



## North Country Region Board Meeting Minutes

- **Call to Order and Welcome** **Lee Rivers**  
Called to order at 10:04am by Lee Rivers. Karen Rappleyea did roll call by stakeholder group and allowed for gallery members to introduce themselves
  - **Confirm quorum** **Karen Rappleyea**  
Quorum was confirmed.
  
- **Approve Meeting Minutes from 12/20/19 – Q4 RPC Board Meeting** **Voting Board**  
Minutes from previous meeting on 12/20/19 were attached to the calendar invite for review. Angela Vidile made a motion to approve, Valerie Ainsworth seconded. Minutes were approved by all without comments or edits. These approved minutes will be posted on the RPC North Country webpage for public viewing.
  
- **Welcome New Board members** **Suzanne Lavigne**  
New board members were welcomed
  - **Key Partners for 2020 board** **Karen Rappleyea**  
The appointment of key partners was done by an online process. There are two seats still open for the key partner stakeholder group.
  
- **Discussion of COVID-19 / Communications & Resources** **Group**
  - Links for resources will be available in post-meeting emails
  - NYS CLMHD will be sending a one page update once daily to DCS/LGU, and the coordinators will disseminate that to their regions board members.
  - Suzanne recognized that there are numerous ways to find guidance and resources- question to the board- Is there a certain topic that may be lacking guidance or is there anything that our board members/agencies/leadership are looking for that we may be able to provide more support?
  - Sally from Lakeside Health – stated that for the smaller community based organizations – concerns are with the small staff, is there discussion of a backup plan or how to prepare if there is a staffing shortage due to illness? Currently there is a staff rotation plan in place.
    - OMH Response: There is discussion at the state level re: relaxing the criminal background check requirement. For example: if someone is already employed with one agency and has already been through the background check, there may be the ability to relax the process to be able to put that person in a staff sharing position to help with coverage at another organization. This is waiting on final ruling from the Justice Center.
    - Question re: the use of volunteers – Answer: There will still be a requirement for some manner of criminal background check.
    - AHI is looking for a way to create a way to centralize the information re: criminal background checks for the purpose of staff sharing.
    - Justice Center advises that even telephonic support/services require fingerprinting. There should be within 50 miles of any site, a live scan fingerprinting site. Currently, live scan fingerprinting is deemed essential.
    - OMH: If your agency is starting to see a significant negative impact on their programs, please reach out to your OMH field office for guidance/discussion.



**REGIONAL PLANNING CONSORTIUM**  
**North Country Region**  
**2020, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Board Meeting**  
**Go To Meeting**  
**March 27, 2020 – 10:00am - 12:00p**

- **Presentation: North Winds Integrated Health Network**  
PLEASE SEE ATTACHED  
**Carissa Parot, IPA Coordinator**
  
- **2020 Priority Activities**
  - **North Country/Tug Hill Pilot Project: Bed Finder** **Karen Rappleyea**  
Teamed up with the Tug Hill Region, to date we have identified Phase 1, which is the SUD beds. There will be a Phase 2 that will include OMH residential beds. North Country Behavioral Health Network will be hosting the webpage. This planning process will continue and all will be kept up to date.
  
  - **Children & Families Subcommittee** **JoAnne Caswell/Richelle Gregory**  
Due to the current COVID-19 in person restrictions, it was decided that the meeting that was scheduled for today would be postponed.
  
  - **HHH** **Andrea Deepe/Lee Rivers**  
As with the C&F Subcommittee, the HHH workgroup has suspended meetings at this time and will notify all when this changes.
  
  - **Housing** **Suzanne/Lee/Karen**  
Very successful meeting on February 26th. Discussed a number of issues in the North Country. Walked away from that meeting recognizing the success of one agency is often helped by the support of another. We talked about how agencies can support other agencies. There are many opportunities for funding and other initiatives that agencies can get involved in, however, there is always some kind of other issue related to capital funding. Karen is creating a survey with very specific questions for the agencies: funding concerns, services provided, challenges and barriers. We are looking to capture all this information in a “White Paper” to reflect the challenges in housing in the North Country. There will be opportunities in the future to have round table discussions to discuss each issues more in depth.
  
