

**Office of Community Services for Warren and Washington Counties**  
**Warren County Community Services Board**  
**Washington County Community Services Board**  
**September 12, 2024**

**Warren County**

**Present:** Cindy Wasson, Deidre Grieve, Greg Canale, Susan McManus, Belinda Bradley, Nina Mastrianni

**Excused:** Kim Brayton-Chair, Holly Irion-Vice Chair

**Washington County**

**Present:** Heather Adams-Wendell-Chair, Tammy DeLorme-Vice Chair, Adele Potter, Linda Michaud, Mary Alice Murphy, Tina McDougall, Sue Mowrey

**Excused:** Lt. Kristen Hardy, Jen Hogan

**Staff:** Rob York, Crystal Mallory, Harry Carlson

**Guests:** Dillon Swertner, Mary Shannon, Elizabeth Hoffman, Adrienne Slayko

**Present Via Zoom:** April Boucher, David LePage, Amanda West, Jen Hill

Agenda Item	Outcome	Action
<b>Regular Meeting – Call to Order</b>	A quorum was confirmed for Warren or Washington County CSBs. The September 12, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Warren and Washington County Community Services Boards was convened.	Heather Adams-Wendell-Chair, chaired the meeting.
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	Minutes of the April 11, 2024, June 13, 2024 & July 11, 2024 joint Regular Meeting of the Warren and Washington County Community Services Boards were presented for approval.  Minutes of the June 13, 2024 & July 11, 2024 joint Regular Meeting of the Warren and Washington County Community Services Boards were presented for approval.	Warren County Motion: S. McManus Second: C. Wasson Abstentions: None Motion carried with unanimous vote  Washington County Motion: A. Potter Second: M. Murphy Abstentions: None Motion carried with unanimous vote
<b>Presentations: Agency Presentations – 2025 Budget/Program highlights: Glens Falls Hospital Behavioral Health Services</b>	Mary Shannon discussed the Inpatient and Crisis Units. Their 30-bed Inpatient unit for Adults is generally at full or near-full capacity and 7- bed crisis unit for adults and children. Their biggest challenge is staffing Nurses; currently utilizing 12 Agency Nurses for 24-hour care. They have recently hired a new Psychiatrist and a Nurse Practitioner. With the ARPA Grant they will be moving and expanding the Crisis Unit to 13 beds total (8 children/ 5 Adults) with an overflow area. Looking for a January 1, 2025 move in date. Since January 1, 2024 the Crisis Unit has had 1100 evals of which 39% are children. They will be hiring a social worker for children/youth once open. There was discussion regarding anticipating an increase in children and youth referrals once they open. E. Hoffman provided flyers and discussed GFH Health Promotion Center and what they do. They are funded by grants from DOH. Flyers to be included in minutes email.	N/A

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<b>Community, Work and Independence</b>	<p>April Boucher provided and discussed a PowerPoint presentation. During this year, in their supported employment program, they have served a total of 12 people between Warren &amp; Washington Counties with 3 being discharged and 3 being new enrollees. They have 2 Levels of Support for Services: 1) Assisted Competitive Employment (ACE), serving 2 people in Warren County and 1 in Washington County; providing full-time support while the person is working, along with transportation. 2) Intensive Supported Employment (ISE), serving 4 in Warren County and 5 in Washington County; providing two contacts per month either onsite at their job or off-site, along with monthly contact with their employer if requested, to ensure continued satisfaction of their employment status. The current length of stay is 3 weeks to up to 9 years, with an age range of 22-80 years. They have a 5-year contract renewal with ACCESS VR and are starting a benefits advisement service. Workforce shortages &amp; mandates are issues/challenges they are working through.</p>	
<b>Budget/Program highlights: Behavioral Health Services North</b>	<p>David LePage stated BHSN has been awarded Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) status. OASAS State Aid for 2025 will stay the same, but will be removed in 2026, as they will receive enhanced rates for CCBHC services. Jennifer Hill provided staffing and further updates. In the Warren County Clinic, they have about 3,100 active clients and the waitlist is significantly down. They have recruited four new clinicians and would like five more to be "fully staffed". At Center for Recovery (CFR) in Warren County they have 165 clients. They added a CASAC and will be starting substance use groups. At the Washington County Clinic, they're serving about 80 mental health clients and over 100 at CFR. They want to increase mental health services and increase group access to include children and teen groups. They recently hired a Psychiatrist, Nutrition and Wellness Team members and five additional peers on staff. Open Access is not fully operational yet, but they are progressing. CFR does not have a waiting list. They can schedule within 4 days. Crisis is available Full time; after hours being Phone time and they are starting to launch Mobile Crisis for their Clients.</p>	

