

NYS System of Care and Wraparound Training Institute Monthly Update April 2023

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Upcoming SOC Related Events

May 9, 2023, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM – What's Great in Our State!

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day – In-person event in Albany

Save the date and [distribute this flyer](#) to your networks. Registration will soon be available. If you'd like to highlight something your agency is doing, planning or conducting, or would like to promote your own event here, contact [Jessica Stanis](#).

May 10-11, 2023 – FREE Systems of Care Virtual Summit

The National Center for Training and Technical Assistance on Child, Youth and Family Mental Health (NTTAC) has announced its **FREE** [Virtual Systems of Care Summit](#), entitled Building Together: Building Systems That Care. Stay tuned for registration information or [join the NTTAC email list](#).

July 9-11, 2023 – Rural Schools Association Conference

To be held in Cooperstown, NY under the theme "Rebuilding the Rural Reality: From the Middle of Nowhere to the Heart of Everything", [The Rural Schools Association](#) invites school or BOCES districts with unique and successful programs that focus on making rural schools more effective and efficient to submit program proposals by Thursday, February 23, 2023. Mental health-related programs are included in the [request for proposals](#). [Check here for registration information](#) as it becomes available.

Systems of Care Action Planning

Our team is available to assist county cross-system teams in exploring implementation of the SOC framework to better address the needs, gaps and barriers for children, youth, and their families. Whether your cross systems infrastructure has been in place for decades or you need to reimagine better collaboration, this workshop can assist. **Twenty-four counties have already completed planning and are working on exciting change initiatives.** Contact [Jessica Stanis](#) for more information.

Wraparound Training and Implementation Institute

Learn about the benefits of the practice model within Health Homes from a variety of perspectives by watching an [informative video](#), or contact [Kimberly Heffner](#) for more support.

Visit the [High Fidelity Wraparound tab](#) on New York State's SOC website, and find the [New York High Fidelity Wraparound Availability Chart](#) available slots in counties across the State.

SHAPE Update

For districts that may have interest in [The SHAPE System](#) please register for an account to access the various assessments and resources available. For any questions related to SHAPE, please contact SHAPE@omh.ny.gov.

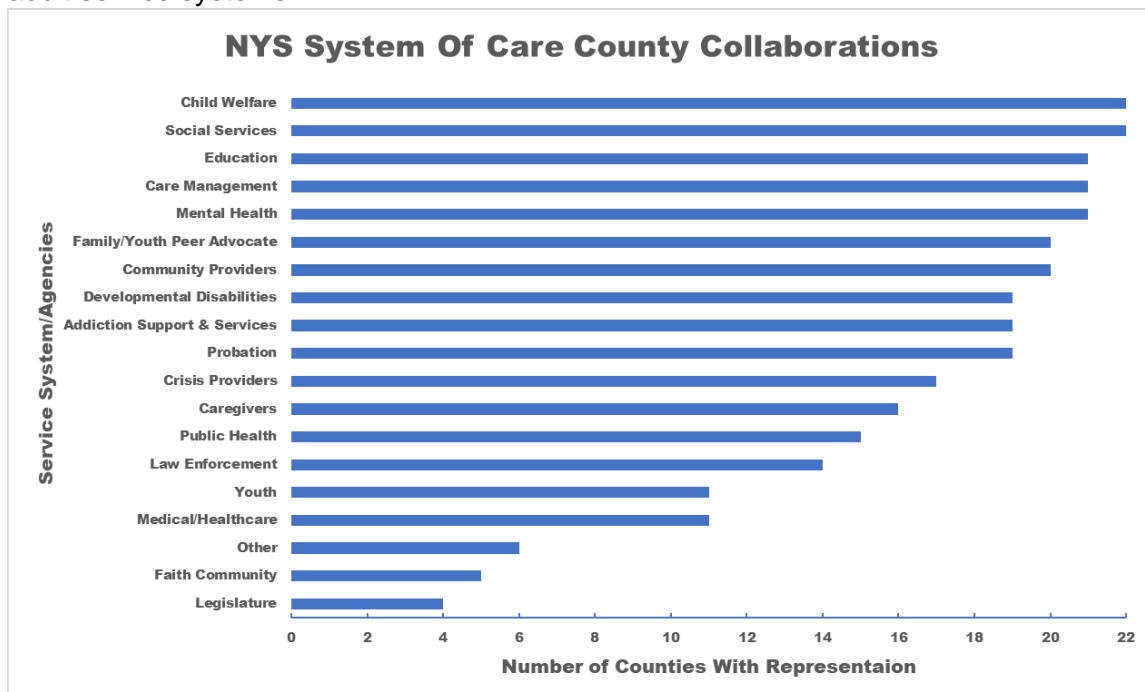
Nathan Kline Institute Center for Research on Cultural and Structural Equity

