



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of
Mental Health

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

Goals and Objectives 2024 Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

Jean-Marie Niebuhr, Deputy Commissioner/ DCS
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Goal 1

Goal 1: Title Increase housing opportunities for people with behavioral health needs

Goal 1: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 1: Description Dutchess county is facing a housing crisis that is impacting the entire community. In 2022, the county completed a housing needs assessment (uploaded document). Market conditions and affordability have impacted all residents and individuals with behavioral health needs are a part of that group. Homelessness impacts an individuals wellness in many ways and it is difficult if not impossible to focus on improving mental health without a roof over your head. The stability afforded to those who have consistent and adequate housing is so important and is a right that should be provided to everyone regardless of their cognitive ability, substance use or mental health challenges. Our local homeless shelters have many individuals who have significant developmental and behavioral health concerns. This population of people requires specialized intervention when approaching and planning for permanent housing. We intend to work with our local housing partners to coordinate and address the needs of people with unmet behavioral health needs that are homeless.

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

Goal 1: Need Addressed 1 Housing

Goal 1: Need Addressed 2 Cross System Services

Goal 1: Need Addressed 3 Outpatient treatment

Goal 1, Objective 1: Title Partner with community agencies to provide mental health and substance use services for individuals experiencing homelessness

Goal 1, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 1, Objective 1, Description By 2025, there will be a community based provider who is able to offer substance use treatment services within the emergency shelter system. These services will be flexible, low barrier and on-site to reduce obstacles to treatment.

Goal 1, Objective 2: Title Develop an on-site county run mental health unit to overcome obstacles to housing associated with behavioral health needs

Goal 1, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 1, Objective 2, Description By 2025, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health will develop a small unit (2 clinicians) who are able to provide on site mental health services to overcome mental health needs that interfere with a person's ability to secure housing.

Goal 1, Objective 3: Title Advocate for the development of additional housing units

Goal 1, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 3, Description By 2027, the LGU will offer ongoing conversations with the community around housing for individuals with behavioral health challenges. This may be done through the "100 cups of coffee" model or public forum, or a combination. This is intended to address the "Not in my backyard" by actively engaging the community in conversations around the topic of housing.

Goal 1, Objective 4: Title Increase recovery housing options

Goal 1, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 1, Objective 4, Description The LGU will work with community based providers to increase recovery housing options that can accommodate people with a wide range of behavioral health needs.

Goal 1, Objective 5: Title Pursue IRA development with the State and local providers

Goal 1, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 5, Description Dutchess County residents desperately need respite resource for the I/DD population. This need is to be explored thoroughly and aggressively with OPWDD at the local and state level as this issue has been discussed for at least 15 years and little, if anything, has been accomplished. One provider within the County used to operate a respite facility but that program appears to no longer be a viable option. Consumers, families, and caregivers need this option.

Goal 2

Goal 2: Title Increase the number of peer advocates and certified recovery coaches

Goal 2: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 2: Description Dutchess County recognizes the value that people with lived experience bring to the table. We aim to increase the number peers (youth and adults) involved in decision making.

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

Goal 2: Need Addressed 1 Workforce

Goal 2: Need Addressed 2 Non-Clinical supports

Goal 2: Need Addressed 3

Goal 2, Objective 1: Title Increase peers in sub-committees and advisory board

Goal 2, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 2, Objective 1, Description By 2025, there will be at least one individual with lived experience on each of the mental hygiene advisory board (Community Services board) sub-committees and on the full board. This valuable input will assist in developing a local services plan that accurately reflects the service needs of the community.

Goal 2, Objective 2: Title Increase training opportunities for peers

Goal 2, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2026

Goal 2, Objective 2, Description The LGU will hold training opportunities or collaborate with partner agencies to increase workforce for people with lived experience. This may include a certified recovery peer advocate (CRPA training) or peer advocate trainings.

Goal 2, Objective 3: Title Create a youth advisory board

Goal 2, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2026

Goal 2, Objective 3, Description The LGU will create a sub-committee of the Community Services Board, or other advisory council, which will be comprised of youth who have used the behavioral health services in Dutchess County. The intent of this group will be to inform the improvement of the service delivery system for youth.

Goal 3

Goal 3: Title Improve the emergency response system within the 988 catchment area to better match the needs of the community with the appropriate service

Goal 3: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2024

Goal 3: Description Over the course of the last several years there has been increased dialogue in our community about having behavioral health experts respond to behavioral health crisis rather than police.

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

Goal 3: Need Addressed 1 Crisis Services

Goal 3: Need Addressed 2

Goal 3: Need Addressed 3

Goal 3, Objective 1: Title Set up a comprehensive 911 to 988 diversion system such that non emergent 911 calls are handled by the 988 call center

Goal 3, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2024

Goal 3, Objective 1, Description This project will be part of the development of the 988 call center in Dutchess County which currently covers Dutchess, Sullivan and Ulster county. The aim here is to ensure that uniformed officers are not responding to behavioral health emergencies unless that is the best viable option. It also reduces the number of ambulances deployed to behavioral health emergencies, ensuring that the individual receives support from a mental health professional.

Goal 4

Goal 4: Title Increase opportunities for outreach and engagement with the whole community with a focus on individuals experiencing health disparities

Goal 4: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 4: Description Dutchess county has an increasing population of people who either do not speak English or English is a second language. According to data collected in the community health improvement plan (attached) mental health and substance use supports are rated as one of the highest needs expressed by all people who were surveyed. The LGU recognizes that there are pockets of communities within the county that have significant challenges accessing service due to transportation needs, poverty and stigma as well as language barriers. We aim to break down these barriers to accessing care.

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

Goal 4: Need Addressed 1 Prevention

Goal 4: Need Addressed 2 Refugees and immigrants

Goal 4: Need Addressed 3 Non-Clinical supports

Goal 4, Objective 1: Title Utilize the DBCH Recreational Vehicle "Clinic on Wheels" to increase access to care

Goal 4, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 1, Description Programming for the RV will be developed over the next few years and will provide mental health screenings, connection to care and ongoing counseling supports to rural and urban parts of the county that have

been shown through data sources to reflect communities experiencing reduced access to care.

