



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of
Mental Health

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

2023 Goals and Plans Form

Columbia County Department of Human Services

Goal 1: Identify options to sustain and enhance crisis services in Columbia County.

Goal 2: Evaluate workforce issues and identify creative ways to recruit/retain staff and/or maintain service provision with current staffing levels.

Goal 3: Increase access to healthcare services.

Annual and intermediate plans for addiction services:

Columbia County has chosen three goals, each of which encompasses ALL of the mental hygiene service areas (addiction, developmental disabilities, and mental health). We felt it was more impactful and reasonable to identify goals that would improve service provision in all areas rather than choose goals that only focus on one area. To that end, below is a brief explanation of our annual and intermediate plans for each goal.

Goal #1) Identify options to sustain and enhance crisis services in Columbia County.

The Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT), a program of the Mental Health Association of Columbia and Greene Counties, Inc., is Columbia County's primary crisis provider, serving individuals with mental health issues, addiction, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. While State Aid funds a portion of MCAT's operating budget, we have been forced to identify other sources of funding to enable MCAT to continue to provide vital crisis services to our County. For several years, DSRIP provided the necessary funding. When that funding source expired, Columbia County agreed to provide \$175,000 per year for two years (2022 and 2023). While this ensures MCAT's viability for the coming year, it does not provide or ensure the continuity of services that is needed. Therefore, our first Goal for the 2023 Local Services Plan addresses this issue.

While MCAT has begun to bill for services, more work is needed in this area. Our short-term plans include: building out infrastructure and knowledge within MHA and MCAT to support mobile crisis billing and participating in 'learning teams' throughout NYS to further explore potential for mobile crisis billing. Ultimately, our long term plan is to advocate for institutionalization of crisis services to ensure continuity of care.

In addition to our plans for MCAT, we will also continue to advance the creation of a 'Wellness Hub' in Columbia County. This Hub would provide crisis stabilization services, transitional housing options, shelter for homeless individuals, and a warming station. Land has been secured and we plan to continue to advance development of the 'Hub'.

Goal #2) Evaluate workforce issues and identify creative ways to recruit/retain staff and/or maintain service provision with current staffing levels.

Our annual and intermediate plans to reach this goal include:

- Facilitate conversations with other Counties regarding recruitment/retention best practices;
- Identify strategies for flexible employment (i.e. four-day workweek);
- Examine opportunities for agency collaboration to provide services with current staffing levels;
- Plan for reduction in services due to lack of staffing;
- Advocate for affordable housing to attract staff to this area;
- Continue work with Columbia-Greene Community College to create education and training opportunities for the behavioral health workforce.

Goal #3) Increase access to healthcare services.

Our annual and intermediate plans to reach this goal include:

- Examine opportunities for remote service delivery;
- Identify and overcome barriers to operationalizing mobile healthcare service delivery;
- Provide targeted outreach and service delivery to historically marginalized populations;
- Advocate for community para-medicine and explore opportunities to participate in pilot projects.

Annual and intermediate plans for developmental disability services:

Columbia County has chosen three goals, each of which encompasses ALL of the mental hygiene service areas (addiction, developmental disabilities, and mental health). We felt it was more impactful and reasonable to identify goals that would improve service provision in all areas rather than choose goals that only focus on one area. To that end, below is a brief explanation of our annual and intermediate plans for each goal.

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Annual and intermediate plans for mental health services:

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LGU Representative Name: Melissa Scheriff

LGU Representative Title: Planner/Contract Manager

Submitted for: Columbia County Department of Human Services



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2023 Needs Assessment Form

Columbia County Department of Human Services

Crisis Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional):

Housing Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional):

Transportation Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional):

Workforce Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Need description (Optional):

LGU Representative: Melissa Scheriff

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