (System of Care initiative) within college, schools, waiting areas, and the public.

Goal 3

Goal 3: Title Integrated Services

Goal 3: Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 3: Description Increase Integration of care through a System of Care model by leveraging Essex County providers' capacities involving human services, education, health, and the justice system.

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

Goal 3: Need Addressed 1 Cross System Services

Goal 3: Need Addressed 2 Prevention

Goal 3: Need Addressed 3 Adverse Childhood Experiences

Goal 3, Objective 1: Title Mental Wellness in Schools

Goal 3, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2028

Goal 3, Objective 1, Description BRIEF (Building Resilience in Essex County - Essex County's System of Care) will collaborate with schools to create a strategic plan to cultivate mental wellness in the school - teachers and students; at least 2 schools will participate in utilizing the SHAPE (School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation) System.

Goal 3, Objective 2: Title Peers for Geriatric Population

Goal 3, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2026

Goal 3, Objective 2, Description Explore developing Peers for the geriatric population.

Goal 3, Objective 3: Title Stressed System of Care

Goal 3, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2025

Goal 3, Objective 3, Description Develop a proactive pathway that includes data gathering to identify when members of the system of care are stressed to a level where services could be compromised.

Goal 3, Objective 4: Title Mental Health Court

Goal 3, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2025

Goal 3, Objective 4, Description Support the number of referrals to the Essex County Mental Health Court for a full court of 10 participants.

Goal 3, Objective 5: Title County-Wide Planning

Goal 3, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 3, Objective 5, Description Establish a method of planning for integration of various Essex County-wide planning guides, e.g., Community Health Improvement Plan, Local Services Plan, Community Health Assessment, and County-based strategic planning).

Goal 4

Goal 4: Title Apartment Treatment Housing for Families

Goal 4: Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2028

Goal 4: Description Establish a brick-and-mortar residence to provide a wholistic approach to children's wellbeing, and their families, that will serve 4 children/families.

Goal 4: OASAS? Yes Goal 4: OMH? Yes Goal 4: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 4: Need Addressed 1 Crisis Services

Goal 4: Need Addressed 2 Housing

Goal 4: Need Addressed 3

Goal 4, Objective 1: Title Residence

Goal 4, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2028

Goal 4, Objective 1, Description Establish a Planning Committee that will locate and develop a sustainable residence in a town/village of Essex County that can effectively accommodate the needs of the target population(s) and will utilize staff across the CSB provider system.

Goal 4, Objective 2: Title Children's Respite

Goal 4, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Mar 31, 2026

Goal 4, Objective 2, Description Develop an up-to-two-week children's respite solution that is flexible and can serve families who are either involved with CPS or Health Home/HCBS/CFTSS services, or are not involved with any services.

Goal 5

Goal 5: Title Mobile Methadone Unit

Goal 5: Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 5: Description Create a North Country Regional Mobile Methadone Unit that will serve across Essex and Franklin Counties.

Goal 5: OASAS? Yes Goal 5: OMH? No Goal 5: OPWDD? No

Goal 5: Need Addressed 1 Outpatient treatment

Goal 5: Need Addressed 2

Goal 5: Need Addressed 3

Goal 5, Objective 1: Title Partnership

Goal 5, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2025

Goal 5, Objective 1, Description Collaborate with Essex and Franklin County OASAS providers to explore whether it is feasible to create an MMU solution.

Goal 5, Objective 2: Title Harm Reduction

Goal 5, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2025

Goal 5, Objective 2, Description If an MMU is established, ensure the delivery of practices by the MMU utilize harm reduction strategies that positive impact the SUD population and their loved ones.

Goal 5, Objective 3: Title

Goal 5, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2025

Goal 5, Objective 3, Description



Update to 2024-2027 Goals and Objectives Essex County Mental Health Services

Terri Morse, Director of Community Services
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Goal 1

Title	Supportive/Therapeutic Housing	
Update	Increase availability of supportive/therapeutic housing for Essex County residents by establishing 2 2-4-person dwellings (a) with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), (b) with substance use disorders, (c) at-risk youth and/or (d) people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) to provide for 12 families, annually.	
OBJECTIVES		
Working Group		Ongoing
Cross-System Involvement		Ongoing
OBJECTIVE UPDATES		

Goal 2

Title	Workforce	
Update		
OBJECTIVES		
Job Applicant Sharing Portal		Ongoing
Peers		Ongoing
Youth Peer Advocates		Ongoing
Recruitment		Ongoing
OBJECTIVE UPDATES		

Goal 3

Title	Integrated Services	
Update		
OBJECTIVES		
Mental Wellness in Schools	Ongoing	
Peers for Geriatric Population	Ongoing	
Stressed System of Care	Ongoing	
Mental Health Court	Ongoing	
County-Wide Planning	Ongoing	

OBJECTIVE UPDATES

Goal 4	
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Title	Apartment Treatment Housing for Families
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Update	
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OBJECTIVES	
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Residence	Ongoing
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Children's Respite	Ongoing
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OBJECTIVE UPDATES

Goal 5	
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Title	Mobile Methadone Unit
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Update	
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OBJECTIVES	
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Partnership	Ongoing
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Harm Reduction	Ongoing
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OBJECTIVE UPDATES



2026 Update to 2024-2027 Goals and Objectives Essex County Mental Health Services

Terri Morse, Director of Community Services
(terri.morse@essexcountyny.gov)

Goal 1

Goal 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: For the OPWDD/OMH/OASAS populations (referred to as CSB Population throughout this document) in Essex County, the only form of housing assistance specific for these groups is the Rental Subsidies program through OMH. There is one ESSHI housing unit in Ticonderoga that houses 4 families. This is through an ESSHI program through an OASAS provider. The only short-term rentals are through the Mental Health Associations supportive housing (OMH). There are no Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, or Permanent Supportive Housing options.

Essex County is a wonderful playground for those financially secure and or can do remote work. In 2022, it was noted that the new and existing home valued increased 12% in 2022 (<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/adirondacks-see-spike-in-property-values>). Additionally, the Short Term Rentals have negatively impacted the available year-round rental stock, leaving the CSB population challenged to find a year-round rental that is also affordable. For example, the estimated cost of a 1-bedroom apartment average rent is \$895, whereas in 2020, it was \$810.