Goal 4, Objective 2: Title Partner with community based organizations to share resources and build relationships with black and brown communities.

Goal 4, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 2, Description the LGU will partner with local grassroots organizations regularly, creating a comprehensive health disparities committee to ensure that we are reaching communities in need of behavioral health services.

Goal 4, Objective 3: Title

Goal 4, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 4, Objective 3, Description

Goal 5

Goal 5: Title Decrease untimely death by overdose and suicide in Dutchess County.

Goal 5: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 5: Description Overdose and suicide deaths in Dutchess County are on the rise (data is attached). Given this grim reality, the LGU is posed to work with community partners and coordinate several initiatives in order to prevent deaths of despair by suicide and accidental overdose.

Goal 5: OASAS? Yes Goal 5: OMH? Yes Goal 5: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 5: Need Addressed 1 Crisis Services

Goal 5: Need Addressed 2 Prevention

Goal 5: Need Addressed 3 Non-Clinical supports

Goal 5, Objective 1: Title reduce suicide by firearms by collaborating with firearm safety instructors

Goal 5, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2024

Goal 5, Objective 1, Description The resiliency Council for Suicide Prevention will meet with gun shop owners and firearms instructors on an ongoing basis to distribute resources and educate people about suicide prevention and gatekeeper trainings.

Goal 5, Objective 2: Title The LGU will facilitate an overdose and fatality review to identify system breakdowns

Goal 5, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 5, Objective 2, Description Overdose and fatality review will be an ongoing, quarterly process in which cases are reviewed by a group of stakeholders in order to identify system breakdowns. Patterns will be collected and analyzed in order to make system changes to prevent untimely deaths.

Goal 5, Objective 3: Title Increase the targeted distribution of Harm Reduction supplies to the community by developing an overdose response network, spike alerts and harm reduction kit leave behinds

Goal 5, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 5, Objective 3, Description Dutchess County would like to improve its real time response to overdoses in the community. We currently do not have a coordinated effort with first responders to respond to recent overdoses. This will be developed and implemented over the next years.

Goal 6

Goal 6: Title Increase access to inpatient and outpatient mental health services

Goal 6: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 6: Description Dutchess County is in desperate need of additional public mental health providers. There are very high caseloads, long wait lists and the need to pause intakes by our current providers. Part of this is a workforce issue. Providers state that because they are unable to recruit and retain staff, this remains an ongoing problem. However, capacity was an issue prior to the current workforce crisis we currently find ourselves in. We have two main providers for public mental health services in Dutchess. Astor provides services for children and youth and Family Services provides adult services. We also have other options such as PROS. However, we see a need to increase capacity for access to regular clinic services for adults and children. Dutchess County also does not have any in-patient beds for youth. Data provided to us by the Westchester Medical Center Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital indicates that 288 children were sent out of Dutchess County in one year for inpatient hospitalization. Having our youth sent out of county to Westchester or even further makes an already challenging situation for youth and their families worse. Transportation becomes a barrier to visitation and participation in treatment, furthering the disparities that many of our families face. Additionally, treatment of individuals with an IDD diagnosis within our public mental health system is very difficult to find. Individuals on the autism spectrum who may have a co-occurring psychiatric condition often find that they are excluded from our treatment system due to a deficit of clinicians able to work with this population.

Goal 6: OASAS? Yes Goal 6: OMH? Yes Goal 6: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 6: Need Addressed 1 Cross System Services

Goal 6: Need Addressed 2 Inpatient Treatment

Goal 6: Need Addressed 3 Outpatient treatment

Goal 6, Objective 1: Title Partner with Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital on the Behavioral Health Center for Excellence

Goal 6, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 6, Objective 1, Description Over the next few years, Dutchess County has committed to working closely with our local 9.39 hospital. Through this process we aim to do perform quarterly site visits, review ongoing data and outcome metrics provided to us by the hospital to inform programmatic planning and decision making and advocate for in-patient beds for youth in Dutchess County.

Goal 6, Objective 2: Title Bring in at least two new providers of article 31 services to Dutchess County

Goal 6, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 6, Objective 2, Description Contract with or approve operations of at least two new providers of adult and youth out patient services in the county to increase capacity to treat and prevent the furtherance of behavioral health challenges.

Goal 7

Goal 7: Title Improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and development challenges

Goal 7: Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2027

Goal 7: Description Dutchess County has a commitment to improving the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental challenges and their families. Through the ThinkDifferently initiative, and All Abilities Action plan has been developed that outlines a roadmap to accomplishing this in various ways.

Goal 7: OASAS? No Goal 7: OMH? No Goal 7: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 7: Need Addressed 1 Non-Clinical supports

Goal 7: Need Addressed 2 Employment/volunteer (client)

Goal 7: Need Addressed 3 Housing

Goal 7, Objective 1: Title Enhance the awareness and utilization of legal instruments related to health care, end of life and financial planning as they relate to persons with I/DD

Goal 7, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 7, Objective 1, Description Provide trainings, forums, discussion groups and presentations a in concert with the Providers Council, providers' forums, social media and various contact rosters.

Ensure families are aware of their options in estate planning, trusts and guardianship to protect their assets and IDD individuals' potential entitlements

Goal 7, Objective 2: Title formulate a Special Education Bootcamp Committee of professionals and, parents to discuss the Special Education System in Dutchess County.

Goal 7, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 7, Objective 2, Description In the first quarter of 2024 conduct at least 1 Special Education Bootcamp meeting to begin formulating outline of needs of the special education community.

Goal 7, Objective 3: Title Partner with community based organization to promote the hiring of individuals on the autism spectrum

Goal 7, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2024

Goal 7, Objective 3, Description Anderson Center for Autism will provide the Autism Supportive Employment training to local businesses/ employers.

Goal 7, Objective 4: Title partner with local recreation programs to offer all abilities programming

Goal 7, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 7, Objective 4, Description ThinkDIFFERENTLY Event Planning Committee combined will discuss with at least 6 organizations, programs, agencies, etc. about all abilities programming.

