



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

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Upcoming SOC-Related Events & Updates

July 9-11, 2023 – Rural Schools Association Conference

[The Rural Schools Association](#) will hold its conference in Cooperstown, NY under the theme “Rebuilding the Rural Reality: From the Middle of Nowhere to the Heart of Everything”. [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.

School Health Assessment and Performance (SHAPE)

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

[Four roundtables intended to reduce the stigma of mental illness](#) were organized by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) in partnership with Behavioral Health News (BHN). The co-director of CCASE at the Nathan S. Kline Institute, Dr. Helen-Maria Lekas, was included as a panelist in this initiative. The roundtable discussions were conducted virtually and reached a wide audience throughout New York State, including persons with lived experience of a mental health condition, their families, advocates, and a variety of behavioral health professionals working in governmental and community-based settings. Youth peer advocates and Family peer advocates were included as panelists and provided invaluable insights about exposure to and strategies for addressing stigma. The different types and manifestations of stigma; the need to

understand how the stigma of mental illness intersects with other statuses such as race, ethnicity, gender, social class, substance use, and involvement in the carceral system; the significant role media plays in amplifying but also reducing stigma; and finally, the need to recognize that stigma also manifests in health care settings and other institutional settings are key topics that emerged from the roundtables. We invite you to listen to the recordings of the roundtables and consider how they might be used in your workspace and community to address stigma. [Suzanne Feeney](#) and [Karin Wagner](#) at OMH welcome your feedback related to this stigma reducing initiative.

SOC Evaluation Team

Policy Changes to Enhance Youth and Family Voice

The New York State Systems of Care (NYS SOC) Project is a four-year grant, funded by the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) of the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) SOC evaluation team collects data at a state, county, and agency level across various domains. Some of the grant deliverables to SAMHSA include specific indicator data like the number of policy changes that were a result of the grant. Data submitted at the state level and by rural pilot counties (Essex and Yates), demonstrate 27 policy changes to date relating to children's systems of care from a wide range of areas including youth and family voice, proclamations for recognition of the mental health workforce, and protocols and memorandums of understanding for SOC coalitions and committees.

Over the course of the grant, both Yates County's SOC Coalition, INSYGHT (Inclusive Network Supporting Youth and Families Towards Growth, Health, and Teamwork) and Essex County's SOC Coalition, BRIEF (Building Resilience in Essex Families), have emphasized the value of youth and family voice in their own care but also community decisions that promote a supportive environment for the wellbeing of youth and families. Essex and Yates have successfully implemented policies that purposefully create space for active participation of community members to help advance the county's system of care. When drafting policy and guidelines for youth and family participation and membership, both counties sought and received approval to compensate youth and family members for their time and valuable contributions.

The NYS OMH Youth and Family Engagement Specialists have provided important guidance in the development of policy that promotes youth and family voice, including their work with Essex County to formally recruit youth and family community members to the BRIEF SOC. As of April 2023, BRIEF has three active family member representatives and one active young adult representative, with one of the family member representatives serving on the BRIEF executive committee. Yates INSYGHT created a Community Site Outreach Worker Policy, which led to collaboration with multiple community centers across Yates County for the purpose of connecting youth and families to services based on their identified needs. Input from Youth and Family Representatives in both counties is being solicited to help inform future policy and protocol development. This deliberate shift towards the creation of policies that place youth and family voice at the forefront helps to build a structure that supports and sustains the SOC values and philosophy.

Did You Know?

OMH Community Mental Health Loan Repayment Program – Round Two

The New York State Office of Mental Health has issued a Request for Application (RFA) for FY 2023-2024 loan repayment awards with the purpose of recruitment and retention of psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and psychiatric physician assistants. Certain licensed providers of Article 28 and Article 31 services may be eligible to apply on behalf of their eligible staff. [Please click here for more information and to obtain an application.](#)

What's Great in Our State! A Celebration of Children's Mental Health

Thank you to all who attended the 2023 What's Great in Our State event on May 9th and participated in the virtual workshops offered throughout the month. [Please click here](#) to view the workshop recordings. If you have any questions, please contact [Jessica Stanis](#).