Essex County recently applied for an ESSHI Grant in December 2023. We learned in March 2025 that NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal, unfortunately, did not support funding the 60-unit (with 15 ESSHI units) project. The proposal will be resubmitted in the Fall 2025.

In June 2025, there are 26 individuals awaiting Supportive Housing stipends through SPOA as compared to 20 individuals in 2020.

REMAINING NEED: Essex County does not have adequate supportive housing for those the CSB system serves.

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: The CSB has created a housing working group. We will utilize this group to establish reporting to the larger Essex County Housing Task Force to advocate for the CSB population. Additionally, the CSB hosts an annual CSB Retreat and this year's focus is on HOUSING. We have invited 4 presenters to the meeting to share their innovative ideas for addressing housing shortage in their regions - not necessarily in Essex County but neighboring rural counties.

The North Country (Essex, Franklin, Clinton, Hamilton, Warren/Washington) and Tug Hill (Lewis, St. Lawrence and Jefferson) Directors of Community Service convened their annual retreat in November 2024 with staff from OMH/OPWDD/OASAS/OTDA/OCFS and the theme of the event was HOUSING. We brainstormed as a collective what we could do to address the housing shortage for the CSB population. We will re-convene in November 2025 to follow-up on the topic of Housing.

REMAINING NEED: Continued coordination to support deficient housing for those the CSB system serves AND those who work in Essex County. Housing is sparse and overpriced.

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: The Essex County Director of Community Services is an active board member of the Franklin Essex Housing Coalition (COC). Additionally, the DCS has been instrumental at urging a group of leaders within Essex County (government and non-profit providers) to invest effort in addressing the housing crisis that exists in Essex County. While the Housing Task Force has made progress in establishing a Land Bank in 2024, we are now creating a strategic plan and will be meeting monthly starting July 2025, as compared to quarterly.

REMAINING NEED: Advocacy for addressing the inadequate housing for both the individual the CSB is responsible for and the workforce.

Goal 2

Goal 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: As compared to 2020, the quantity of Workforce has increased, but very minimally. While this was a topic that kept many Directors of agencies awake at night, there seems to be less stress about

the topic. HOWEVER, it is not a topic that we can put aside or consider "complete." The OPWDD providers seem to be the most predominantly stressed over workforce issues. OASAS providers have found that converting to offering services using video conferencing has assisted in ensuring that services are available to those who are working and/or have transportation issues. OMH providers (adult health home, MHOTRS, and children's health home) are "gaining" in workforce, or maintaining.

REMAINING NEED: Additional staff for the CSB providers to address any existing or burgeoning waiting lists.

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: N/A

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: The CSB has found that this endeavor will be difficult to facilitate, keep up to date, and difficult to track. Therefore, it has been discontinued. However, we are utilizing the System of Care in Essex County called BRIEF (Building Resilience in Essex Families) website as a way to lead people to the various providers involved in the System of Care to their agencies' Job Opportunities websites. Please see <https://essexcountyny.gov/BRIEF/careers/>

REMAINING NEED: This objective is discontinued

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: The BRIEF Coalition has begun working at creating a Peer Network across the North Country (Clinton, Essex and Franklin) region. Since the time this Objective was created, we have stabilized our Certified Peer workforce county. We have not gained in total number, nor have we lost. We have found that the turnover is higher than we expected and are having difficulty in gaining in numbers. We utilize this video to inspire others about the role of the Peer and the job opportunities within Essex County: https://youtu.be/w_MqeBP4UB4

REMAINING NEED: Reduced turnover in certified Peer workforce

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: Throughout 2023-current, the System of Care Coalition/BRIEF has been working with schools in establishing a Positive School Environment Team (PSET). This student-lead, adult guided initiative helped cultivate future peers. The Peer Empowerment component of PSET will support future Youth Peer Advocates because they will have experienced the following while a student:

Responsibilities of Peer Mentor and Coach include, but not limited to the following:

1. Be a presence within their school as a role model for prosocial behavior, using RUTH© (Respect, Understanding, Trust, and Honesty) as the fundamental guide for healthy relationships.
2. Navigate the unique needs of the school environment and creatively develop and participate in activities and events that increase school community member engagement.
3. In collaboration with school personnel, administration, and "point person", coordinate scheduling for workshops, restorative intervention and support, and positive school programming.
4. Participate in the development of a school-wide Positive School Environment Team through promotion, recruiting, and collaboration with school personnel.
5. Facilitate engaging activities, workshops, and events that encourage Acceptance, Kindness, and Inclusion, mental health awareness, and encourage school and community connection.

This initiative will carry-on throughout the 2025/2026 school year in five Essex County schools.

REMAINING NEED: Continued momentum created by the BRIEF Coalition's initiatives. Future funding for the System of Care coordinator - \$75,000 per year.

Goal 2 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: Essex County, as a collective, has utilized various programs to improve workforce notifications - it hasn't been just one organization spearheading the initiative:

- Essex County's Personnel Department has hosted Job Fairs, for which many CSB providers have tabled,
- We have the videos created through BRIEF to support the human services workforce,
- We collaborate with our local colleges and universities through tabling at their hosted events

But more importantly, and more uniquely, many BRIEF leaders share applicants with one another. For example, if the Department of Social Services receives several applications for a Case Worker position, and they only need one, they will share the non-hired applications with other SOC partners who need care management-type position, with the applicants' permission. Both the applicants and the other organizations are grateful for our helping each other achieve full workforce capacity.

REMAINING NEED: Continued coordination between providers, the county, and workplaces to strengthen the workforce.

Goal 3

Goal 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: [Taken from the NYS SOC Project Evaluation Report 2025 - covering the grant period from 8/31/2020-2/28/2025] Essex County SOC efforts began in 2019, helping to demonstrate their readiness to be designated as a pilot county as part of the current grant. The Essex County SOC coalition, BRIEF (Building Resilience in Essex Families), was established in late 2019. Essex County participated in the SOC Action Planning workshop series in Fall 2020, identifying common themes to prioritize including difficulty accessing services, issues with stigma, a lack of trauma-specific services, and the need for active engagement and participation from youth, families, and schools. BRIEF made great progress on many of its goals and objectives during the first two grant years, including enhancement of local workforce capacity and development, creatively braiding funds from SOC partners to enhance programs and services, establishing and building connections with school districts, focusing on priority populations, and laying the foundation for cross-system networking and collaboration. In year 3, additional progress was made towards the development of a transition-aged youth (TAY) model that more seamlessly transitions youth from children to adult services, as well as work on a tri-county peer workforce development project that complimented the Resilient Careers Workforce Development Campaign. Local capacity building continued with multiple training offerings, and ongoing efforts served to advance trauma-informed care and DEI in Essex County.