- **Updates from statewide RPC projects**
  - **Peer Workforce – Emily Childress, Southern Tier Coordinator**
    - This is a continuation from work started in the Long Island Region. To date we have 2 state functioning learning collaboratives for peer workforce, one in Long Island and one in Mohawk Valley. This is defined as anyone who have certifications and working in a role with lived experience. These are places for mutual support and training initiatives. We have worked very closely with the Regional Advocacy specialist in the office of consumer affairs in the development and staying true to the initial peer workforce movement.
    - We also have two steering and task force groups, one in Finger Lakes and one in Southern Tier. The Finger Lakes just hosted a very large and successful event specific to supervision of peer workforce and organization. Worked very closely with Academy of Peer Services and Rutgers University with a tool kit that measures organizational readiness to employ peer workforce. They brought together all of the resources that are available into a compendium. In the Southern Tier, the steering group is focused on creating a learning collaborative. The goal of the RPC is to bring the organizations together to help them self-sustain the learning the collaborative. We are working very closely with Office of Consumer Affairs, Academy of Peer Services in developing these learning collaboratives. The CDC has a community of practice model for other professional and clinical practices that we are following for these collaboratives.



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- **C&F – Jaqueline Miller, Mohawk Valley Coordinator and/or Kat Gaylord, Assistant Project Director**  
Katerina Gaylord: 1) RPC continues with the effort to bring C-YES representatives to the table to have regional meetings with DOH, C-YES, and CSPOA representatives. There has been conversations with C-YES leadership to have participation at C&F Statewide or regional C&F subcommittees. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions there has been a stall on the conversation, but we, the RPC are confident that these conversations will continue and be successful. 2) Jacqueline Miller - MV RPC: Documentation: “Mapping out the process” Time of receiving the referral to the time of receiving HCBS services. Very similar to the workflow that MCTAC did with adult services. As there are many different “avenues” and all the documentation requirement, the time it takes from the start of the referral to the time it takes to receive the services. We are trying to map out the process for visualization of this process. There is a survey pilot that is going on in two regions, Mohawk Valley and Long Island. We are to gauge an understanding from the providers their capacity, if they were designated, looking to obtain designation, if they are minimizing the number of individuals they can serve or any challenges they are experiencing. We are looking at sending this out to the rest of the regions in the future. Updates will be forwarded once they become available.
- **RPC statewide – Lori Kicinski, Project Director**  
The RPC is in constant communication with the state offices and we will be working hard to disseminate information/updates/guidance. The RPC has reached out to the MCO’s via email requesting information on their procedures during this time and gauge if they are providing any additional tools at this time. These responses will be consolidated and shared in their respective regions. Two MCO’s identified that they are having difficult time identify outpatient program listings. Primarily looking for outpatient sites that can provide injection services and med management on a step-down demand.
- **OMH and OASAS Updates**
  - **Joe Simko, OMH** - Child Mental Health Inpatient Admissions/Parity – New parity laws have gone into effect in which MCO are to treat BH services the same as they would for medical services. No additional costs or barriers can be applied for BH services. MCO have been requested to have some form of approved criteria of Utilization Review management processes. Each MCO is submitting their information to OMH and OASAS for the approval process. MCO were to have their information turned in by the beginning of February. Another impact is guidelines regarding inpatient hospitalization. Hospitals are able to work with a patient under the age of 18 for the initial 14 days without authorization, however the hospital does need to still submit notification to the MCO within the person first two days of admission. If that does not happen, the MCO will have the authority to do a concurrent review.  
-OMH has been reaching out to local agencies to see how things are going. The state is committed to ensuring that consumers are getting care during this time and providers are working to the best of their capacity while minimizing risks. If there are any providers that are having any problems, please reach out to OMH for technical assistance, resources and guidance.
  - **Davia Gaddy, OASAS** – OASAS is working diligently to make sure that clients are receiving services and reduce any barriers. The resources from OASAS are being centralized on their website. If there are any questions specifically for OASAS, please reach out.