Our research efforts focus on long-standing individual and structural barriers to prevention, wellness, and recovery that have been most difficult to address, and typically include unstable housing, criminal justice involvement, and substance use dependence. These factors are, in turn, intertwined with race and ethnicity, income, immigration status, language barriers, aging, and culturally based factors including various forms of stigma and discrimination that often accompany these challenging life circumstances. Testing innovative approaches (such as the use of mental health peer advocates) to improve quality service outcomes and using robust epidemiologic and services research methods are vital for achieving successful translation, implementation, and sustainability. For more information on research, available training, consulting and other division activities, please see [our website](#) or contact [Jennifer Hernandez](#).

SOC Evaluation Team Update: County Collaboration Representation

At the start of 2022, the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) awarded twenty-two County Mental Health Departments throughout the state one-time funding of \$25,000 in Mental Health Block Grants (MHBG). These grants were allocated to expand or implement the Systems of Care (SOC) approach and strengthen cross-systems collaborations, with the goal of supporting children, youth, young adults, and their families. The twenty-two counties that were awarded grants include Cattaraugus, Nassau, Seneca, Delaware, Niagara, Sullivan, Dutchess, Orange, Tompkins, Genesee, Putnam, Ulster, Lewis, Rensselaer, Washington, Monroe, Rockland, Wayne, Montgomery, Schoharie, Westchester, and Wyoming.

Throughout 2022, counties worked collaboratively with representatives from various systems to strengthen their local SOC infrastructure. A primary aim of the SOC approach is to have broad coalition representation across child-serving systems to improve service coordination and better meet the needs of children, youth, and their families. Suggested local service systems/agencies for inclusion are listed in the figure below. Of note, all twenty-two county awardees have coalition representation from social services/child welfare. Systems that are least represented include local legislature and the faith community, with 4 and 5 counties currently having representation, respectively. Counties are encouraged to continue to expand their SOC coalition membership and ensure a multi-disciplinary group of stakeholders who are representative of the county's children, youth, and young adult service systems.



Did You Know?

9 million New Yorkers will need to recertify for enrollment in Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan between now and Spring 2024. Enrollees in these public health insurance programs have not had to renew their coverage since early 2020 due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) continuous coverage requirements. However, the December 2022 federal Consolidated Appropriations Act included new rules ending the continuous coverage requirements starting Spring 2023. These new federal rules now require states, including New York State to begin redetermining eligibility for public program enrollees in the Spring of 2023. Here's a [Communications Toolkit](#) you can use to help consumers, and here is an [informational website](#) to share with them.

The U.S. government has announced that the Public Health Emergency (PHE) will expire at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. On the date the PHE ends, the flexibilities afforded providers regarding minimum billing standards and documentation requirements will end, unless otherwise specified by OMH through formal regulatory waivers. The current OMH Commissioner's waiver, which was last renewed on February 1, 2023, and contains the COVID-19-related flexibilities, will terminate on the same date as the PHE ends. Below is a link to a document that provides a summary of the areas impacted by the end of the PHE.

Link: <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/guidance/impact-end-of-federal-phe-on-omh-system.pdf>

OMH's Children and Families Division is Hiring for Multiple Positions!

New York State is engaging in a historic transformation of the children's care system to ensure that children and families receive timely and appropriate intervention and follow-up. The New York State OMH is committed to identifying and meeting the behavioral health needs of children and families and believes that everyone should have an equal opportunity for mental wellness. This means removing obstacles and implementing services and policies to reduce disparities in access, quality, and treatment outcomes for historically marginalized, under-served and unserved populations.

Unit Director, Children's Crisis Unit - <https://rfmh.applicantpro.com/jobs/2824889.html>.