The BRIEF Coalition continued to further build and develop local SOC infrastructure throughout year 4, with well-attended monthly BRIEF meetings and consistent family member representation, often including new individuals and organizations interested in partnership. BRIEF coalition meetings close out by offering family and youth representatives the final word, to emphasize the value of their contributions to BRIEF and the overall community. Regular onboarding helps to connect with new partners and members. The BRIEF Executive Committee meets monthly and includes a family member representative and Directors of seven local agencies (government and community-based organizations). Weekly Essex County Mental Health staff meetings provide additional opportunity to build relationships, share BRIEF resources, and listen for system challenges and opportunities. In recognition of the value of the system mapping completed in late 2020 as part of the BRIEF Action Planning Workshops, the BRIEF coalition repeated this process in Summer 2024 with support from the SOC Project Coordinator.

To support and expand peer workforce recruitment, training, professional development, and support a variety of peers across the provider system, the Essex County Professional Peer Network was launched in early 2024, and an information sheet detailing the different types of Peers/Specialists was added to the Essex County Resource Binder. The BRIEF Outreach Coordinator became credentialed as a Family Peer Advocate and provided peer services at Essex County Mental Health twice per week, helping to bridge gaps in the system by empowering families and complementing clinician treatment. Additional details can be found in Section III.

Multiple working groups provide extra focus and collaboration on aspects of local SOC development. BRIEF workgroups include the TAY workgroup, a school engagement group (SCHout), a 0-5 mental health workgroup, and a newly formed Aging Population Workgroup. The TAY Workgroup had several lags in progress throughout the grant period related to gaps in personnel, but further developments occurred in the final grant year with the aid of a consultant to facilitate the completion of a TAY transition model protocol and a related Resource Guide that supports the TAY population from school to workforce; additional details on the TAY Workgroup can be found in Section II. The school-focused workgroup, SCHout, continues to meet regularly and works together with all school districts in the county. School staff are provided with free training and resources on social-emotional learning (SEL) topics including trauma-informed care (TIC), Resiliency and Protective Factors, School Culture and Leadership (including Positive School Environment Team - PSET; a Tier II intervention), and MindUP PreK-8 SEL curriculum. Activities during the no-cost extension period included continued steps towards establishment of PSET at eight school districts. Essex County school leadership and behavioral health provider leadership meet on a quarterly basis, working to establish a communications protocol and create a plan that focuses on crisis intervention and prevention, trauma informed classrooms, and developing healthy school cultures. Additional details on Essex County school-related initiatives can be found in Section IV.

The 0-5 mental health workgroup meets quarterly, continuing to collaborate with providers and share brochures and other resources about local 0-5 mental health resources. Current sustainability efforts are geared towards integration of the 0-5 workgroup into the standing C-SPOA meeting, in collaboration with the C-SPOA Coordinator and regional Pyramid Model lead. Essex County clinicians certified in Infant/Early Childhood MH (IECMH) continue seeking and accepting referrals for children 0-5 with mental health needs, enrolling 11 children in year 4.

BRIEF has successfully cultivated a network of trainers on numerous topics to build and sustain local workforce development and capacity, accomplished via strategic investment in Train-the-Trainer programs. These trainers meet quarterly to sustain training on topics such as Resiliency, MindUP, TIC, Question-Persuade-Refer (QPR; suicide prevention), Mental Health First Aid, and SHAPE. Community Resiliency trainings continue, sharing a research-based framework for developing protective factors at individual, family, and community levels. BRIEF partnered with several organizations to facilitate 'Community Conversations about Mental Health and Preventing Addiction' at six locations between late 2023 to Spring 2024, designed as a forum to bring together community members, local organizations and leaders to share opportunities to make a proactive and positive difference in Essex County. These events highlighted existing non-traditional mental health services and supports in the community that serve as safe spaces or recreational activities for youth, offering opportunities for meaningful engagement, peer bonding, and connections with caring adults. Follow up conversations via six meetings in four towns were held during the no-cost extension period to map out and share community resiliency factors. Fourteen total attendees included residents, county employees, school staff, business owners, and

librarians. Each town noted the need for continued work and committed to engaging in sustained efforts towards sharing local resources that promote and build resiliency.

BRIEF also engaged consultant Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI) to lead Phase 2 of the DEI series during grant year 4, with participants representing nine agencies and five school districts. Organizations participated in learning sessions and an equity survey, with discussion of findings and provision of support for implementation. This work complements the ongoing trauma-informed initiatives in the county. Activities during the no-cost extension period included additional training and education objectives related to autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Mental Health First Aid, and Nurturing Parenting (details in Section II).

Certainly, there have been some challenges, including persistent long waitlists for mental health, early intervention, and many other critical child and family services in Essex County. Across the system, staff are reportedly feeling overwhelmed by so many trainings, and staff illnesses and shortages have impacted progress in some areas. While progress was slower than anticipated in developing seamless transition planning for TAY in moving from youth to adult services, the development of a model protocol was completed in November 2024, along with a resource guide that includes the referral form and process and list of pertinent local organizations. This is a testament to the dedication and persistence of the TAY workgroup, whose work will continue to support this priority population. The recruitment of youth representatives for consistent involvement and integration into the BRIEF collaborative has been tricky, but dedicated efforts persist with the acknowledgement that youth participation may look different to that of other coalition members. BRIEF continues to benefit from regular attendance and input from family member representatives. Thanks to the multi-year training sustainability plan utilizing train-the-trainers in TIC, MindUp, and Resiliency, year 4 marked the first time BRIEF was able to provide free training led entirely by trainers within the Essex County SOC. Additionally, partnership between Essex County Mental Health and Public Health provided for the October 2024 launch of CredibleMind (2024), a customized digital platform promoting connection to local wellness resources and reliable information, with access by over 24,000 people in the first three months.