Goal 7, Objective 5: Title Partner with the Regional Housing Collaborative to promote housing opportunities for people of all abilities

Goal 7, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2025

Goal 7, Objective 5, Description NY Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation has created a Regional Housing Collaboratives (RHCs) meeting. RHC is committed to gathering housing stakeholders regionally for the sole purpose of resourcing and creating housing opportunities for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). RHCs will include landlords, Housing Navigators, housing developers, NYS Government i.e., OPWDD, NYS Homes & Community Renewal, funders, and provider agencies and each will be led by the New York Housing Resource Center (NYHRC) team

Goal 7, Objective 6: Title Develop a community Certification Program for new and existing buildings for exceeding ADA standards

Goal 7, Objective 6, Target Completion Date Jan 01, 2026

Goal 7, Objective 6, Description Dutchess County ThinkDIFFERENTLY will begin to formulate a Community Certification Program for new and existing buildings/ businesses in Dutchess County. The creation of best practices for accessibility and inclusion beyond standard ADA compliance on new projects and remodels. The ThinkDIFFERENTLY Community Certification program will promote businesses and locations that commit to design spaces that are welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for all.



Update to 2024-2027 Goals and Objectives Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

Jean-Marie Niebuhr, Deputy Commissioner, Director of Community Services
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Goal 1

Title	Increase housing opportunities for people with behavioral health needs
Update	Several housing options have been added to the community over the course of the year. There were 3 Oxford House residences introduced during 2023-2024. A request for Proposals was initiated to bring additional beds online through NYS OASAS. The Department of Behavioral and Community Health is partnering closely with the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services to provide outreach, treatment and support to address the behavioral health needs of individuals who are unhoused.

OBJECTIVES

Partner with community agencies to provide mental health and substance use services for individuals experiencing homelessness	Ongoing
Develop an on-site county run mental health unit to overcome obstacles to housing associated with behavioral health needs	Ongoing
Advocate for the development of additional housing units	Ongoing
Increase recovery housing options	Ongoing
Pursue IRA development with the State and local providers	Ongoing

OBJECTIVE UPDATES

Goal 2

Title	Increase the number of peer advocates and certified recovery coaches
Update	Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health has partnered with the Office of Mental Health and the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services to create a local youth advisory board through the Youth Services divisions of DCFS. We have successfully added new members to the Community Services Board that have lived experience including people with substance use disorder, people with serious mental illness, parents of individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, individuals with developmental disabilities. This will continue to be an ongoing effort as the benefits are apparent. In 2024, DBCH will be holding a free recovery coach academy to increase coaching capacity across the county. DBCH has added three additional full time coaches to the department. One coach at the Dutchess County jail, a full time coach at the Alternative to Incarceration Program (ITAP) and two positions to the Empowerment Center.

OBJECTIVES

Increase peers in sub-committees and advisory board	Ongoing
Increase training opportunities for peers	Ongoing
Create a youth advisory board	Complete

OBJECTIVE UPDATES

Goal 3

Title	Improve the emergency response system within the 988 catchment area to better match the needs of the community with the appropriate service
Update	The Department of Behavioral and Community Health answers 988 calls for Ulster, Dutchess and Sullivan counties. We were able to successfully set up a warm transfer protocol for our 911 operators. Once this was successfully launched, we were able to replicate this protocol in Ulster and Sullivan counties as well.

OBJECTIVES

Set up a comprehensive 911 to 988 diversion system such that non emergent 911 calls are handled by the 988 call center	[*]
OBJECTIVE UPDATES	

Goal 4	
Title	Increase opportunities for outreach and engagement with the whole community with a focus on individuals experiencing health disparities
Update	The Department of Behavioral and Community Health continues to work on developing an ongoing calendar of outreach for screening and connection to services on the Health RV. This year, we held several public mental health forums across the county. Each forum, located in different corners of the county, was interpreted in both Spanish and sign language to increase accessibility. We continue to foster relationships with local grassroots organizations in order to improve our dialogue and service offerings to better meet the needs of communities of color and individuals that do not speak English.
OBJECTIVES	
Utilize the DBCH Recreational Vehicle "Clinic on Wheels" to increase access to care	Ongoing
Partner with community based organizations to share resources and build relationships with black and brown communities.	Ongoing
OBJECTIVE UPDATES	

Goal #5	
Title	Decrease untimely death by overdose and suicide in Dutchess County.
Update	Dutchess county holds in depth, suicide and overdose fatality reviews meetings quarterly. This multi stakeholder collaboration seeks to explore the full lives of individuals who have passed away from birth to death. The committee seeks to understand how to improve the system in order to prevent untimely deaths in the future by examining the treatment trajectory, or lack thereof, of individuals lost to suicide and overdose. Recommendations are turned into action items to improve our system. The Resiliency Council for Suicide Prevention is partnering with gun shops across the county to increase access to resources and to include suicide prevention efforts into gun safety classes. Dutchess county has now become a syringe exchange provider through the Department of Health. We are aiming to increase access to harm reduction supplies through various touchpoints throughout the county. We have added several recovery coach positions to the department whose role is to provide outreach and services at the Empowerment Center. The Empowerment Center encourages multiple Pathways to recovery and will assist an individual with substance use disorder in any way in which they feel comfortable engaging. We have also developed our spike alert system through the use of a text messaging system. Anyone can sign up for text messages that will alert the community if there is a higher than usual amount of overdoses. After the alert is received, a team of responders (recovery coaches, outreach workers, CASACs, and more) come together to blanket the area affected with information and resources. We have also held a conference with all of our local first responders to begin to roll out the Naloxone Leave Behind Kit initiative. First responders were trained in motivational interviewing and we are currently working on creating protocols for first responders. Kits will be provided by the Department of Behavioral and Community Health and will contain naloxone and resources for the individual who has overdosed and their family.
OBJECTIVES	
reduce suicide by firearms by collaborating with firearm safety instructors	Ongoing
The LGU will facilitate an overdose and fatality review to identify system breakdowns	Ongoing
Increase the targeted distribution of Harm Reduction supplies to the community by developing an overdose response network, spike alerts and harm reduction kit leave behinds	Ongoing
OBJECTIVE UPDATES	

