



Goals and Objectives 2024 Livingston County Community Services

Kristen Fisher, DCS
(kfisher@co.livingston.ny.us)

Goal 1

Goal 1: Title The LGU will maximize existing housing stock and identify new housing resources for community members in need.

Goal 1: Target Completion Date May 31, 2027

Goal 1: Description When Whitesnake wrote "Here I Go Again" I bet they didn't believe their lyrics would be so applicable to literally everything, let alone mental hygiene services planning. We're frustrated by the same problems facing our population every year...walking down the only road we've ever known, so to speak. Our system itself--the people we serve, our providers, our agencies, and systems overseeing it all is resilient in facing these problems year after year...here we go again. And though we've kept searching for a solution to our community needs, we never seem to find what we're looking for. With this plan, and the generosity of the 2024 budget, however, we are not wasting no more time! Our aim is not to walk alone, but to work together within our community and with our state partners to create something more than a lonely street of dreams for our community. With this plan, and our partnerships, and with the help and support of our community, we are leaving behind the promises and songs of yesterday to build supportive, sustainable service system for Livingston County.

Adequate housing is an ongoing need in Livingston County among all service sectors. Affordable housing is particularly limited, and demand far outpaces supply. The Mental Hygiene population needing housing is in frequent competition with individuals in other service sectors, such as veterans, individuals with low socioeconomic status, and individuals who are transitioning out of jail or prison, to name a few.

Livingston County is in need of additional dedicated housing for all mental hygiene populations. We lack resources to adequately serve our individuals with mental illness who need supportive places to stay, including community residences, SROs and Treatment Apartment Programs. Our individuals with mental health needs are lacking the support that comes with these living situations, which leads to unnecessary hospitalization and law enforcement engagement.

We are thrilled to have a residential treatment facility in our county for those individuals with SUD. However, this is not a permanent solution, nor is it a solution for individuals with SUD returning to our community from inpatient or residential programs elsewhere. We must have more supportive, recovery-oriented options for these folks.

Finally, housing options for individuals with I/DD are dire. Several state-operated homes in the county were temporarily closed, and our county LGU does not have reliable information on plans to re-open. in the meantime, individuals in our community who need the greatest support and care, and who most benefit from a stable environment, are struggling with uncertainty.

The LGU will maximize existing housing stock and identify new housing resources for community members in need in a way that reflects cultural humility and inclusion of all individuals..

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 Maximize existing housing resources

Goal 1, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2026

Goal 1, Objective 1, Description The LGU will work with community partners to maximize use of existing housing stock to support individuals with mental hygiene needs.

Goal 1, Objective 2: Title Monitor funding opportunities

Goal 1, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 2, Description The LGU will monitor funding opportunities from our state partners, as well as national and private foundations and provide encouragement and support to local housing providers to secure this funding.

Goal 1, Objective 3: Title Develop innovative housing solutions

Goal 1, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 3, Description The LGU will work collaboratively with local government and service providers to develop innovative housing solutions, i.e. the Oxford Housing Model and other creative options.

Goal 2

Goal 2: Title Increase available qualified workforce across all positions and service sectors.

Goal 2: Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 2: Description It's hard to remember a time when workforce wasn't a problem. This may be because in a rural area, recruiting and retaining workforce can be an issue due to several factors, including transportation, lack of a draw for relocation, and inability of rural non-profits, or non profits in general, to pay competitive wages. Workforce shortages are nothing new, and the pandemic has only amplified this problem, not only of worker supply, but of demand for mental hygiene services. So here we go again.

Our mental health service system struggles to recruit and retain individuals for specialty community services such as skillbuilding, family therapy, peer support, and home-based crisis intervention, and community crisis work, among others. The entire system is affected by lack of qualified psychiatrists, particularly for children. The system is also overburdened by need for prescribers who specialize in medications for opioid use disorders.

The service sector most affected, once again, are individuals in need of OPWDD services. Direct support professionals, while performing greatly needed work, and hard work, are often among the lowest paid in our industry. This has led, regionally, to residential services that are extremely short staffed, with people working far more hours than is safe for them or those they serve.

So here we go again, but not on our own, because this LGU will work closely with our providers and state partners to use growing resource and innovative strategies to address the workforce shortage.

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 Collaborate with local agency partners to promote employment opportunities.

Goal 2, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 2, Objective 1, Description The LGU will work with community partners to promote existing employment opportunities via website, social media, local job fairs, etc.

Goal 2, Objective 2: Title The LGU will collaborate with local agency partners to develop innovative working solutions.

Goal 2, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 2, Objective 2, Description The LGU will meet with community providers as a collaborative to identify ways to enhance working conditions including adding telehealth, flexible work schedules and other perks. Results to be shared across the community service sector.