The BRIEF coalition has successively built layer upon layer of important infrastructure and connections between partners from year to year, creating shared ownership of, and investment in, the SOC initiative. BRIEF is well-positioned for sustainability beyond the grant period with committed stakeholders across a broad spectrum of community partners. BRIEF initiatives focused on local workforce development, TIC, and resiliency run parallel to other community projects and plans, and collaborative efforts are helping to enhance reach and expand impact. BRIEF has maintained coordination efforts with Essex County Health Department, including the incorporation of goals related to TIC and DEI assessment and capacity building across agencies within the 2023-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The BRIEF Coordinator continued to attend the Community Services Board (CSB) meetings and provides updates to the CSB Board on SOC goals included in the Local Services Plan including BRIEF's resiliency and TIC trainings, demonstrating value and the case for sustainable funding. Essex County Government has recognized the value of the contributions that BRIEF has provided the county and is committed to sustaining the initiatives and staff of BRIEF. Specifically, funding from Opioid Settlement Funds, both Regional Abatement and Restricted Direct Share Funds, are earmarked to financially sustain BRIEF. Additionally, many System organizations are partnering to support BRIEF through braided and blended funding. Various grant opportunities have been and will be explored to further BRIEF's mission and vision. The Essex County SOC is truly embedding a proactive approach to young people's mental health and wellbeing, within their homes, at their schools, and within their community.

Final Reporting Reflections:

"In 2019, BRIEF (Building Resilience in Essex Families) was formed in Essex County. At the time, several Essex County organizations saw numerous gaps and deficits within our child serving system, and they were inspired and committed to create a collaborative, which we named BRIEF. We knew the only way to address the challenges was to approach them together, as a team. BRIEF created a vision and mission, along with a strong strategic plan, that addressed our communities' needs. We believe it's important to point out that BRIEF was established prior to obtaining funding from the NYS SOC project. This truth brings us comfort in knowing that the original strategic plan will continue far beyond the grant experience.

The SOC project is just the beginning, and the Essex County partners (and beyond) remain committed to the future of BRIEF."

REMAINING NEED: Continued momentum created by the BRIEF Coalition's initiatives. Future funding for the System of Care coordinator - \$75,000 per year.

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: Of the ten school districts in Essex County, all ten have participated, in one form or another, with the System of Care initiatives. The collaboration and coordination of care has increased dramatically because of the System of Care model. While some schools' administrators have pulled-back on being involved with trainings and topics such as DEI or Trauma-Informed Care (given the recent messaging coming from the United States Government in 2025), many school counselors have remained steadfast in participating in ways the education system can continue partnering with the Essex County provider system. In particular, the System of Care hosts a monthly meeting called SchOUT (School Outreach) in which school counselors and teachers join in a meeting with children's providers and learn from one another how to better collaborate and learn about one another's challenges, and create

solutions!

In Spring 2025, the Children's SPOA established an email that all school staff could send messages to when they had a question about the needs of a student. This initiative saved on schools not knowing whom to reach out to. The three contacts that receive the email then respond with a response by the next business day. BRIEF also created a comprehensive Resource Binder with all the children's providers, their contact information, referral forms, and thorough information about who they are and what services they provided. The Resource Binder was in response to schools sharing with the team that they wanted something tangible that they could access - not a website. However, the Resource Binder was added to the BRIEF website so schools would have the most up-to-date information. See <https://essexcountyny.gov/BRIEF/school-resource-binder/>

REMAINING NEED: Continued momentum created by the BRIEF Coalition's initiatives. Future funding for the System of Care coordinator - \$75,000 per year.

Goal 3 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: While we have established an Adult TIER 2 (similar to the children's TIER 2 structure) in 2024, we have not yet established a Peer program for the Office for the Aging Population. The Adult TIER 2 committee was in response to the challenges DSS/APS, OFA, OMH/MHOTRS, OASAS Providers and Adult Care Management was facing in regard to adults who were "falling through the cracks" (usually due to a dementia diagnosis) or were creating an increased need for services. We created a Universal Release of Information that a provider could request so an individual could be appropriately discussed at the Adult TIER 2 table.

REMAINING NEED: NYS Department of Health creating more resources and support for those with, or those caring for, dementia. Educating the community that dementia is more a health care diagnosis than a mental health diagnosis. Additionally, appropriate housing for individuals who are unable to successfully remain in their homes, but are not yet ready for nursing home services.

Goal 3 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: The CSB has created a small Committee to meet, privately, with a provider to discuss their financial health, the health of their agency, and to speak openly about their performance as an agency in our county. We began this in 2024 and continue to adjust the committee's purpose to make it beneficial for the provider and the CSB to communicate.

REMAINING NEED: The CSB Finance Committee to continue to establish reporting requirements of CSB providers that are not overwhelming or taxing on the provider, yet creates an understanding of their financial and overall health.

Goal 3 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: Unfortunately, we remain to have between two to four participants in Essex County Mental Health Court. We have found the Court to be beneficial to those participating and to the community. We will remain steadfast in supporting the growth of the program that started in 2021.

REMAINING NEED: Educate the Public Defenders and private attorneys on the benefit of their client participating in Mental Health Court.

Goal 3 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update: Not started

Goal 3 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: The various Plans that circle around Essex County are shared amongst the leadership, but we have not yet established a collective strategic plan. With the burgeoning use of Artificial Intelligence, this initiative should be more easily accomplished in the future.

REMAINING NEED: Utilize Artificial Intelligence to coordinate a plan amongst various individual plans.

Goal 4

Goal 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: Mountain Lakes Services (OPWDD) was awarded the Critical Time Intervention grant in 2024 to serve co-occurring youth in the emergency department. Mountain Lake Services is working with OMH to finalize the contract, as there have been some updates to the template. A work plan submitted to OMH and program guidance from OMH is in development. There is an identified director for the program and a project implementation team. CTI case management is pending the contract. Mountain Lake Services has identified a location for the respite residential setting and are at the very beginning stages of planning. See thorough update effective 6/12/2025 in Goal 4/Objective 2.

REMAINING NEED: Continue to monitor and coordinate with Mountain Lake Services and the North Country and Tug Hill Directors of Community Services

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: N/A

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: This Objective belongs with Goal 1 and should be considered Goal 1, Objective 3. The overall update I provided in Goal 1 is really associated with this Goal 4 Objective 1.

I marked it N/A, but would rather have it added to Goal 1 as a new objective.