Goal #6	
Title	Increase access to inpatient and outpatient mental health services
Update	We continue to meet quarterly with Mid Hudson Regional Hospital to evaluate performance metrics related to their Center of Excellence. There has not been progress on increasing access to inpatient psychiatric treatment for youth in Dutchess County. There are two new providers that are currently in the licensing process with the Office of Mental Health.
OBJECTIVES	
Partner with Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital on the Behavioral Health Center for Excellence	Ongoing
Bring in at least two new providers of article 31 services to Dutchess COuntY	Ongoing

OBJECTIVE UPDATES**Goal #7**

Title	Improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and development challenges
Update	A request for proposals (RFP) for Parent Empowerment Programming was awarded to a local service agency to assist families understanding of the system that serves individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities. An RFP was also awarded for the Autism Supportive Employment training to improve accessibility to work opportunities for individuals on the spectrum. Through collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and the Workforce Investment Board, this training will be made available to all businesses throughout the county. We are working to partner with the Northeast ADA Center to assist in providing training about accessibility and accommodations for their employees with disabilities. The Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund (HTF) was created in the fall of 2022 in response to long standing housing availability and affordability challenges throughout the county, the HTF provides a flexible and nimble funding source to aid the implementation of a variety of affordable housing efforts as outlined in the 2022 Dutchess County Housing Needs Assessment. By making the All-Abilities Program Director a key member of the committee that will review and recommend projects for award as part of the HTF, the program will prioritize the creation of affordable housing including supportive, accessible, and inclusive housing units in our community. The New York Housing Resource Center (HRC) for People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities was developed by the NY Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation. The HRC acts as a clearinghouse for information and resources for the housing processional across the state and helps to foster collaboration between and among the housing industry and related professions, service provider agencies and people with I/DD. The HRC provides all housing stakeholders with technical assistance on housing matters and community training for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families. We are also in the beginning planning stages of formulating criteria and creating a ThinkDIFFERENTLY Community Certification program where businesses (and other locations) are recognized for their inclusive, accepting, and welcoming environment for people of all abilities. Not just from meeting ADA requirements, but from engaging in the Anderson Center for Autism's, Autism Supportive Environment training for their guests with varying abilities to feel welcomed and understood, to going beyond ADA to ensure individuals of all abilities are comfortable, can easily move around their location, and have a safe space to go should the need arise. And lastly, to hiring individuals of all abilities.

OBJECTIVES

Enhance the awareness and utilization of legal instruments related to health care, end of life and financial planning as they relate to persons with I/DD	Ongoing
formulate a Special Education Bootcamp Committee of professionals and, parents to discuss the Special Education System in Dutchess County.	Ongoing
Partner with community based organization to promote the hiring of individuals on the autism spectrum	Ongoing
partner with local recreation programs to offer all abilities programming	Ongoing
Partner with the Regional Housing Collaborative to promote housing opportunities for people of all abilities	Ongoing
Develop a community Certification Program for new and existing buildings for exceeding ADA standards	Ongoing

OBJECTIVE UPDATES



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

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2026 Update to 2024-2027 Goals and Objectives Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

Jean-Marie Niebuhr, Commissioner
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Goal 1

Goal 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1, 2026 Status Update Description: Housing continues to be a need in Dutchess County. One significant development over the course of 2025 has been the ongoing partnership with the SOS CTI team. The SOS team is helping to expand housing first opportunities throughout the region and has already successfully housed several individuals who had experienced 'chronic' homelessness. The Department of Mental Health is also collaborating with our local Department of Community and Family Services to overcome obstacles to accessing temporary assistance and other available supports, especially as it relates to people with substance use disorder. We are working to develop efficiencies so that individuals who are referred to inpatient treatment for substance use treatment can have sanctions removed by having access to CASAC evaluations quickly. The LGU is also working with OMH and a local provider to establish a Children's Community Residence in Dutchess County. This will address some of the challenges we see with youth who interface across systems.

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Complete

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: Hudson Valley Healing Services has recently been licensed by OASAS to provide services in a flexible manner through the local Salvation Army. Step One is also now providing services throughout our various transitional housing and emergency housing options.

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: The LGU has applied to the NY Office of Mental Health to operate a MHOTRS clinic and an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) With a start date of 8/1/2026, this program will serve as a true safety net that can deliver services on and off site to individuals who have not benefitted from traditional treatment avenues. The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Team (LEAD) directly addresses individuals with unmet behavioral health needs through intensive, street based case management. This program has been very successful and expanding it would be beneficial. We are exploring way to do this.

This update is increasing access to services for individuals experiencing homelessness. In 2025, the LGU hired two full time social workers to work in our local emergency housing shelter. These clinicians are bringing harm reduction, clinical supports and crisis intervention to people who may not likely attend more traditional services.

Goal 1 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: Four public forums are held per year. Housing inevitably comes up in all of the them. This past year we also held a 100 cups of coffee community conversation on the topic of housing, generally in collaboration with the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights. The vent brings awareness to the complex issues of housing and the ever evolving landscape related to providing this extremely important resource for everyone.

Goal 1 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: Three additional Oxford Houses have been added to the variety of recovery housing options in Dutchess County. We continue to work on expanding available housing opportunities with providers.

Goal 1 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update Description: Dutchess County has awarded a local agency, Abilities First, funding to operate a respite program for individual with IDD and their families. While the funding and the program now exist, there have been staffing challenges that have impeded the full development.

Goal 2

Goal 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2, 2026 Status Update Description: The Dutchess County LGU remain committed to expanding individuals with lived experience. We continue to work on engaging individuals with lived experience in all of our program areas. We have increased the number of people with lived experience on our Community Services Board, in our partner agencies and on the Criminal Justice Council.

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: we have added several individuals with lived experience and will continue to add more as the insights provided by individuals who use services and have had experience with the service delivery system are essential in planning and improving services.

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: Several training opportunities were held throughout the year and this will continue. There is an emphasis on how to provide valuable supervision with peers in order to increase retention. Additionally, there is a new development where all agencies with peers come together to support one another, engage in problem solving and to join forces to assist each other and the community. These meetings are held at the Dutchess County Empowerment Center and occur quarterly.

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: We have begun to search for a young adult or youth to serve on our sub-committee of the Community Services Board that focuses on youth services.