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- MCO Updates and Information
  - **Jennifer Earl – United Healthcare** – UHC has been very busy making sure that they have the correct set up to support all the COVID-19 changes. They are encouraging all of their providers to follow all state issued guidance and contact their network managers if they have any questions. The providers are also being encouraged to use the provider express website if there are any other questions. A lot of the questions are re: telehealth and the provider express can answer most of them. IF you need to reach the network manager they can be reached by emailing at [NYNetworkManagement@optum.com](mailto:NYNetworkManagement@optum.com) and the network providers are listed on the MCTAC website.
- **Announcements** **Karen Rappleyea**

Next meeting is planned for June 26, 2020 at the Crown Plaza in Lake Placid.
- **Adjourn Meeting**

Motion to adjourn Jennifer Earl, seconded by Sally Walrath at 1135am.

2020 Meetings:

March 27	10a-12p	NC RPC board meeting	Go-To-Meeting Webinar
June 26	10a-12p	NC RPC board meeting	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lake Placid
Sept 25	10a-12p	NC RPC board meeting	Courtyard by Marriott, Lake George
Dec 18	10a-12p	NC RPC board meeting	TBD, Warren County



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Stakeholder	Name	Org	Roll Call
CBO	Robin Gay	St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment and Recovery Center	Y
CBO	JoAnne Caswell, CoChair-C&F	Families First	Y
CBO	Shawn Sabella	BHSN	Y
CBO	Jennifer Neifeld	820 River Street	Y
CBO	Sally Walrath	Lakeside House	Y
CBO	Andrea Deepe, CoChair-HHH	Warren Washington Association for Mental Health, Inc.	N
H&HS	Christine Venery	St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Health Services	N
H&HS	Marlana Cannata	Glens Falls Hospital	Y
H&HS	Meredith King	UVM: Elizabethtown Community Hospital	N
H&HS	Kevin Hamel	CVPH	N
H&HS	Jessica Fraser	Hudson Headwaters Health Network	Y
H&HS	Mary McLaughlin, CoChair-VBP	AHI Health Home	Y
PYF	Amanda Bulris	NAMI Champlain Valley	Y
PYF	Craig Barney	St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment and Recovery Center	Y
PYF	<b>Lee Rivers, CoChair;</b> CoChair-HHH	Community Connections of Franklin County	Y
PYF	Valerie Ainsworth	MHA Essex	Y
PYF	Robin Nelson	Families First Essex	Y
PYF	Denis King	Champlain Valley Family Services/MHAB Life Skills	Y
LGU	<b>Suzanne Lavigne, CoChair</b>	Franklin Co	Y
LGU	Richelle Gregory, CoChair-C&F	Clinton Co	Y
LGU	Terri Morse, CoChair-VBP	Essex Co	Y
LGU	Bob Kleppang	Hamilton Co	Y
LGU	Rob York	Warren/Washington Co	Y
MCO	Carl Rorie Alexandrov	CDPHP	N
MCO	Jennifer Earl	United HealthCare	Y
MCO	Angela Vidile	MVP	Y
MCO	Tyler Whitney / Marisa Joseph	Fidelis	Y
Govt	Joseph Simko	OMH	Y
Govt	Doug Sitterly	OCFS	N
Govt	Davia Gaddy	OASAS	Y
Govt	Deb Czuback	OASAS	N
Key Partner	Erin Streiff	Clinton County Public Health	Excused
Key Partner	Carrisa Parot	North Winds Integrated Health Network	Y
Key Partner	Kelly Owens	Adirondack Health Institute	Y
Key Partner	Barry B. Brogan	North Country Behavioral Healthcare Network	Y

**Gallery Attendees:** Marcie Colon, Beth Solar, Emily Childress, Katerina Gaylord, Lori Kiciniski, Colleen Schoner, Rebecca Evansky