This is a repeat of the Update for Goal 1: UPDATE: For the OPWDD/OMH/OASAS populations (referred to as CSB Population throughout this document) in Essex County, the only form of housing assistance specific for these groups is the Rental Subsidies program through OMH. There is one ESSHI housing unit in Ticonderoga that houses 4 families. This is through an ESSHI program through an OASAS provider. The only short-term rentals are through the Mental Health Associations supportive housing (OMH). There are no Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, or Permanent Supportive Housing options.

Essex County is a wonderful playground for those financially secure and or can do remote work. In 2022, it was noted that the new and existing home valued increased 12% in 2022 (<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/adirondacks-see-spike-in-property-values>). Additionally, the Short Term Rentals have negatively impacted the available year-round rental stock, leaving the CSB population challenged to find a year-round rental that is also affordable. For example, the estimated cost of a 1-bedroom apartment average rent is \$895, whereas in 2020, it was \$810.

Essex County recently applied for an ESSHI Grant in December 2023. We learned in March 2025 that NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal, unfortunately, did not support funding the 60-unit (with 15 ESSHI units) project. The proposal will be resubmitted in the Fall 2025.

In June 2025, there are 26 individuals awaiting Supportive Housing stipends through SPOA as compared to 20 individuals in 2020.

REMAINING NEED: Essex County does not have adequate supportive housing for those the CSB system serves.

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: An update effective 6/12/2025 is as follows:

Program Overview:

The Critical Time Transition Program (CTTP) offers immediate response and holistic coordination of services to successfully support the youth (ages 11-17) and family/caregivers through the critical transition from hospital settings (psychiatric departments, emergency rooms, etc.) back into their community. CTTP will offer care and support with a non-judgmental, person-centered, strength-based approach that meets youth and families/caregivers where they are, helping them to identify what is important to them; ensure that the youth and families/caregivers needs are met; mobilize the resources of the family/caregiver and the community to support the youth's ongoing needs, connecting the youth with identified supports and linkages to community services; and restoring stability to support the youth to returning/remaining at home. The CTTP is comprised of two components to optimize the youth's success.

The core of CTTP is an intensive care management and family/caregiver engagement approach that supports the youths transition back into their community, this Critical Time Intervention team is the first component of the CTTP. This team of professionals will support up to 16 youth during transition. This intensive case management includes weekly contact and coordinated efforts between support staff, the youth, family/caregiver, the hospital, and community providers. The professionals of this team will include case managers and an Educational/Vocational Specialist.

Some youth and families/caregivers enrolled in the CTTP may also benefit from a stay in, or participation of services in, the Transitional Residential Setting (TRS), which is the second component of the CTTP. This residential setting will be able to support up to 8 youth, for short-term stays and will provide stabilization, positive behavioral supports and strategies and connection to assessments, therapies and community supports to maintain or return the youth to the home or community setting. The professionals at the TRS will include direct support staff to provide 24/7 supervision and support, a clinician, a nurse, a family peer advocate, a youth peer advocate, a recreation/expressive therapist and a positive behavior support specialist.

The professionals from the CTI and TRS will work collaborative with all youth enrolled in the CTTP under the leadership of a single program director. The CTTP professionals in partnership with local hospitals, outpatient providers, community service providers, the youth and family/caregivers will work to achieve a successful transition to the community for the youth reducing lengthy, inappropriate and expensive hospital stays.

Updates on Implementation

Contract/Launch:

Notification of award received in August 2024. Some requirements prior to the contract being signed caused a delay (1) OMH developed workplan and (2) approved budget template. The workplan was received in February. Due to advocacy of the awardees, there was an agreement from Office of Mental Health to release some funds associated with the TRS with the CTI funds, as the positions are shared, such as the director. This required updating the budget template. We were notified in early May that the updated template was accepted and the contract ready to sign, however shortly thereafter we received information that the positions expected to be included in the CTI funds were different than the guidance we used for the budget template. We are currently working with OMH to obtain clarity and ensure our budget reflects all expected positions.

Program Development:

A program implementation team has been identified post-transition of our prior Executive Director. The team has been working on the work plan to prepare for the CTI program launch. Including job descriptions, policies & procedures, and MOU development. On-going engagement with OMH program team, attending webinars and participating in a collaborative of other agencies who were awarded the grant/program are being leveraged to ensure we have comprehensive understanding of new developments and program changes. A Program Director has been identified, and we are engaged with OMH program team regarding new updates to the director experience expectations, as they vary from initial guidance. OMH and other state partners are working on finalizing the program guidance, however this has not yet been shared with the provider agencies.

Transitional Residential Setting:

A location has been identified for use of building a new setting to serve as the residential setting. A feasibility study and initial design of the building has been completed. Upon submission to OMH, there was significant feedback. We are working the OMH housing team to resolve their concerns and finalize the building design.

REMAINING NEED: Continue to monitor and coordinate with Mountain Lake Services and the North Country and Tug Hill Directors of Community Services

Goal 5

Goal 5, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: The Essex County DCS and OASAS have been in discussion about establishing Methadone treatment within the Essex/Warren/Saratoga region. A major challenge is the distance between the service and the individual in need of services. We have spoken with the FQHC in our region to explore their interest, willingness, and potential for their organization to be the resource. Based on the initial conversations, it may not be a service line the FQHC is interested in.

REMAINING NEED: Continue to explore opportunities throughout the regional provider system and with OASAS

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment and Recovery Centers (primarily located in Franklin County) report that a OTP is going to open in Saranac Lake in late-Summer 2025. It was discussed that they would look to establish mobile methadone treatment after being successfully operational for one year. There has been some discussion about MMU not being feasible in the rural North Country, given individuals could miss their dose given inclement weather in the winter. However, given someone living in Ticonderoga and receiving methadone treatment at their closest resource (Conifer Park in Plattsburgh - 66 miles in distance) would encounter the same situation, it seems valuable to continue exploring this avenue as a potential solution.

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Not started

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: UPDATE: This initiative would not begin until at least winter 2026.



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2027 Update to 2024-2027 Goals and Objectives Essex County Mental Health Services

Terri Morse, Director
(terri.morse@essexcountyny.gov)

Goal 1

Goal 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1, 2027 Status Update Description: The ESSHI 9 Grant was awarded to Mental Health Association and, in February 2026, Regan Developers were approved by HCR that the project was approved and funded. The 60-unit building (with 12 ESSHI allocated apartments) is projected to be completed in August 2027.