Goal 3

Goal 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3, 2026 Status Update Description: Dutchess County has successfully implemented a formal training and referral mechanism to strengthen coordination between 911 and 988 services. As part of this initiative, 911 dispatchers have received targeted training on identifying non-imminent behavioral health calls that are more appropriately handled by the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline center. This process allows for real-time transfer of eligible calls from 911 to 988, ensuring that individuals in crisis are connected with specialized behavioral health resources while allowing 911 responders to focus on public safety emergencies. This collaboration represents a key step in better matching community needs with the appropriate level of response.

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Complete

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: While the formal training protocol and mechanism has been accomplished, we continue to work and ensure that the appropriate resource is deployed to each caller.

Goal 4

Goal 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4, 2026 Status Update Description:

Dutchess County continues to prioritize expanding its behavioral health footprint to improve access to services, particularly in rural and underserved communities. Efforts over the past year have focused on increasing community-based outreach, co-locating services within existing community hubs, and partnering with local organizations to bring mental health and substance use resources closer to residents. Initiatives have included providing mobile services, enhancing telehealth options, and hosting targeted engagement events in rural areas to reduce barriers to care and increase awareness of available supports. These strategies aim to ensure that all residents, regardless of geographic location, have timely and equitable access to behavioral health services. Recovery coaches have been very active in the community, attending events, doing street outreach and doing trainings for the community. We continue to host Mental health Town Halls in the community across the county, and we are developing a new Rural Mental Health Sub-committee of the Community Services Board.

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: The Department of Mental health has partnered with the Dutchess County Department of Health to create a full and predictable schedule of community events where harm reduction supplies, mental health and substance use screenings and connection to services can occur in various locations across the county. Additionally, we will be present on all college campus locations throughout the county.

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: in 2025, the Department of Mental Health has focused on engaging with a wide array of community partners. We committed \$200,000 of opioid settlement funds to multiple community agencies for Youth Wellness Mini-Grants. Several of these organizations have a primary focus of decreasing stigma and increasing supports in BIPOC communities. Through a partnership with a local hospital, health disparities are being addressed in a more formal way through a community partnership which contains multiple stakeholders.

Goal 5

Goal 5, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5, 2026 Status Update Description:

Dutchess County continues to advance its commitment to reducing untimely deaths from overdose and suicide through the coordinated efforts of the Opioid Task Force and the Resiliency Council for Suicide Prevention. Key initiatives currently underway include:

Plans are in motion to install five new harm reduction vending machines across the county. These machines will provide free, 24/7 access to life-saving supplies such as naloxone, drug testing kits, and safe disposal materials, aiming to expand access to harm reduction resources and reduce stigma.

The county has fully rolled out the Naloxone Leave-Behind Kit initiative. First responders have been trained in motivational interviewing techniques and are equipped to provide individuals who have experienced an overdose, along with their families, with naloxone kits and information on available resources.

Efforts are underway to create and distribute targeted outreach materials for funeral homes and the medical examiner's office. These materials aim to provide support and information to families affected by overdose or suicide, facilitating connections to bereavement services and prevention resources.

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: Through a partnership with local gun shop owners, firearms instructors and local businesses, the Resiliency Council for Suicide Prevention has distributed 988 and safety materials to any entity that would like to participate. The gun lock initiative is also underway as a path to means reduction for suicide prevention.

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: Dutchess County continues to conduct Suicide and Overdose Fatality Reviews as part of its data-driven approach to preventing untimely deaths. These multidisciplinary case reviews bring together public health, behavioral health, law enforcement, medical, and community partners to closely examine the circumstances surrounding each death. By identifying missed opportunities for intervention, systemic gaps, and emerging trends, the reviews help shape targeted prevention strategies, inform community education efforts, and guide policy development. This process has strengthened cross-system collaboration and led to actionable recommendations that enhance service delivery, outreach, and support for individuals at risk

Goal 5 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: Dutchess County has significantly strengthened its coordinated overdose spike alert system to improve real-time response and community safety. Utilizing a specialized communication platform, the County now issues timely alerts to a broad network of community partners when an increase in overdose activity is detected. This network includes first responders, harm reduction agencies, treatment providers, public health officials, and other key stakeholders. To ensure readiness and improve response protocols, the County also conducts regular overdose spike alert drills throughout the year. These drills help partners test communication pathways, refine response plans, and coordinate rapid deployment of outreach, prevention, and harm reduction resources. This enhanced system has improved situational awareness across sectors and strengthened the county's ability to respond quickly and effectively during overdose surges.

Goal 6

Goal 6, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6, 2026 Status Update Description: Dutchess County continues to face significant challenges in securing timely access to inpatient psychiatric beds for youth, with many families still experiencing delays in placement during times of acute mental health crisis. Despite these ongoing barriers, the County has made meaningful progress in expanding outpatient service capacity for both youth and adults. Through strong partnerships with community agencies, several key initiatives have been implemented:

Youth Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP): Developed in collaboration with a local provider to offer structured, multi-day programming for youth in need of intensive mental health support without requiring hospitalization.

Mental Health Urgent Care Center: Now available to both youth and adults, this service offers same-day access to psychiatric evaluation, crisis stabilization, and short-term treatment, helping to divert individuals from emergency rooms and inpatient care when appropriate.

Partial Hospital Program for Young Children: A new service specifically designed for younger children experiencing severe emotional and behavioral challenges, offering intensive daily support in a structured therapeutic setting.

Countywide Expansion of Children's Mental Health Services: In partnership with a local provider, efforts are underway to increase the availability of mental health services for children across Dutchess County, with a focus on reaching underserved and rural areas.

Goal 6 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: Dutchess County has partnered with Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth) to develop a Behavioral Health Center of Excellence at MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie. This initiative, supported by a \$3 million investment from the County, aims to enhance inpatient behavioral health services by adding 20 new beds, increasing the total to 60, and renovating existing units to create a more therapeutic environment.

The Center will integrate County Department of Mental Health staff on-site to ensure seamless transitions for patients from inpatient care to community-based services. This collaboration is a significant step toward strengthening the continuum of

behavioral health care in Dutchess County. We continue to meet with MHRH quarterly to discuss ongoing system challenges and improvements.

