



---

**1. Introductions- see attached attendance**

**2. Regional Check-In**

- Colleen R.- Discussion about current state, check-in on what been happening since we met last. Are agencies doing in-person meetings, how are you working with telehealth, any new issues- issues with kids being remote or in school? Any one doing in-person meetings right now? Davia- Most of care management are doing face to face visits in the community, could mean someone's home but in driveway outside, school closings and different virtual options has been a challenge, school was one area community providers were able to corner kids, knew the schedule of when kids would be getting out, now you are kind of juggling 6-7 different school districts and everyone is doing things different and remembering where each client is going to be during the day, found care managers are up to the challenge and have been performing great, big concern for when weather turns bad, most visits have been taking place outside, want to throw out to group for ideas or what they are doing to prepare for the cold weather. Kerry- School schedule has created the opposite problem for us, multiple kids at home managing classes and school schedules, parents had to go back to work, kids are home alone or being watched by older siblings, more complicated for telehealth, if and when switch to in person what that will mean when weather gets bad, because we are encouraging outside and wearing masks. Colleen R- I think that it's a concern, has anyone's agency had any ideas about once the weather turns how they will address that or protocols that will be in place for inside meetings, is anyone having visits in their agency at this time? Erica- St. Catherine's has been doing in person, in the home throughout the pandemic and has really been focused on asking COVID screening questions, or asking before they go in to the home, have had to cancel or reschedule visits if answering with yes as having risk, wearing PPE and providing the family with face masks, have been successful in doing that and not having any transmissions, other programs at St. Catherine's will plan on doing the same. Colleen R-Per the chat box Northern Rivers is providing face to face and telehealth as well and St. Anne's is having smaller family contacts with covid screening and providing PPE to families that come with none. Has everyone has access issues with PPE? Take silence as a no- Matt you unmuted do you have anything to add? Matt W- Here at Northern Rivers haven't had current issues accessing PPE since the beginning, do require staff to wear during services, doing telehealth and face to face, sometimes a combination, focused on needs of family and comfort level of the family and provider, looking at what offices can be utilized for the colder months, what is comfort and safety level for providing telehealth and/or face to face services, telehealth is helpful when we aren't able to get in or family may not be comfortable. Colleen R- Are any of your agencies having back up plans for a positive case or another outbreak, any protocols in place or being looked at, looking toward future, HHH Workgroup had discussion of pulling back and reverting to earlier phase if area has a spike, any similarities for any of your agencies? Silence as this is something that is not on the radar at this time. Anything that anyone wants to add about telehealth, best practices or that your agency may be doing that would be helpful to another agency? If no then we will move on.

**3. Children & Families Subcommittee Update**

- Survey Results- Colleen R- Updated version sent this morning, only had 3 agencies respond so after we look at survey will talk about some next steps to take to get more engagement and information about what is going on in our region, present for those that weren't able to review and so that feedback can be provided. Longer waitlists, designated not providing, are a few openings, if we are able to engage all the providers in the region would it be helpful to collect and gather this data? Any feedback about the survey itself. Davia P- Are all the agencies represented? I don't see St. Catherine's who is a huge provider