There continues to be an increase in the cost of rents in Essex County. HUD's estimate of a modest two-bedroom rental in Essex County increased from \$863 per month in 2020 to \$1,085 per month in 2025—a 26% increase in just five years. Meanwhile, market rents reported in the county's 2025 housing study show many available homes renting for \$2,200 to \$3,750 per month, highlighting the growing gap between local incomes and housing costs.

Also, according to the Zimmerman/Volk Associates analysis of residential market potential for Essex County Primary and Secondary Units, there are 72.9% of occupied housing units are owner-occupied and only 27.1% are rentals and the report repeatedly notes that rental vacancies are extremely limited and many properties are fully occupied.

There is some good news though. Over the past two years, the Essex County Land Bank, in collaboration with North Country Rural Development Coalition, have focused on developing new and renovating housing stock to improve workforce housing. However, housing for the CSB populations continue to be challenged with finding appropriate housing.

REMAINING NEED: In addition to needing more funding for adequate supportive housing, a need for Transitional Housing is becoming increasingly evident in Essex County. We have no Transitional Housing to support those coming out of the Essex County Correctional Facility, from a half-way house, or for those with Serious Mental Illness who are in need of more support than just a place to live.

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: The CSB Housing Group meet on a quarterly basis. In October 2025, the CSB focused their Annual Board Retreat on the topic of housing and invited 5 presenters who shared their unique housing solutions with the Board.

As recently as May 2026, one of the presenters continues to seek ways in which they can allocate 6 mobile homes in their privately owned mobile home park for the CSB population.

Given that the OMH funding for Supported Housing through Mental Health Association in Essex County (Program Code 6060) cannot support the same number of families in 2026 as prior to 2020 due to the increased rental fees throughout the county, this solution may not be able to positively impact fulfilling the need for supported housing for the CSB population.

REMAINING NEED: Low-income housing (brick and mortar) and an increase in Supported Housing (Program Code 6060) funding.

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: The Update in 2025 for 2026 remains in 2026.

REMAINING NEED: Advocacy for addressing the inadequate housing for both the individual the CSB is responsible for and the workforce.

Goal 2

Goal 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2, 2027 Status Update Description: In 2025-2026, the MHOTRS clinic, Essex County Mental Health, is receiving an increase in requests for internships of Mental Health Counselors and Social Workers. Plattsburgh State University in Plattsburgh, NY (Clinton County) added a Masters in Social Work program in 2025, and this will help Essex County. The tides have turned, but we are not out of the woods yet. Essex County Mental Health remains optimistic about resuming open-access by end of 2026.

Children's HBCS/Health Home Provider, Families First, continue to have difficulty recruiting and it's mainly based on the lack

of insurance reimbursement for these services. Their inability to provide salaries that can withstand the increase in electricity and fuel are no longer competitive. This same situation is experienced by the Adult Health Home provider, Mental Health Association of Essex County.

The OASAS Prevention provider, The Prevention Team, relayed at the June CSB meeting that their staffing concerns have decreased and currently not concerned about staffing. The OASAS Treatment provider, St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment and Recovery Centers, shared at the same meeting that they have lost CASAC staff and have concerns about their workforce needs.

The OPWDD provider, Mountain Lake Services, remains to struggle with fulfilling their employment needs, and this has been a long-term struggle.

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: N/A

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: The BRIEF website continues to share job opportunities on their Resilient Careers section.

This objective is discontinued.

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: 2026 UPDATE: The BRIEF Peer Network continues to be active and supports regional organizations who employ Peers. The number of Family Peer Advocates and Youth Peer Advocates has decreased by 25% within the past year. Mental Health Association in Essex County continues to be the organization that hires Peers. The Community Services Board and providers still hold expanding Peer services in Essex County as a priority.

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: 2026 UPDATE: The PSET (Positive School Environment Team) initiative in Essex County has been fulfilled and there are two schools in the County who still utilize this program throughout the 2025/2026 school year, both schools shared they will most likely continue PSET in the 2026/2027 school year. We continue observing evidence of the benefits to the schools who actively participate in the System of Care philosophy. The School Outreach working group continues to meet monthly, and this is an opportunity for schools and providers to connect, update, and discuss gaps that remain in the System.

We have been able to blend and braid funding to support the continuation of both the staff of the BRIEF Coalition and also fund various initiatives by blending and braiding funding.

Goal 2 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 2 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: The System of Care model continues to inspire a culture of support, cooperation, and positivity throughout the provider network in Essex County. The Executive Committee of BRIEF meet monthly and continue to tackle gaps in the system, brainstorm initiatives, and develop a system rather than one organization taking lead. It's a beautiful thing!!

Goal 3

Goal 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3, 2027 Status Update Description: As mentioned previously in our LSP update, Essex County's System of Care continues going strong. We are finding that non-profit organizations and foundations continue to be inspired by our vision and fund various initiatives. An initiative we developed in Fall 2025 is bringing Teen Mental Health First Aid to every ninth-grade classroom in Essex County, not once, but year after year. There are five schools who have begun the process and are poised to initiate the program in the 2026/2027 school year. We partnered with Mental Health Association of New York State and are utilizing a five-year grant they received to launch and sustain this initiative for many years to come. We are also being funded by a local Article 28 hospital to get two Trainers of Adult Mental Health First Aid that we will partner with every town in Essex County to begin an initiative of providing each community with training in Adult Mental Health First Aid, Resiliency Training, and Tending the Roots training.

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: Building Resilience in Essex Families (BRIEF) continues to build stronger relationships with schools and hosts the SchOUT (School Outreach) working group on a monthly basis. Schools report they feel supported and engaged, and the gap between schools and providers has reduced.

Goal 3 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: The Adult Tier 2 committee continues to meet bi-monthly and continues to observe a higher level of individuals who connect with the Mental Health, DSS and Office for the Aging systems. We see an influx of individuals experiencing cognitive deficits and we struggle with what system takes lead on addressing their concerns. In June 2026, we developed a plan for bringing more parties to the table – decision-makers within the Article 28 hospital, Office of Mental Health and Becky Preve of the Association of Aging in New York.