Goal 6 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: Family Services Behavioral Health is currently in the expansion phase of providing behavioral health services for Youth. Access supports for living has opened a MHOTRS clinic in Dutchess County. Will this objective has met the goal threshold, we will continue to increase access in this area.

Goal 7

Goal 7, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7, 2026 Status Update Description: Dutchess County's ThinkAccessible initiative, launched in 2024, builds upon the success of the ThinkDIFFERENTLY program to further promote inclusion and accessibility for residents and visitors of all abilities. The initiative established the ThinkAccessible Stakeholder & Community Group, bringing together local business leaders, municipal officials, disability advocates, and community members to identify and address accessibility challenges across the county. Through collaborative efforts, the group aims to develop strategies and implement solutions that enhance access to public spaces, services, and opportunities, ensuring that Dutchess County remains a welcoming and inclusive community for everyone.

Goal 7 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: Taconic Resources for Independence has begun to provide some of these trainings and workshops in conjunction with their Parent Empowerment Program which is funded partially by Dutchess County. Community Based Services, through their Transition Coordinators which is partially funded by Dutchess County, has also engaged families and individuals with trainings and workshops around these topics area.

Goal 7 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: Taconic Resources for Independence has begun to provide some of these trainings and workshops in conjunction with their Parent Empowerment Program which is funded partially by Dutchess County.

Goal 7 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: This is also an initiative of the Think Accessible Community Certification. As of this update, a three tiered Think Accessible Certification has been developed with local businesses and municipalities. Each tier has specialized items that the business can accomplish to make their environment a place for people of all abilities to work, play or otherwise utilize the spaces. There are currently 9 businesses working toward Think Accessible certifications.

Goal 7 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: The Event Planning Committee helps create and facilitate county hosted events for individuals with disabilities and their families throughout the year. We also continue to monitor new and enhanced programs throughout the county and provide information to our vast email list about new and/or enhanced programming throughout the county for individuals of all abilities.

Goal 7 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update Description: NY Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation has redesigned their New York Housing Resource Center website with more up to date information and ease of navigation. (The Regional Housing Collaborative meetings seem to have ceased.) The Think DIFFERENTLY team sends out updates and training information to its vast email list on these update, as well as when families/individuals contact us about housing we direct them to the website.

Goal 7 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update: Complete

Goal 7 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update Description: The structure of the Think Accessible certification has been developed. To date, there are 9 local businesses and municipalities in the process of applying for various levels of certification.



**Office of Addiction
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**Office of
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**Office for People With
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2027 Update to 2024-2027 Goals and Objectives Dutchess County Department of Mental Health

JEAN-MARIE NIEBUHR, Commissioner
(jmniebuhr@dutchessny.gov)

Goal 1

Goal 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1, 2027 Status Update Description: Over the past year, the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Team and the SOS CTI team have housed over 100 people. Through a Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) award, there will be significant housing improvements over the next 5 year period. Many of the housing establishments that will be built with those funds are mixed income. This will help to "free up" housing so that people can move into different levels of housing as needed. In 2027 we plan to have a CASAC embedded in our local Department of Community and Family Services. This position will work with our most vulnerable individuals who have co-occurring mental health and substance use needs in order to do everything possible to assist so that sanctions are not placed on individuals.

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: This objective has been completed

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: The IOP S.T.E.P program opened in October of 2025.

Goal 1 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: The Department of Mental Health continues to advocate for additional housing opportunities for individuals with behavioral health needs. This past year, the Commissioner was part of a decision making body for the City of Poughkeepsie's Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant. By participating in this process, the needs of individuals with behavioral health needs were always considered when making decisions, resulting in housing opportunities that will continue to develop for years to come.

Goal 1 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: People in recovery from substance use disorder are still having a difficult time finding adequate housing. Dutchess County did have its first Recovery Residence open in 2026 and that residence is already assisting people regularly. We will likely issue an additional Request for Proposals in the next year to increase capacity further.

Goal 1 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 1 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update Description: This service is now up and running. Objective complete.

Goal 2

Goal 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2, 2027 Status Update Description: We will continue to work on this goal. Agencies are now reporting lower vacancy factors in their peer roles, however, there still is a need for additional peer and recovery coach services in our community.

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: We now have multiple people with lived experience on the Community Services Board as well as the sub-committees of the community services board.

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: several more recovery coach trainings were held over the course of the year. We expect this to be an ongoing effort to increase peers in our community.

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: this objective is now complete.

Goal 3

Goal 3, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 3, 2027 Status Update Description: This goal is now complete. the 911 operators in all 3 covered counties have been trained to transfer calls to the 988 call center.

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: this is now complete.

Goal 4

Goal 4, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 4, 2027 Status Update Description: We now have a steady rotation of staff from the Department of Mental Health who engage with the community, both on the health RV and at community tabling events. There has been a 50% increase in community activities and trainings over the past year. While this goal is complete, we will continue to improve our outreach events to ensure that the community is aware of services and supports.

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: A thorough schedule now exists and the Department of Mental Health staff are available to do depression and anxiety screenings, provide information and make intake appointments from the RV.

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: Several initiatives over the past year have occurred to ensure targeted outreach to people of color. We added Spanish interpretation to all of our community forums. Through our community outreach, we have also participated in multiple community activities to ensure that people of color are aware of the behavioral health services and that our workforce more adequately represents all of the people we serve. We anticipate continually working on this for years to come.

Goal 5

Goal 5, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5, 2027 Status Update Description: We will never stop working on this goal! This past year we saw a greater than 50% reduction in overdose deaths. While this is excellent news, we continue to work diligently to reduce that further. We have partnered with the Medical Examiner's office to create survivor's guides as post-vention. We have distributed 145 nalox-boxes across the community and now have 5 narcan vending machines operating in all areas of the county 24 hours per day providing free harm reduction supplies. We continue to perfect our overdose response teams and spike alert teams and processes.

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: A mass mailing was sent to all gun shops and shooting ranges that provided each location with 9-8-8 materials to display at their locations.

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: The fatality review Committee has been meeting quarterly and will continue to do so. A sub-committee was assembled to address the recommendations that are made in the fatality reviews. Many actionable system level initiatives have emerged as a result of these reviews. A "we care card" was developed to insert with leave behind narcan kits, gun lock events have been held, improved partnerships with colleges and universities and workflows around hospital discharge are some examples of items that have been addressed by the data provided from the fatality review committee.