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<b>Presentations: Agency Presentations – 2025 Council for Prevention</b>	<p>Amanda West reported that between the Council for Prevention and Hope and Healing Recovery Center, they are fully staffed at 18 people. The Prevention Program has 6 ½ FTE and they are in 13 of school districts. Last year, in Warren County, they provided 1,160 lessons and served 3,605 youth. In Washington County, they provided 763 lessons and served 1,770 youth. The Student Assessment Survey is starting for students 7-12 grade, November through December, with a report compiled at the end of March showing survey data, guiding them in determining what programs and groups will be useful.</p> <p>The Diversion Program has 2 ½ FTE and has a partnership with both County Drug Treatment Courts and have been able to offer 30 outings/crafting to 340 people this year. In 2022 they served 250 clients and in 2023 they served 482 clients. The Recovery Center received \$500,000 in OASAS funding last year. That has been extended through 2026. They do have contingency plans in place if funds do not continue beyond that. They have 4 FTE. They closed on 37 Chester St on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024; it is undergoing renovations. They utilized Warren County Opioid Settlement Funding to hire a FT Family Support worker. They have recently hired Carrie Wright PT for community coalition work.</p>	
<b>New Business: 2025 Agency budgets/contracts</b>	R. York asked for a vote of approval of the 2025 Agency Budget Contracts.	<p>Warren County Motion: C. Wasson  Second: S. McManus  Abstentions: None  Motion carried with unanimous vote</p> <p>Washington Co Motion: L. Michaud  Second: A. Potter  Abstentions: None  Motion carried with unanimous vote</p>
<b>2024/25 Budget/contract amendments – OASAS COLAs</b>	R. York and H. Carlson provided table showing Warren and Washington County Budget Amendments. L. Michaud inquired regarding Eden Center in the Washington County budget. R. York replied we hold a contract with them for services in the Washington County Jail. He will invite them to present at a future meeting.	<p>Warren County Motion: C. Wasson  Second: S. McManus  Abstentions: None  Motion carried with unanimous vote</p>

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<b>Opioid Settlement Funds - Priority Rankings</b>	Rob York provided an update on planning for the solicitation process to be used for distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF). Each County is handling it a bit differently. Once projects are solicited, the CSB ad Hoc Committee will convene to review proposals and make funding recommendations to the CSB. He provided a handout showing the priority areas for funding identified by the Mental Health and Addictions Subcommittees. This will be used as a general guide for the ad Hoc Committee in prioritizing proposals. There was discussion to have the ad Hoc Committee take into consideration raising Transportation and Housing in the ranking or to put some language in the RFP solicitations prioritizing those over treatment and recovery, since these areas are receiving other funding.	<p>Washington Co Motion: T. McDougall  Second: A. Potter  Abstentions: None  Motion carried with unanimous vote</p> <p>Warren County Motion: S. McManus  Second: C. Wasson  Abstentions: None  Motion carried with unanimous vote</p> <p>Washington Co Motion: M. Murphy  Second: S. Mowrey  Abstentions: None  Motion carried with unanimous vote</p>
<b>2024-27 Local Services Plan (LSP)</b>	R. York stated the state now requires a 4-year Local Services Plan, with annual updates. In 2023, we established a survey, which produced 5 goals, with various objectives for the 2024 plan. For the 2025 update, we are adding a 6 <sup>th</sup> goal to reduce the number of individuals with a mental health diagnosis, SUD and/or IDD who are involved with the criminal justice system. He asked for vote to approve the 2025 Local Services Plan, with update.	<p>Warren County Motion: C. Wasson  Second: S. McManus  Abstentions: None  Motion carried with unanimous vote</p> <p>Washington Co Motion: T. DeLorme  Second: A. Potter  Abstentions: None  Motion carried with unanimous vote</p>
<b>Informational items/updates: Program Analyst Position</b>	R. York announced that an offer has been made and verbally accepted to fill the Program Analyst position. The individual is currently working at Great Meadow Prison and has a great deal of prior experience in the local mental health system. More information to follow next month as we finalize the offer of employment.	

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<b>Opioid Settlement funds – LGU Abatement Funds - RFP/solicitation process</b>	R. York is working with both of the Counties to arrange a suitable format to request Opioid Settlement Funds. The LGU Abatement funds received by the two counties so far totals \$962,000. It is envisioned that a solicitation for proposals will be issued before the end of the year, requesting projects/proposals with a one-to three-year term.	
<b>Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Train-the-Trainer</b>	R. York informed the group that there will be a MHFA 'Train-the-Trainer' training conducted September 16-19, 2024 by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. We have eleven trainers registered. The training sessions will be held in Warren County. This is funded through the \$65,000 Warren County ARPA project to support MHFA training in the community. The remainder of the MHFA ARPA project will go toward funding "MHFA at Work" training for the Warren County workforce.	
<b>Disaster Mental Health Training</b>	R. York reported the County Disaster Mental Health Team will be reconstituted and retrained this year on October 29-30, 2024 for up to 25 people. Previous members and new members will be encouraged to apply. The first day is Psychological First Aid; the second day is focused on Fundamentals of Disaster Mental Health Response.	
<b>Warren and Washington Counties Brainstorm Event – October 18th, 10a-2p</b>	S. McManus handed out a Brainstorm Event Flyer. The event will be held at the Salvation Army on October 18, 2024 from 10-2pm.	
<b>Agency Updates</b>	<p>Adrienne Slayko, Parsons/Northern Rivers Mobile Crisis, stated they are having difficulty filling an evening position. They are utilizing per-diem staff and telephone supports until they can fill the position.</p> <p>B. Bradley talked positively about the Look Media Videos created by Jesse Jackson regarding youth mental health, substance abuse and homelessness. The videos include interviews with teens and convey a powerful message. This was one of the Warren County ARPA behavioral health projects funded out of the \$1.1 million set-aside for behavioral health projects.</p>	

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<b>Adjournment and next meeting.</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm. The next meeting of the Warren and Washington County Community Services Boards is scheduled for Thursday October 10, 2024 3:00pm, at 230 Maple St., Glens Falls.	L. Michaud motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes respectively submitted by Crystal Mallory, Secretary to the Boards.