REMAINING NEED: A better collaboration of how to best serve the aged population who experience mental health,

substance use disorder, and/or intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Goal 3 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 3 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: We believe the CSB has developed a fine balance of how to better assess CSB providers' financial and organizational health. As a result in addressing our concerns with a particular provider throughout 2025/2026, we have seen great improvement in the ability to manage their finances more effectively.

Goal 3 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: The Essex County Mental Health Court continues to struggle with low numbers of attendees. We will be watchful of how the Court Navigator and AOT/EVA programs contribute to utilization of the diversion court opportunity.

Goal 3 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update Description: The Director of Community Services recently took part in the Community Health Improvement Plan of the Local Health Department. There are greater efforts to engage all partners in developing the various County plans that are required. We continue to break down barriers to ensure gaps are filled and duplication is minimized.

Goal 4

Goal 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4, 2027 Status Update Description: As of June 2026, The Critical Time Intervention and Critical Time Transition Program continue to develop. The biggest block is finding property for the facility. A Program Director has been identified and will start on 8/31/2026. The Office of Mental Health has approved the state of a limited referral process effective June 6, 2026. Active recruitment is in progress for all remaining vacant positions and transition plans are in process to be filled by internal candidates. The property search has not been successful in identifying an ideal site.

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: N/A

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: UPDATE: This Objective belongs with Goal 1 and should be considered Goal 1, Objective 3.

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: As of June 2026, The Critical Time Intervention and Critical Time Transition Program continue to develop. The biggest block is finding property for the facility. A Program Director has been identified and will start on 8/31/2026. The Office of Mental Health has approved the state of a limited referral process effective June 6, 2026. Active recruitment is in progress for all remaining vacant positions and transition plans are in process to be filled by internal candidates. The property search has not been successful in identifying an ideal site.

The North Country and Tug Hill Directors of Community Services will continue to monitor and coordinate with Mountain Lake Services on the progress of this initiative.

Goal 5

Goal 5, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5, 2027 Status Update Description: The Director of Community Services met with OASAS Regional Staff to discuss the potential for adding methadone treatment to an Essex County Outpatient OASAS Provider's program. More exploration on the value of establishing this additional service will be discussed in 2026/2027.

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: The Methadone Clinic in Saranac Lake managed by St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment and Recovery Centers is scheduled to open the clinic for methadone treatment in Fall 2026. This will be helpful to both the Franklin and Essex County citizens in need of this form of treatment.

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: This initiative will not begin until at least winter 2027.



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**2024 Needs Assessment Form
Essex County Mental Health Services**

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):

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):

Respite Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

Transportation Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Essex County has very limited public transportation and has few routes throughout the weekday. This significantly impacts those without Medicaid insurance for transportation to medical appointments. Additionally, for those in need of transportation to/from court, DSS, probation, food, pharmacy, etc., have a very difficult time in getting their needs met.

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: Terri Morse

Submitted for: Essex County Mental Health Services



2025 Needs Assessment Form Essex County Mental Health Services

Employment/volunteer (client) 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): I would say that our LSP partially indicates this need in our G&O by way of our G&O about the use of Peers. While not on our LSP, the Essex County's System of Care has G&Os associated with the Transition Aged Youth topic. Our System of Care is listed on our LSP, so I didn't want to duplicate the SOC goals on the LSP. We are finding that young people who are not college-bound are having difficulty finding their place in the world. With the advent of "College for Everyone," I'm not sure it sent the correct message to young people who may not be able to or interested in attending college. Many jobs within the County do not require degrees, yet young people are not applying for them. We're hoping that our efforts in the Transition Aged Youth efforts will assist schools in helping young people navigate their next steps - whether they are college bound, go into the trades, or find employment/volunteering in which they feel purposeful.

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):

Prevention 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):

Respite 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):

Transition Age 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): I would say that our LSP partially indicates this need in our G&O by way of our G&O about the use of Peers. While not on our LSP, the Essex County's System of Care has G&Os associated with the Transition Aged Youth topic. Our System of Care is listed on our LSP, so I didn't want to duplicate the SOC goals on the LSP. We are finding that young people who are not college-bound are having difficulty finding their place in the world. With the advent of "College for Everyone," I'm not sure it sent the correct message to young people who may not be able to or interested in attending college. Many jobs within the County do not require degrees, yet young people are not applying for them. We're hoping that our efforts in the Transition Aged Youth efforts will assist schools in helping young people navigate their next steps - whether they are college bound, go into the trades, or find employment/volunteering in which they feel purposeful.

Transportation 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): Transportation issues have ALWAYS existed in Essex County. Years ago, we removed it from the LSP because it seemed like a problem that has no solution. This is not on our current G&O for the same reason, however, it remains a MAJOR issue.

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: Terri Morse

Submitted for: Essex County Mental Health Services



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**2026 Needs Assessment Form
Essex County Mental Health Services**

Cross System 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):

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? No

Need description (Optional): I checked this box solely because if Medicaid is defunded by the current US Administration, this need is going to be significant.

Prevention 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):

Respite 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): This is our Goal #4, but it's just not TITLED "Respite." Therefore, it exists, but is not allocated appropriately.

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: Terri Morse

Submitted for: Essex County Mental Health Services



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**2027 Needs Assessment Form
Essex County Mental Health Services**

Case Management/Care Coordination Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

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): Children's Case Management for OPWDD is a significant deficit in Essex County. The number of children "stuck in the ER" is still too high. While we have made strides, and the future CTP/CTI program will help, there remains a gap.

Adult Care Management for the highest needs individuals remains a gap. However, with the addition of the Enhanced Voluntary Agreement/AOT initiative, this may support filling this gap.

Housing Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

Inpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? Yes

Need description (Optional):

Respite Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Many years ago, OMH Children's care management providers were allowed to provide overnight respite services, but now the regulations have become increasingly

strict and children/families have little options when a break is needed. It's understandable why the regulations exist, but respite for only 4 hours sometimes just isn't enough for a family.

Transportation Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): We used to include a Goal/Objective in our LSP, but the problem seems so challenging that we stopped. However, Essex County has contracted with a company to explore the potential for creating more public transportation. It's really tough in a county that is 1916 square miles and only has 36,500 residents.

Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Transitional Housing Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): The number of homeless in Essex County has doubled from 2024-2025 and many of those in need of housing are sent to Clinton County. Now Clinton County is getting full and sending people to Franklin County. There is NO/very minimal Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing or Transitional Housing in Essex County - we have DSS placement and Mental Health Association Supportive Housing funding (through OMH). It's not enough, and with what is perceived to be an increase in homelessness in the next few years, we will have a serious situation on our hands.

LGU Representative: Terri Morse

Submitted for: Essex County Mental Health Services

Agency Name	Program Name	Program Type Name
Adirondack Health Institute	Adirondack Health Institute SMH CMA	Specialty Mental Health Care Management
AIDS Council of Northeastern New York	Alliance For Positive Health	Specialty Mental Health Care Management
Citizen Advocates, Inc. dba North Star Indust	Citizen Advocates SMH CMA	Specialty Mental Health Care Management
Essex County Community Services Board	CFTSS: Community Psychiatric Support and Treatment (CPST)	CFTSS: Community Psychiatric Support and Treatment (CPST)
Essex County Community Services Board	CFTSS: Mobile Crisis Intervention (CI)	CFTSS: Mobile Crisis Intervention (CI)
Essex County Community Services Board	CFTSS: Other Licensed Practitioner (OLP)	CFTSS: Other Licensed Practitioner (OLP)
Essex County Community Services Board	Essex County Community Services	Reinvestment and Medication Grant Program (MGP)
Essex County Community Services Board	Essex County Community Services	Monitoring and Evaluation, CSS
Essex County Community Services Board	Essex County Community Services Board-HH NonMedCM	Health Home Non-Medicaid Care Management
Essex County Community Services Board	Essex County Community Services Board - HHCM	Health Home Care Management
Essex County Community Services Board	Essex County Community Services Board Mobile Crisis Provider	Mobile Crisis Services
Essex County Community Services Board	Essex County MHS SPOA - Adult	Single Point of Access (SPOA)
Essex County Community Services Board	Essex County MHS SPOA - C&Y	Single Point of Access (SPOA)
Essex County Community Services Board	Essex County Mental Health Services	Mental Health Outpatient Treatment and Rehabilitative Services (MHOTRS)
Essex County Community Services Board	EssexCounty Community Services Board	Specialty Mental Health Care Management
Essex County Community Services Board	Transition Management	Transition Management Services
Essex County Community Services Board	Crisis 2680	Crisis Intervention
Families First in Essex County, Inc.	Advocacy Support Services 1760	Advocacy/Support Services
Families First in Essex County, Inc.	CFTSS Program at Families First	CFTSS: Children's Mental Health Rehabilitation Services
Families First in Essex County, Inc.	Children's Coordinated Services Initiative	Coordinated Children's Service Initiative

Families First in Essex County, Inc.	Families First in Essex County, Inc.	CFTSS: Community Psychiatric Support and Treatment (CPST)
Families First in Essex County, Inc.	Families First in Essex County, Inc.	CFTSS: Family Peer Support Services (FPSS)
Families First in Essex County, Inc.	Families First in Essex County, Inc.	CFTSS: Other Licensed Practitioner (OLP)
Families First in Essex County, Inc.	Families First in Essex County, Inc.	CFTSS: Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR)
Families First in Essex County, Inc.	Families First in Essex County, Inc.	CFTSS: Youth Peer Support (YPS)
Families First in Essex County, Inc.	Family Support Children & Youth	Family Peer Support Services - Children & Family
Families First in Essex County, Inc.	Health Home Care Management	Health Home Care Management
Families First in Essex County, Inc.	Health Home Non-Medicaid Care Management	Health Home Non-Medicaid Care Management
HCR Care Management, LLC	HCR Care Management SMH CMA	Specialty Mental Health Care Management
Hudson Headwaters Health Network	Hudson Headwaters Health Network	Specialty Mental Health Care Management
Mental Health Association in Essex County	988 Crisis Hotline Center	988 Crisis Hotline Center
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Adult Behavioral Health Home and Community Based Services Ed	Adult BH HCBS Education Support Services (ESS)
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Assisted Competitive Employment	Assisted Competitive Employment
Mental Health Association in Essex County	BH HCBS Empowerment Services Peer Supports	CORE Empowerment Services - Peer Supports
Mental Health Association in Essex County	BH HCBS Family Support and Training	CORE Family Support and Training (FST)
Mental Health Association in Essex County	BH HCBS Habilitation	Adult BH HCBS Habilitation
Mental Health Association in Essex County	BH HCBS Pre-Vocational Services	Adult BH HCBS Pre-Vocational Services
Mental Health Association in Essex County	BH HCBS Psychosocial Rehabilitation	CORE Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR)
Mental Health Association in Essex County	BH HCBS Transitional Employment	Adult BH HCBS Transitional Employment
Mental Health Association in Essex County	BH Short-term Respite	Adult BH HCBS Short-term Crisis Respite
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Community Services Non-Medicaid Care Coordination	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination

Mental Health Association in Essex County	Community Services Outreach	Outreach
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Crisis Alternative Program	Advocacy/Support Services
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Crisis Intervention	Crisis Intervention
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Educational Assistance Program	Supported Education
Mental Health Association in Essex County	HCBS Intensive Supported Employment	Adult BH HCBS Intensive Supported Employment (ISE)
Mental Health Association in Essex County	MHA Essex Supp Housing/RCE SH Essex Cty - Comm Svcs	Supportive Housing
Mental Health Association in Essex County	MHA Essex Supp Housing/Transformation SH - Comm Svcs	Supportive Housing
Mental Health Association in Essex County	MHA in Essex Co. Scattered Supported Housing-Comm.Svcs.	Supportive Housing
Mental Health Association in Essex County	MHA in Essex County SMH CMA AOT	Specialty Mental Health Care Management
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Mental Health Association in Essex County - HH CM	Health Home Care Management
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Mental Health Association in Essex County - HH Non-Medicaid	Health Home Non-Medicaid Care Management
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Ongoing Supported Employment (OSE)	Adult BH HCBS Ongoing Supported Employment (OSE)
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Self Help	Self-Help Programs
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Supported Employment Program	Ongoing Integrated Supported Employment
Mental Health Association in Essex County	Transportation	Transportation
Mountain Lake Services, a Chapter of The Arc New York in Essex County	Article 16 Clinic	Critical Time Transition Intervention
Mental Health Association of Franklin County Inc, DBA Community Connections of Franklin County	Home Based Crisis Intervention (HBCI)	