Goal 2, Objective 3: Title The LGU will work with state partners to advocate for tuition reimbursement and re-imagining of credentials to enhance workforce.

Goal 2, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 2, Objective 3, Description The LGU will work with state partners to develop opportunities for individuals to enter the field without advanced degrees. The LGU will further work with the state partners to advocate for and promote tuition reimbursement for all.

Goal 3

Goal 3: Title The LGU will enhance existing transportation services and develop new, imaginative and practical solutions to the existing transportation problem.

Goal 3: Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 3: Description Here we go again. Adequate transportation is always a problem in a rural area, particularly for folks who do not have access to their own transportation, public transportation, or whose background or disability status makes driving prohibitive. Transportation, or lack thereof, is a social determinant of health, as it can mean the difference between accessing specialty treatment, crisis services, employment and other necessary resources to treat mental hygiene concerns and live a life worth living. Therefore, instead of going down the only road we've ever known, the LGU will make active efforts to partner with existing services, such as MAS and our regional transit system, and enhance alternative transportation sources so that all are afforded access to appropriate services.

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

Goal 3: Need Addressed 1 Transportation

Goal 3: Need Addressed 2

Goal 3: Need Addressed 3

Goal 3, Objective 1: Title Develop open, collaborative relationship with Medicaid Answering Service to address barriers to adequate transportation for our medication population

Goal 3, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 3, Objective 1, Description Livingston County Service agencies will meet with MAS representatives to discuss their service and how to use this service more efficiently. Services agencies will maintain open lines of communication with MAS to ensure swift problem solving.

Goal 3, Objective 2: Title The LGU will partner with agencies who offer client transportation to bolster and enhance

existing services.

Goal 3, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 3, Objective 2, Description The LGU will meet with agencies servicing IDD and SUD populations who provide transportation as part of their service to expand this to individuals who are not affiliated with their agencies. The LGU will notify agencies of available funding to enhance their services.

Goal 3, Objective 3: Title The LGU will develop other creative and practical solutions for transportation.

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

Goal 3, Objective 3, Description The LGU will identify non-traditional transportation providers, i.e. taxi services, volunteers and others to collaborate on solutions for the mental hygiene population.

Goal 4

Goal 4: Title The LGU will work with service providers, community organizations and community members to promote emotional literacy and emotional regulation across the lifespan in a way that is inclusive of diverse and varying experiences of our community members.

Goal 4: Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 4: Description David Coverdale sings that he's a drifter who was born to walk alone. We are concerned that our population feels much the same: without help, they are unable to differentiate between manageable and unmanageable emotions, and many are unclear how to deescalate strong emotions, or cope with uncomfortable emotions. This can feel lonely and quickly escalate into a crisis situation. Our aim is to teach our residents emotional literacy and emotional regulation in order to create a supportive and resilient community.

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

Goal 4: Need Addressed 1 Prevention

Goal 4: Need Addressed 2

Goal 4: Need Addressed 3

Goal 4, Objective 1: Title The LGU will partner with prevention organizations to facilitate trainings on emotion recognition and regulation

Goal 4, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 1, Description The LGU will work with CASA-Trinity, the Suicide Prevention Task Force, the Office for the Aging, SUNY Geneseo and others to ensure that emotion recognition and emotion regulation techniques are taught across the lifespan.

Goal 4, Objective 2: Title The LGU will identify and promote evidence-based curricula to teach emotional regulation skills.

Goal 4, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jun 30, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 2, Description The LGU will work to identify evidence-based curricula and promote such among area service agencies and schools.



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of
Mental Health

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

2024 Needs Assessment Form Livingston County Community 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):

Inpatient 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): We do not have inpatient treatment for the above populations in Livingston County. We work to identify willing agencies that may open inpatient treatment programs, however these services need broad policy support and changes in the current payment structure. We will continue to advocate for adequate treatment for all of our vulnerable populations.

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? No

Need description (Optional): Livingston County had several state operated OPWDD homes closed over the past several years, and has not clarified plans to re-open. We do not have the full spectrum of residential services for mental health population, as we are missing TAP, CR and SRO. We have more individuals who could benefit from housing than we have beds to house them. We have an OASAS residential program, however are missing several steps along the OASAS continuum of care. We do not have higher levels of care available for the under 18 population, who are all sent outside of the county and away from natural supports for treatment. This need is addressed with the housing goals and objectives.

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): There is a lack of TAY specific services across the service system. We will work with our state and local partners to investigate and implement best practices to serve this population.

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? Yes

Need description (Optional):

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: Kristen Fisher

Submitted for: Livingston County Community Services