Unit Director, Workforce Development Unit - <https://rfmh.applicantpro.com/jobs/2827249.html>.

Mental Health Program Specialist II, Residential and Inpatient Unit (2) FTE:

<https://rfmh.applicantpro.com/jobs/2827220.html>.

Mental Health Program Specialist II, Outpatient Unit - <https://rfmh.applicantpro.com/jobs/2824855.html>.

Mental Health Program Specialist III, Workforce Development Unit -

<https://rfmh.applicantpro.com/jobs/2825488.html>.

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) announces the availability of funds (one \$5 million award) for infrastructure development for a [Statewide Structure and Network for YOUTH Support and Advocacy](#). The goal of the funding is to support a statewide effort to empower young people towards personal recovery and resiliency in their treatment, to know their rights, and to use their voice to influence youth-guided policy and practices. The awardee would promote and provide peer-to-peer mentoring for young people with social and emotional challenges and/or cross system experiences in the children's service system.

The New York State Office of Mental Health announces the availability of funds (one \$5 million award) for infrastructure development for a [Statewide Structure and Network for FAMILY Support and Advocacy](#). The goal of this funding is to create a statewide infrastructure that supports families, provider organizations, governmental units, family peer workforce, family-run organizations, and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

SAMHSA Grants Available To Expand Programs For Transition-age Young Adults With SED. A [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) is available from SAMHSA describing 15 awards totaling more than \$11 Million. Grants are available to improve and expand access to developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate services and supports for transition-aged youth and young adults (ages 16-25) who either have or are at risk for developing serious mental health conditions. Award recipients will be expected to identify and provide appropriate behavioral health interventions to transition-aged youth and young adults who are at risk for a serious emotional disturbance or serious mental illness. With this program, SAMHSA aims to improve emotional and behavioral health function so that this population of youth and young adults can maximize their potential to assume adult roles and responsibilities and lead full and productive lives.

Naloxone Available to OMH Providers. The New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) has made the overdose reversal medication Naloxone (Narcan) and fentanyl test strips available to all OMH service providers. Access OASAS's new easy-to-use ordering system: [Harm Reduction | Office of Addiction Services and Supports \(ny.gov\)](#)

Research Volunteers Needed – Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Parents of Children With Disabilities. The Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology at SUNY Albany are conducting a study about parent perspectives and experiences supporting a child with a disability. They are seeking volunteers to participate in an online questionnaire and possible interview. [More information and participation instructions can be found here.](#)

NY State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has created a [Mandated Reporter Decision Tree tool](#) to support mandated reporters when deciding to report suspected abuse or neglect. The tool is specifically helpful in determining if implicit bias may be impacting the decision to call the Statewide Central Registry (SCR) and contains screening questions to help reporters assess that impact. The tool also contains a link to the [Harvard Implicit Project](#) and a self-assessment called the Implicit Association Test (IAT).

County Community Needs Assessments: Has your county public health department released their Community Needs Assessment? Explore and have a conversation about how your System of Care infrastructure can achieve goals together. Health goals are community goals, including strengthening mental health services and supports. [See highlights from Clinton and Essex in this recent article.](#)

The Youth Engagement Networks identify ways to involve youth at the county and organizational level. Community engagement is a process that involves youth, families, service providers and others to collaborate on decisions about the best way to provide services to children and adolescents. Engaging youth as partners is an important way counties can support the needs of youth. Creating an infrastructure for youth engagement takes effort, but can be successful when a clear purpose, implementation plan and supports are established. By developing relationships with teens and young adults currently or previously involved in local systems provides an opportunity for their voices to be heard and to make them part of the solution for changes. Read the linked article to learn more about the [Five Ways That Your Organization Can Involve Youth](#) through **Youth Advocacy, Youth Leadership, Youth Voice, Youth on Boards, and Youth Organizing.**

Youth Involvement and Engagement Assessment Tool: To ensure that youth are actively engaged, programs should conduct regular assessments. This online tool can assist organizations and community partnerships to determine how well they involve youth in programs, and to test if certain strategies are working to retain youth. [Click here for more information](#), and [download the assessment tool here](#) (8-page PDF).