of agencies. Colleen R- Survey was sent out to most designated providers on our distribution list, didn't get a response from many, leads into next topic on the agenda, talk about developing a task force, smaller group of folks willing to participate and look at the agencies that aren't participating or sitting at the table, get their engagement and responses to survey, provide the data that we need if we want to bring this to the state's attention, we have a lack of accessibility/provider for these services, also another issue that has come up is this increase in referrals for residential treatment facilities, as a task force look at that issue, is it related to lack of services being accessible or is it related to the pandemic, other factors, are the less accessible now, or the same since the transition. If anyone had any feedback or would be willing to participate to work on this issue. Davia P- I would like to be on this task force, this is data I have been collecting on the side, definitely experience a large uptick in RTF referrals and for community residences. Lisa F- Just did a large round of CPOA meetings across the State, not just capital district, across the state increase in RTF and CR referrals, when discussing the reasons, a little bit of all combined, struggled prior to pandemic, lack of accessibility, getting supports and services in place in timely fashion, combination of a lot of things just stated, I think Michelle Wagner is on this call, OMH did this call with us, on back burner for the Conference as well, monitoring trend and why, I would be interested in working with you in trying to see where we have some common ground with the RPC there. Michelle @- Second everything Lisa said, to identify 1 issue is very nuanced, a lot of factors coming together during time of COVID, state is aware and working with the conference on possible solutions or identifying some root causes that are state wide that may be able to be addressed, RPC important in drilling down local issues and possible local solutions. Alyssa G- Long Island RPC Coordinator and Co-lead for C&F RPC echo what everyone else has said, RPC statewide is looking at, can't underscore how important it is that if you are able to answer survey please do, data allows to push data forward, right now for Capital Region only 14% response rate, information and ammunition to show what is going on, on the ground, Colleen can resend link if needed and do some outreach to those that haven't really important to get responses for what we are doing on the RPC level and for the Conference as well. Colleen R- Big point, not only is data helpful to paint that picture, if there are providers that have openings being able to connect children and families services, might be a small step but knowing what providers have opening can at least connect the dots while we look at those underlying issues which could be various and a combination of several issues. If interested in a task force please put in chat box or email me, if need survey link please put in chat box or email as well. If there is any feedback on survey, anything we need to add or we are missing please any suggestion or changes would be welcomed. Barb F- J. Miller from Mohawk Valley is looking at a tool where people could input their own data and be more current, maybe reach out. Colleen R- J. Miller is other statewide co-lead for C&F once she is able to pilot in her region we can look at option of being able to replicate in our region, designation list can be difficult to navigate, looking at doing within her region to have information more up to date and readily available, once she gets it up and running we will be able to present it to everyone and see if it is something we are interested in doing. Alyssa- This is something that we are looking at doing statewide, can this be used statewide as a possible solution to help with capacity issues almost like a bed finder program. Colleen R- Any other feedback or information regarding the survey or anything they would like to see added or removed?

4. **Other Updates:** Future Meetings & Open Floor- Colleen R- No meeting on the books right now, working on scheduling, aren't able to hold in person through the end of the year, get a save the date out in the next 2-3 weeks. Reminder if you want to participate in the survey to please put it in the chat box or email me. Matt W- One question, community advocacy supports and training was missing, are you looking for this information? Colleen R- I will look at it more closely, may have deleted or left out row when creating spreadsheet, if it is not I will add, either way will follow up.
5. **Success Story:** Review any success stories within the work group-Erica- Positive news from St. Catherine's not client specific but hopefully opportunity to help more individuals soon, in process of submitting proposal to begin serving adults along with children in health home management, being able to serve the entire family, a lot

of children that are health home eligible have parents that are in need of care coordination and would likely qualify, hopefully to begin in 2021.

**Attendance:**

Alyssa Gleason, RPC - LI Coordinator  
Davia Plusch, C-SPOA Rensselaer County  
Michelle Marte, Rensselaer County Mental Health, Director of Children's Services  
Matthew Waskiewicz- Director, HCBS- Northern Rivers  
Kerry White, Early Intervention/Public Health Saratoga County  
Barb Fuscus, Northern Rivers  
Erica Schwartz, St. Catherine's Center for Children, Children's Health Home Care Management  
Anna Carey- OLP Supervisor Vanderheyden  
Angela Bronzene Adult and Youth SPOA Coordinator Saratoga County  
Sabrina Santos-St. Anne Institute  
Natasha Robinson, Columbia County CSPOA  
Jeremy Boyce - Clinical Director BH Children Services CDPHP  
Michelle Wagner, OMH  
Lisa Fiato, CLMHD  
Tina Labthavikul-Smith, OMH  
Anna Carey, Vanderheyden  
Cathleen Medick, Saratoga County  
Ilana Adler, Government Liaison, United Health Care  
Imari Wilson, Youth Power

**Questions about this process can be answered by your RPC Coordinator:**

**Colleen Russo**  
[cr@clmhd.org](mailto:cr@clmhd.org)  
**518-396-9413.**