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.

June 8, 2023, 12:00 to 1:00 PM – Training Opportunity: “Supporting Family Peer Advocacy: In Response to Bullying”

Bullying can have a lasting impact on everyone involved: the person being bullied; bystanders who witness bullying; and the person who bullies others. The effects of bullying can also be long-lasting and is linked to many negative outcomes including impacts on mental health, substance use, and suicide.

This webinar will look at the challenges facing parents and caregivers whose children experience bullying. It will also provide strategies to youth, parents, and caregivers navigating systems that provide support to youth and young adults who are experiencing bullying in the school setting. Presented by a caregiver, Ms. Nicole Pratt, with young people in the school system and identified mental health needs, this webinar will speak to **Family Peer Advocates** and others in a variety of ways. [Click here to register for this virtual event.](#)

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 \(ny.gov\)](#)

Deputy Commissioners' Corner

OPWDD Focuses on Complex Needs and Crisis Services through Cross-Systems Collaborations -

People with complex needs or dual diagnoses (developmental disability and mental health diagnoses) can find it challenging to access the services and supports they need because of the difficulty of navigating multiple service systems. To improve access, OPWDD is exploring opportunities to collaborate across state delivery systems. Some specific cross-systems projects and collaborations targeting youth include:

- **The DDPC Pilot Proposal** - OMH and OPWDD are partnering to create two Home-Based Crisis Intervention (HBCI) teams specifically focused on youth in crisis with both mental health challenges and developmental disabilities.
- **The SUNY Upstate Program** – OPWDD is partnering with OMH in development of the SUNY Upstate Specialized Multi-Disciplinary Inpatient program supporting children who are dually diagnosed with developmental disabilities and a mental health disorder. This program will provide crisis stabilization and specialized psychiatric and behavioral treatment with a focus on safely returning children to their family home with appropriate wrap-around supports and resources.
- **9-8-8:** OPWDD is participating in a statewide partnership, facilitated by OMH, to ensure access to crisis services for people with developmental disabilities.
- **Gap Analysis:** OPWDD is collaborating with the NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors (CLMHD) to explore gaps in crisis services for people with developmental disabilities and to find solutions. The CLMHD will pilot interventions that improve mobile crisis response and services for children.
- **Implementing Crisis Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (CSIDD) for adults and children aged six and older** experiencing crisis, following the national Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment Resources and Treatment (START) model. OPWDD will soon have a complete network of CSIDD providers across the state.
- **The OLV Intensive Treatment Program** is a collaboration between OMH, OPWDD, the State Education Department and the Erie County Medical Center run by OLV Human Services in Lackawanna. It provides an elevated level of care not available anywhere else in New York State for people ages 12-17 who are

- diagnosed with autism or developmental disabilities along with a mental health diagnosis. OPWDD and OMH are exploring how this intensive treatment program might be replicated in other regions of the state.
- **Specialty Hospital for Children:** OPWDD is evaluating a proposal to develop a specialty hospital that would support children with developmental disabilities who have significant medical needs or complex forms of Autism Spectrum Disorder with co-occurring medical conditions.

Ongoing Cross-Systems Collaborations

- OPWDD is part of a multi-agency **cross-systems workgroup** focused on building capacity to support people who require services from multiple systems.
- **Partnership with CLMHD:** OPWDD meets regularly with the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors (CLMHD).
- **The Inter-Office Coordinating Council:** OPWDD participates actively in the IOCC, a collaborative entity created to improve continuity and coordination of services for people with multiple needs by OPWDD, OMH and OASAS.
- OPWDD serves on the **Developmental Disabilities Planning Council**, where we provide input and help to shape innovation grants that move our system forward.

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 Gharney-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 DeCataldo, 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.](#)

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](#)

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