The National Center for Training and Technical Assistance on Child, Youth and Family Mental Health (NTTAC) held a webinar in January to highlight a Self-Assessment Tool used in Wisconsin to assist tribal nations and counties in identifying the strengths and needs of the System of Care infrastructure and principles. This tool is intended to be completed by a diverse team of people committed to moving toward the vision of the System of Care. Each area of the tool prompts the group to rate the current state of the tribal nation or county on a scale of 1-4 based on alignment with best practices. Following completion of the tool, counties are encouraged to develop an action plan to address the needs within their system. [Click here to view the tool.](#)

New York State Mentoring Dashboard: Check out the launch of [this new dashboard](#) featuring youth mentoring programs in New York State during the National Mentoring Month! The dashboard is a collaborative effort between the [NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services](#) (DCJS) and the [NYS Youth Justice Institute](#) (YJI) and we hope that it is a tool that families, service providers, and community members can utilize to find targeted mentoring programs in their area.

New C-SPOA Referral Applications: Outlined in an email message on January 3, 2023, two new C-SPOA referral applications were unveiled in support of a more streamlined process. Applications include one for use in referring consumers to C-SPOA coordination, and a second for use in referring consumers to Youth ACT, CCR or RTF services. Please see the email message for additional information and direct any questions to **OMH Division of Integrated Community Services for Children and Families** at (518) 474-8394 or DCFS@omh.ny.gov.

Deputy Commissioners' Corner

Creating a Child and Family Well-being System

The ongoing discussions among the Deputy Commissioners continue to inform efforts to improve the well-being of children and families. Right now, the New York State child welfare system is in a period of transformation, moving from the status quo of child protection as a primary prevention strategy and moving toward focusing on providing services and resources that strengthen families. The deputies recognize that such services and resources are a collective responsibility and are actively talking about ways to improve collaboration to better serve families.

The New York State child welfare system is in a period of transformation, moving from the status quo of child protection as a primary prevention strategy and moving toward services and resources that strengthen families and enable children to remain safely at home. We are at an inflection point- with a renewed commitment to refocusing efforts on improving the health and well-being of families and communities by placing economic and concrete supports at the center of prevention strategies before families and children come to the attention of CPS.

To build a truly family-centered, equitable, well-being framework that focuses on parents/caregivers by maximizing prevention efforts, OCFS is focused on:

- Reimagining a “front door” that comes before a call to the SCR
- Developing a public health approach to child abuse and maltreatment prevention through the lens of **Social Determinants of Health**
- Investing in New York’s families through robust primary prevention, thereby reducing, if not eliminating, unnecessary calls to SCR
 - Updated **Mandated Reporter Training** that incorporates implicit bias component as well as emphasizes that you do not have to report a family to support a family
- Imbedding race equity and social justice throughout the continuum of our work
 - **50%** of black children will experience CPS at least once in their lives
 - Families of color are more likely to be involved in an SCR report.
 - Children of color are more likely to be placed in foster care.
 - Children of color are more likely to experience slower achievement to permanency.
 - Research shows separating children from their parents has a significant and **lifelong trauma impact**.
- Partnering with community stakeholders and families, including those with lived experience
- Deepening collaborations with sister state agencies to strengthen communities through service integration
- **Expanding** primary and secondary prevention programs that support family well-being and economic stability through **flexible federal funds** and **reinvestment of state dollars**.
- **Partnering** with the Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR), University of Pennsylvania, to create a **Direct Cash Transfer** research pilot.
- Incorporating the **voices of families with lived experiences** through regional Peer Family Advisors
- Investing in **concrete supports** such as *CarePortal* and other supports and services
- **Created** a warmline (OCFS-HEARS) to support and provide services to families to reduce number of families entering child welfare through a CPS report.
- Expanding **mobile response vans** to support and stabilize families in crisis.

