TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

OPWDD Subcommittee Meeting

APPROVED

October 6th, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Via: Hybrid

Mental Hygiene Staff Attendance:

Sarah Begeal, Director of Community Services Danielle Fabregas, Clinical Program Director
Sue Graves, Secretary to the Director

OPWDD Members Present	Absent
John Crosby	Tina Lounsbury
Renee Nuzak (Z)	Gayle Pado
Shannon Westbrook (Z)	Christine Schweitzer
Gabriella Ayres (Z)	William Staindinger, III
Karen Warfle	

Guests:
Kim Bailey-Poreda
Lyndsey Paulins
Anne Seepersaud

Meeting called to order at 9:35am

Topic: Review of the September 2026 Minutes

- Motion to approve – Karen Warfle, 2nd Kim Bailey-Poreda

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Director's Report – Sarah Begeal – No Report

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Agency Reports

DDSO/DDRO Report – Renee Nuzak

- Training for DSP (Direct Support Professional) Credentialing held
  - 2,103 participated
- "Accessing Life" podcasts up and running with 16 episodes
  - Located on the OPWDD website

John Crosby asked for the information provided would reflect Tioga County's data. He requested to know the number of Tioga County residence receiving services and how those services are working for those individuals. Renee stated not being at liberty to release specific county information but would relay the request to leadership. Sarah Begeal, too, stated she would investigate that as well.

Achieve Report – Shannon Westbrook

- Day Hab is a maximum capacity with 23 individuals enrolled - 20 people per day
- Day Hab Without Walls growing tremendously – 14 individuals at the Tioga Site
- Working with BOCES Transportation Program to get individuals services who need them
- Currently have 1 individual at the beginning of the referral process with 2 being transported to Broome
- Presentation Thursday at SUNY Broome
- Finding a lot of people that need services but don't know about the services available to them

FFS Report

- Statewide FSS is in the RFP process
- Starting process in stages regionally as opposed to statewide
- This region is slated to start after the first of the year
- New Family Reimbursement Allowed/Not Allowed list coming out
- Discussions regarding website creation with a third-party taking place

CCO Reports

- LifePlan - Anne Seepersaude reported the OPWDD website has a report breaking down numbers (data) John is looking for
- Google will also give the data as well
- Anne is emailing the link for all to have
- Data also available by school districts - ages 3-21
- School Chairs have reports
    - Perhaps invite local school chairs to participate in subcommittee
    - Karen shared Access-VR should be invited to the table as well
- Per state law, transitional planning begins at ages 12-14 in schools
- By 16, individuals should have a plan
- CCO's looking to have a collaborative agreement
    - Agreement to be sent to Sue to share with the group
- Event – virtual presentation regarding understanding educational rights on 10/14
    - Anne sending email with the link
- Documentary "Unseen" Thursday 10/15 from 12:00-1:30pm & 6:00-7:00pm
    - Anne sending registration links to all events

Rackers Report – Lyndsey Paulin for Gayle Pado

- Discussion ensued regarding the barrier of people finding people to let them know of services available to them.
    - Some programs are ready for new families, and some are already full
    - Behavioral programs have a wait list
    - Racker has a Front Door wait list with 3 Tioga County individuals on it
    - Various challenges shared

Kim shared the struggles she experienced navigating the Front Door process alone. People need assistance to get through the process.

- Numerous events coming up
    - Trunk or Treat Thursday from 3:30-5:30 at the Depot
        - Very well attended last year (550 participants)
        - Provider info event as well
    - Art of Racker Gallery Show in February

Catholic Charities Report – Gabriella Ayres

- Employment Services continues to remain the focus
    - Experiencing issues obtaining referrals
- Video created showcasing services that are offered
- A lot of outreaches being done
- Events
    - Open Mic Night 10/22 from 4:00 to 6:30pm
    - Halloween Dance 10/26 from 1:00 to 5:00pm – Nichols location

Self-Advocacy Report – Karen Warfle

- Attended the D3 event at Corning Community College
- Attended the Newark Valley Apple Festival
    - Very accessible to those with disabilities
    - Well organized
    - Educational as well as entertaining
- Recently attended a meeting and asked the speakers to slow down
    - Housing discussed
- Karen's son is participating in the self-advocacy committee
- October is AAC Awareness month
- Action Club visiting the Iron Kettle
    - Holding a food drive in November for Rural Ministries to assist families
    - Holding a children's book drive in December for Rural Ministries to assist families

John stated he would like someone from the Self-Advocacy group to attend these meetings as well so the group can hear a first-hand account of how various program/services are working for them.

Status: Informational – Complete

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:29am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026 at 9:30am.