Goal 5 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 5 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: The overdose spike team now exists and is fully operational.

Goal 6

Goal 6, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6, 2027 Status Update Description: A Children's Crisis Residence is now available to Dutchess county residents. This added beneficial service is available to young people in crisis and provides an alternative to in-patient hospitalization. We are also seeing a large local providers of behavioral health services expand their service offering to youth. This has greatly increased capacity to serve young people. Several new providers also became licensed to provide outpatient services over the course of the year.

Goal 6 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 6 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: The Center for Excellence project is now complete. While Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital will continue to expand and improve their behavioral health services, the contractual agreement between Dutchess County and MHRH is complete. The result of this agreement is a greatly improved, trauma-informed in-patient behavioral health unit for adults with increased bed capacity. Outcome metrics indicate much higher rates of patient satisfaction since the beginning of this work.

Goal 6 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 6 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: Family Services is now providing services for youth. Dutchess County has also opened a MHOTRS clinic and Intensive Outpatient Program.

Goal 7

Goal 7, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7, 2027 Status Update Description: Dutchess County remains committed to improving the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The ThinkDifferently and THinkAccessable initiatives remain a cornerstone of this work. Locally, we have seen these concepts blossom as more businesses apply to be certified and partnerships for accessibility continue to grow.

Goal 7 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: The Department of Mental Health has now partnered with multiple organizations to provide literature, information, workshops and resources. These are published on the THinkDIFFERENTLY website calendar as well as shared through comprehensive listserves.

Goal 7 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: Taconic Resources for Independence now has a fully operational parent empowerment program. Each month they provide a training on various topics related to families and individuals who have disabilities, from guardianship to understanding an IEP. As well, Dutchess County Dept of Health now has a full time Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Coordinator (CYSHCN) who helps families and children/youth ages 0-21 navigate the system. They have a goal to offer up groups and trainings for families to feel more supportive.

Goal 7 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: 13 businesses are now certified as ThinkAccessible. This number will continue to grow.

Goal 7 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: Trainings, workshops and 1:1 guidance is now offered for partners and businesses to create their own sensory friendly, inclusive events. A formal guide is in the process of being developed as a resource tool. The Department of Mental Health is hosting specialized trainings with local parks and recreation departments across the county on Disability Etiquette which includes creating sensory friendly inclusive events.

Goal 7 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update Description: The NY Housing Resource Center remains our go-to site to send families seeking information on housing. We continue to share their trainings, resources and such with our large email group (at this time just under 500 families and over 150 local agency staff, including numerous Care Coordination Organization staff).

Goal 7 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 7 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update Description: structure is complete and certification is available to the public.



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2024 Needs Assessment Form Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

Crisis 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):

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):

Forensics 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):

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? Yes

Need description (Optional):

Non-Clinical Supports 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? Yes

Need description (Optional):

Prevention Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

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):

Refugees and Immigrants 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):

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: Jean-Marie Niebuhr

Submitted for: Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health



2025 Needs Assessment Form
Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

Cross System Services 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): There are two areas that are quickly becoming High need in Dutchess County. Youth that are experiencing significant mental health challenges but do not meet the criteria for in-patient hospitalization frequently have nowhere to go. In several cases this year, a youth presented at the Emergency Department or to another access point in the system. They did not meet criteria for inpatient hospitalization (or were being discharged from a crisis residence) and the family will not accept the child back due to an expressed inability to manage the child's behavior or for fear of safety concerns for themselves or other people in the home. There is nowhere for these young people to go where they will receive adequate and long term treatment necessary to succeed and that provides families the support they need to ultimately bring the youth home again. We have also had several cases this year where an individual has OPWDD eligibility and a serious mental health condition. OPWDD will not house them due to significant mental health needs, they are placed in housing through SPOA but then told they must terminate their eligibility with OPWDD so they lose all of their supports through that system. This has also happened on multiple occasions and is becoming a high need. Although there are not a tremendous number of these cases they are extremely resource intensive and continue to have poor outcomes.

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? No

Need Applies to: Youth Only

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

Need description (Optional):

Outpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

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? No

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):

Transition Age Services 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): The Department of Behavioral and Community Health recently held public forums to hear the needs of the community related to behavioral health service provision. In every forum held, there was concern about young people aging out of high school and having a serious gap in support to their transition to adult services.

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): Medicaid transportation continues to be extremely unreliable resulting in missed appointments, late arrivals, significant wait times. In addition, transportation to access services in the rural parts of our county is a serious obstacle to receiving behavioral health care, especially for people without Medicaid.

LGU Representative: Jean-Marie Niebuhr

Submitted for: Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health



Office of Addiction
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Developmental Disabilities

2026 Needs Assessment Form
Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

Case Management/Care Coordination Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

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 growing need for intensive case management for both youth and adults, particularly those with significant mental health challenges. This has been reported to the LGU by the community but has also been observed by doing an analysis of the incoming Children's SPOA applications and adult SPOA applications.

Many individuals (adults) receiving case management are only seen once per month, and sometimes not even in person. The caseloads for case managers can be high. While Health Home Plus eligibility can increase the frequency of in-person visits, not everyone qualifies for this level of care. In 2024, the largest provider of case management services in Dutchess County served 2964 unduplicated adult clients. The average caseload for "generic" case management was about 50 client per case manager. Intensive Case managers maintained caseloads of approximately 25 individuals per case manager. While there is funding available to cover non Medicaid case management, it does not appear to meet the current need.

Youth, especially those without Medicaid, face challenges in accessing the necessary level of case management support for themselves and their families. So far in 2025 there have been 60 C-SPOA applications received. Of those, 50% of the youth do not have Medicaid and are therefore not able to access supports like CFTSS.

Additionally, case management needs to provide flexible support to individuals, particularly those with mental health and substance use challenges who are also experiencing homelessness.

