TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

MH Subcommittee Meeting

APPROVED

October 6th, 2026

10:30am

Via: Hybrid

Mental Hygiene Staff Attendance:

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

MH Members Present	Absent	Guests
Angel Deyo-Cruz	Tina Lounsbury	Colleen Arnold
Sarah DiNunzio	Nadia Constant	
Katie Wait	Carolyn Galatzan	
Kristine Maslin		
Porshea Moore		

Meeting called to order at 10:36am

Topic: Review of the September 2026 Minutes

- Motion to approve Angel Deyo-Cruz, seconded Porshea Moore, approved as written

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Director's Report – Sarah Begeal

- Budget tracking well except for Criminal Psych
  - 1 individual in until April 2027 with a second admission most likely forthcoming
- State Aid received for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)
  - Looking for a coordinator
  - Some funding to be used for vehicle purchase as well as start-up equipment
- Additional funding received for Children's SPOA
- Staffing
  - Emily Parsons started 10/5 – Co-occurring Clinical Social Worker
  - MH Intern withdrew internship in September
- DSS taking the lead in creating an Affordable Housing Coalition
  - LSP (Local Service Plan) indicated a high need
- Subcommittee meeting separation
  - Goal is to have more meaningful meetings
  - Report outs should be related to the LSP & Goals
    - Increase Workforce
    - Affordable Housing
    - Access to transportation
    - Increasing Preventative Services

- Residential Treatment

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Clinical Program Director Report – Danielle Fabregas

- Census is 538 for Mental Health only

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Agency Reports

A New Hope Center – Sarah DiNunzio

- Housing challenges continue
- A New Hope Center is part of the Affordable Housing Coalition
- Prevention focused on School-based Safe Harbor & Child Advocacy
    - Program for all grades in Newark Valley, Spencer VanEtten, Candor & Waverly Schools
    - Obtained two advocates and getting a third through DSS for Safe Harbor & Child Advocacy
- Position open in the office for a Counselor Advocate for Adults
    - Employment advertising ideas shared
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
    - Wear purple day is Thursday 10/15
    - Court House lit up in purple
    - "Let's Ghost DV" at the Owego Elks on 10/17
- Open House held this past Friday

RSS – Kristine Maslin & Colleen Arnold

- Connecting individuals with services
- Facing hiring issues – using Facebook to find employees
- Transportation - additional challenge - received a call from a couple needing car repair
- Seeing increase in homeless referrals which are being referred to the SOS Team
    - Working with Catholic Charities to keep these individuals in county to make it easier to work with them
    - Funding to help is drying up
- Medicaid - unclear on what is happening on 1/1/27
- Supported Housing has 2 openings with no wait list

Public Health – Katie Wait

- Focusing on increasing prevention services
- Attended the Suicide Prevention Conference last week (500-800 in attendance)
- Receiving World Suicide Prevention Grant funding ($132,000 over 30 months)
    - Incentives this year
    - Implementation next year
    - Areas of focus are undecided at this point

    - Suicide Safety Planning for Schools
        - 4–6-hour course
        - In Conference Day/Training Day
        - School to be approached

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Additional Discussion

- Articles for Pennysaver
    - October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Porshea Moore
    - November – Men's Mental Health Awareness – Porshea Moore
    - December – Seasonal Depression – Angel Deyo-Cruz
    - January – Human Trafficking Awareness – Sarah DiNunzio
    - February – Emotional Awareness – Porshea Moore
    - March – Black Balloon Day – Porshea Moore
    - March – Problem Gambling – Angel Deyo-Cruz
    - April – Alcohol Awareness – Porshea Moore
        - Articles are due to the Pennysaver on Thursdays by noon
        - Please forward to Sue Graves who will send to the group for review
        - Sue will send articles on the Subcommittee's behalf
        - Articles will be posted on Facebook
- Subcommittee is recruiting for current openings:
    - 1 consumer
    - 2 Parent or relative of MH services
    - Attendance is being kept for members
- Large, combined Subcommittee meetings possibly once or twice a year to work on the LSP
    - Meeting time: 9:30-11:30am
    - Possibly April or May 2027 & November 2027 & April 2028

The group thanked Sarah Begeal for the in person individual group meeting. Meeting was more personal and productive.

Status: Informational – Complete

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:18am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026, at 10:30am