

# NYS System of Care and Wraparound Training Institute Monthly Update May 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

While registration is closed for this event, we invite you to attend our virtual workshops throughout the month of May. To find out more, [check out this flyer](#) and contact [Jessica Stanis](#) for any questions.

### 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](mailto:SHAPE@omh.ny.gov).

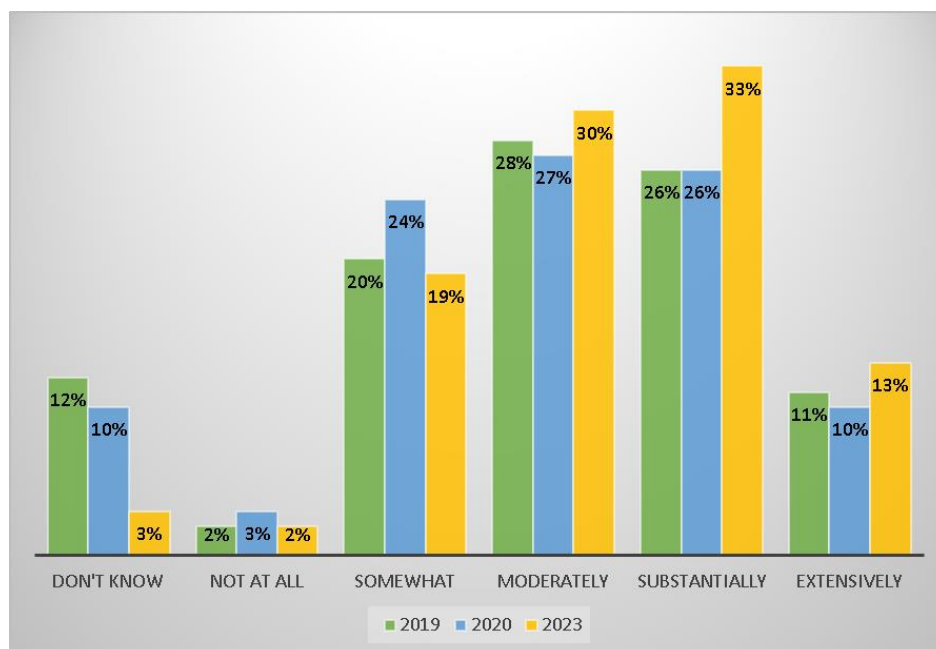
## Nathan Kline Institute Center for Research on Cultural and Structural Equity

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: Implementation Rating Tool Survey

The Rating Tool survey for Implementation of the System of Care (SOC) Approach was disseminated in February 2023 and sought to evaluate the advancement made in SOC related areas to aid children, adolescents, and young adults with behavioral health challenges and their families. The survey was distributed to various SOC representatives across child-serving systems throughout New York State (NYS). Responses were received from 74% of counties throughout the state (46 of 62), with all NYS regions represented. Thank you to those who provided input on SOC developments in their community. This survey was also administered in 2019 and 2020, allowing for the examination of results over time. Below is a comparison of responses to the survey item asking about the implementation extent of the SOC approach in local communities or regions.

Improvement can be seen with the overall assessment of the implementation of SOC approach throughout the state over time. In 2023, 46% of respondents reported that the SOC approach was being implemented “substantially” or “extensively” in their community. This is a 10% improvement from 2020, when 36% of responders reported the SOC approach was being implemented “substantially” or “extensively” in their community, and a 9% increase from 2019. Fewer respondents indicated “don’t know” or “not at all” in 2023 when asked about the implementation of SOC in the community, as compared to 2019 and 2020 results. These findings indicate positive progress and a greater awareness among individuals of SOC implementation efforts in their communities.



Comparison of responses over time to the item “To what extent do you believe that the system of care approach is being implemented in your community or region?”

## 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>

**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.

**Applications are due Monday, May 8, 2023.** 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 \(ny.gov\)](#)

**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.](#)

**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](mailto:DCFS@omh.ny.gov).

## Deputy Commissioners' Corner

### System of Care Values and Principles in Action

Deputy Commissioners continue to engage stakeholders in determining systems challenges that need attention, either through financing, regulatory change, or quality improvement. Most recently, this included meeting with consultants from the University of Connecticut Innovations Institute to strategize on the approach for the development of a braiding and blending toolkit targeted at localities and to assist at the state level.

The NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) is engaged in a series of Community Engagement sessions to obtain feedback from county government, family members and caregivers, youth, community providers and other cross-system partners. Starting in February, four virtual sessions and 36 in-person sessions have been held around the state to gather qualitative data to inform OMH's design, implementation and sustaining solutions of \$1 Billion of budget initiatives to improve mental health care for New Yorkers.

Governor Hochul's plan reflects more than \$1 billion in new investments for mental health services. This includes:

- Comprehensive expansion of outpatient and community-based services, including employment supports
- Additional mental health services for school-aged children
- Increased operational capacity for inpatient programs
- Improved processes and systems accountability for evaluation, admission and discharge from inpatient and emergency programs
- 3,500 new housing units for individuals with mental illness
- Expanded insurance coverage for mental health services
- Strengthening of the mental health workforce

OMH has identified specific goals with the Community Engagement sessions:

1. **Gather input** from providers, community organizations, individuals and families with lived experience and other participants who understand a community's needs and challenges;
2. **Increase access** to mental health services;
3. **Address gaps** in services and geographic barriers;
4. **Identify health disparities and promote equity**; and
5. **Improve the mental health continuum** of care for all New Yorkers.

Attendance at the sessions has been robust and included stakeholders from many systems – schools, parents/caregivers, youth, community providers, law enforcement, health care, juvenile justice, child welfare, crisis, and others. Themes are emerging as analysts are collating data collected from the many conversations.

In addition to the Community Engagement sessions, the Governor's Office, OMH and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) are working in collaboration with Families Together in NYS and Youth Power! to convene youth forums with a focus on teenagers. We want to hear about their mental health needs, feedback on services, and where are the gaps. The first session was held in NYC and the second in Plattsburgh, with others to follow across the State. All the information will inform how best to design and implement services that meet the needs of young people.

**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 Ghartey-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 Stelline, Michael Gunn), Governor's Office (Emily Badalamente, Kim Hill)

## Other News

### NCSMH 2023 Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health

Organized by the National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH), this year's conference will be December 5-7, 2023, in New Orleans, LA, and is themed ***Building Hopeful Futures for All Youth***. [Click here for more information](#). Presentation proposals are due May 15, 2023, and registration will open during that month as well.

### NIHCM Infographic on Children's Well-being

The National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) [has developed this infographic](#) describing the current state of children's health and well-being in the United States. It's a great tool to help your boards, communities, partners, staff, and clients understand the scope and impact of things like leading causes of death, factors that affect mental and physical health, percentages of young people with mental health disorders by demographic, vaccination rates, healthcare access and insurance. The infographic may also be helpful in thinking about addressing your community's needs around these topics.

### NASHP Article on Rural Behavioral Health Crisis Services

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) has published [this informative article](#), with findings outlining new and innovative ways to bolster behavioral health crisis services in rural communities. The article identifies the unique set of challenges faced by state policy makers across the country when it comes to providing these services, including workforce shortages and long distances between provider and patients. Highlighted in the article are the successes and lessons learned from the recent State Policy Academy on Rural Mental Health Services.

## 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](#)

[The National Institute for Health Care Management \(NIHCM\) US Children's Well-being Infographic](#)

[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](#)

[Wisconsin Systems of Care Community Readiness Assessment](#)

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