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? No

Need description (Optional):

Our 2025 Needs Assessment identifies critical gaps in how system-specific protocols fail to meet the needs of individuals--both youth and adults--with overlapping mental health, substance use,

and developmental disabilities challenges

Recent cases highlight youth with serious mental health issues who do not meet inpatient criteria yet are unsafe at home. They present to emergency or crisis services, only to be discharged with nowhere suitable to go, placing families and providers under considerable strain. Youth presenting at emergency departments who don't meet inpatient criteria--and whose families can't safely manage them--have nowhere to go. Families are reluctant to take them home; yet, no long-term treatment or intermediate placement is available.

Dual-diagnosis adults losing supports: Individuals eligible for OPWDD and OMH services are being housed via behavioral health pathways (SPOA) but forced to relinquish OPWDD eligibility due to mental health needs--losing comprehensive support and dramatically impairing outcomes

Transition-age disconnect: Youth aging out of school-based services face a stark drop-off--disconnection from ongoing support creates a "second cliff" precisely when consistent intervention is most needed .

Local trends underscore this urgency:

Nearly every 2025 public forum identified behavioral health as a top community concern

Despite extensive service infrastructure within OMH, OASAS, and OPWDD, Dutchess County faces serious cross-system challenges: youth are left without post-crisis placement; adults with dual eligibility lose vital supports to obtain housing; transition-age individuals lack continuity in care; and families have no respite. These systemic gaps--mirrored in statewide LGU data where 86% of counties report such cross-agency needs--underscore an urgent need for an integrated, unified service framework that bridges agency silos and ensures no one falls through the cracks.

Forensics Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

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): Between the period of 1/2025 and 5/2025 there were approximately 25% of incarcerated individual on psychotropic medications. Additionally, individuals with serious mental illness are obtaining ordinance violations, misdemeanors and interacting with law enforcement at a high rate in some of our more densely populated areas such as the City of Poughkeepsie. While this is not currently listed as a goal on the plan, the Department of Mental Health plans to begin working on several initiatives to address supporting individuals with special needs to ensure they are receiving the appropriate care and support. This will include implementing court navigators (2) in both city and county court, working toward centralized arraignment in collaboration with the criminal justice system, completing a new Sequential Intercept Mapping and developing a new plan with the results of that. The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Team has been very successful in the City of Poughkeepsie and the individuals served. In 2024, 40 individuals with significant unmet behavioral health needs were served by the LEAD team. They received intensive, street based case management. Dutchess County would like to look at ways to expand this highly successful program.

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? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

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

Need description (Optional): Dutchess County's 988 helpline and SPOA identify growing demand of individuals who have a serious mental illness who could benefit from inpatient treatment.

Individuals with both mental illness and substance use disorders (SUD) face fragmented care pipelines. Statewide strategy (OMH Appendix F) underscores integrated services as a top priority for those with co-occurring MH/SUD and developmental disabilities. Inadequate inpatient treatment and discharge plans for this group heighten the risk of relapse and readmission. Trauma-informed discharge planning should begin inpatient, engaging youth, families, schools, and outpatient teams to ensure smooth reintegration. Despite significant local efforts, there remains tremendous challenges in discharge planning and inpatient care for both youth and adults. In 2024, 225 youth were sent out of Dutchess County for inpatient behavioral health treatment. Having a child far away from home poses unnecessary burden on the family, further isolates the youth. Disproportionality impacts people of lower income who may not have reliable transportation to participate in family sessions and visitation.

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? Yes

Need description (Optional):

Residential Treatment Services 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): In New York, the share of adolescents with major depressive episodes nearly doubled, from 8.8% (2013) to 20.3% (2021) and continues to rise. The number treated by the state's OMH for serious mental illness or emotional disturbances rose by 64% in the same period. Some youth cannot live successfully at home without residential stabilization. Dutchess County does not have residential treatment options for youth. In 2024 225 youth were sent out of county to

receive inpatient care. When they are discharge back to the community, they are often still requiring a high level of intervention which is not available to them locally. We are hopeful that a Children's Crisis Residence and a Children's Community Residence can help fill this gap in the future.

LGU Representative: Jean-Marie Niebuhr

Submitted for: Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health



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**2027 Needs Assessment Form
Dutchess County Department of Mental Health**

Case Management/Care Coordination 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): Over 2026 there has been significant increase in number of youth who require case management and that are not eligible for Medicaid. Current data collected from the Children's SPOA unit indicates that _____ referrals % .

Crisis 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):

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):

Employment/volunteer (client) Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

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):

Forensics 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 are observing an increase in the needs of individuals who have eMH, SUD and IDD in criminal justice despite there being many diversion activities talk about 730's and outpatient restoration - talk about youth in the criminal justice system, especially those who touch probation, social services and mental health- talk about supporting the needs of individuals who are OPWDD eligible and are incarcerated- talk about needs of mental health courts=

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? 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? Yes

Need description (Optional):

Outpatient Treatment 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? 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):

Transportation Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Adults Only

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? No

Need Applies to: Adults Only

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

Need description (Optional):

LGU Representative: JEAN-MARIE NIEBUHR

Submitted for: Dutchess County Department of Mental Health

Agency

Abilities First
Access Supports For Living
Anderson Center Services, Inc. dba Anderson Center Consulting & Training
Astor Services For Children & Families
Careers Support Solutions, Inc.
Community Based Services Inc
Council On Addiction Prevention & Education
Ellen Marx Psy.D., Abpp
Family Services
Gateway Community Industries
Hudson River Housing
Hudson Valley Clubhouse, Inc.
Jaya Save-Mundra, Psy.D.
Lexington Center For Recovery
Mental Health America
NAMI, Mid-Hudson
New Horizons Resources Inc
NYSARC, Inc., Sullivan-Orange-Dutchess Counties Chapter dba Th Arc Greater Hudson Valley - Mh
Oxford House, Inc
People: Projects To Empower And Organize The Psychiatrically Labeled, Inc.
Primecare Medical Of New York, Inc.
Ramapo For Children, Inc.
Rehabilitation Support Services
St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center, Inc., dba St Joseph's Addiction Treatment And Recovery Centers
Sullivan County Department Of Community Services Mental Health
Taconic Resources For Independence Inc
The Mental Health Association Of New York City, Inc. dba Vibrant
Ulster County Mental Health
Westchester County Healthcare Corporation dba Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital Of Westchester Medical Center
Vassar Brothers Hospital/Nuvance Health