OCFS believes that a child’s connection to their parents, family and community is paramount and provides the context in which safety, permanency, and greater well-being should occur. Strategies outlined above aligns with a **systems of care approach**. **OCFS is committed to moving this work forward in collaboration with our state partners.**

Deputy Commissioners Workgroup Membership: CCF (Vanessa Threatte, Elana Marton, Chris Tosado), DDPC (Vicky Hiffa), DOH (April Hamilton, Ann-Margret Foley, Myla Harrison, Suzanne Swan, Colette Poulin, Kirsten Siegenthaler), DOL (Chris White), Justice Center (Davin Robinson), OASAS (Pat Lincourt, Maria Morris Groves), OCFS (Lisa Gharthey-Ogundimu, Gail Geohagen-Pratt, Katherine Sena, Nina Aledort, Galen Gomes, Kristin Gleeson, Kathleen Hoskins), OMH (Bonnie Catlin, Angela Keller, Meredith Ray-LaBatt, Sarah Kuriakose, Nancy Pepe), OPWDD (Jill Pettinger, Abiba Kindo, Josh Olsen), SED (Kathleen DiCataldo, Suzanne Bolling), SOFA (Alana Stelling, Michael Gunn), Governor’s Office (Emily Badalamente, Kim Hill)

Other News

Learn To Support The LGBTQ+ Community

The Center of Excellence LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity (CoE LGBTQ+ BHE) has created a two-module, self-paced course for non-clinical staff on supporting LGBTQ+ people in social services and healthcare settings. The course will help non-clinical staff to learn about the unique experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals and gain a deeper understanding of their crucial role in creating a supportive environment. [Click here for more information.](#)

Effective Teams Survey

The John Praed Foundation at The University of Kentucky is conducting this [10-minute research survey](#) to better understand effective teams. If you are a professional who works in a team environment, your participation is requested!

Trans 101: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender Consumers

The New York State Office of Mental Health's Office of Diversity and Inclusion is excited to partner with Christian Huygen, Ph.D. and Parker Jordan, LMSW from Rainbow Heights Club to make their training webinar - **Trans 101: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender Consumers** available to behavioral health providers outside New York City. This engaging presentation will **focus on how to affirm, support and work with mental health consumers who identify as transgender or gender nonconforming and will also highlight the mental health concerns that disproportionately impact this community due to stigma and marginalization.**

Attendees will come away with a greater sense of comfort and confidence about interacting with transgender and gender-nonconforming people in a respectful and affirming manner. Please see below for available training dates and registration instructions.

If you're located in New York City, please email parkerjordan@rainbowheights.org to request NYC-specific training dates and registration links.

If you're located outside New York City, please register through one of the following links:

Tuesday, April 11th from 10-11:30 am [Click Here to Register!](#)

Thursday, April 20th from 3-4:30 pm [Click Here to Register!](#)

Wednesday, April 26th from 10-11:30 am [Click Here to Register!](#)

*Please note, registration for each webinar is limited to the first 300 registrants. These interactive sessions are only being offered live and will not be recorded or shared afterwards.

If you're located outside New York City and have 20+ staff interested in participating, please email parkerjordan@rainbowheights.org to coordinate registration to ensure all staff are able to attend the desired date.

The State of New York Office of Mental Health (OMH) is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0227. Licensed Master Social Workers and Licensed Clinical Social Workers who attend this class in its entirety will receive 1.5 contact hour toward renewal of their social work license.

Useful Links and Tools

[New York State Systems of Care](#)

[New York State High Fidelity Wraparound](#)

[New York State SHAPE](#)

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – New York State OMH/Nathan Kline Institute](#)

[NKI Center for Research on Cultural and Structural Equity in Behavioral Health](#)

[New York State OASAS Harm Reduction – Obtain Naloxone \(Narcan\) and Test Strips](#)

[NYS Multiple Systems Navigator](#)

[NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors](#)

[National Center for Training and Technical Assistance on Child, Youth and Family Mental Health \(NTTAC\)](#)
[University of Connecticut School of Social Work Innovations Institute](#)
[Center of Excellence LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity](#)
[Youth Involvement and Assessment Tool](#)
[Youth Mentoring Dashboard – NYS DCJS and NYS Youth Justice Institute](#)
[New York State OCFS Mandated Reporter Decision Tree and Bias Assessment Tool](#)
[FindHelp.Com – resource for care managers](#)
[Headspace Health Unified Mental Health and Wellbeing Experience for Employers and Employees](#)
[Public Health Emergency Communications Toolkit for Medicaid and other public insurance recertification](#)

Subscribe to (or unsubscribe from) the NYS Systems of Care Listserv by emailing [Angela Keller](#).

