

TIOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE
PWDD SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

PENDING APPROVAL

Subcommittee meeting date: March 12th, 2024

Via Hybrid

Member	John Crosby
Attendance:	Vicki Fergus
	Kim Bailey-Poreda
	Tina Lounsbury
	Gayle Pado
	Shannon Westbrook
Guest	Kathy Nichols-Newell
Attendance:	Karen Warfle
	Emily Jackson
	Anne Seepersaud
Mental Hygiene	Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services
Staff Attendance:	Sue Graves, Secretary to the Director

Meeting called to order at: 9:04am

Topic: Review of January 2024 Minutes – Approved as written

Topic: Presentation

Discussion: Kathy Nichols-Newell, Lt. Governor of the NY District, Susquehanna Division
Owego Kiwanis Club gave a presentation on the Kiwanis Aktion Club.

- Highlights
 - Club meets the first Tuesday of each month
 - Location: Owego Boys & Girls Club
 - Time: 1:30 – 2:30pm
 - Local adults , 18+ with disabilities
 - Individuals can join at any time (no maximum age limit)
 - No membership fee for the first year; \$8.00 thereafter
 - Fundraisers for membership fees planned
 - Overview of Program is attached
 - Event
 - Club will be participating in the Rural Ministries Spring Clean up on April 13th, 20224 from 9:30-3:00pm

The group was grateful for this information and thanked Kathy for presenting.

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: DDSO/DDRO Report – Vickie Fergus

Discussion: Updates:

- March is Development Disabilities Awareness Month

- 2024 theme “World of Opportunities”
 - Three videos released focusing on empowerment
 - The Art of Advocacy
 - Look Beyond
 - Sexuality & People with Developmental Disabilities
 - See attached email with further details
- Status:
- Topic: ▪ Opportunity for individuals to share their own “I Am” messages
- Discussion:
- Upcoming Solar Eclipse
 - Event - April 8th, 2024
 - Information being provided on how to stay safe
 - Three evaluations are going on currently
 - Self-Direction – Guide House conducting
 - Care Coordination – American Institute of Research
 - Managed Care Evaluation – Guide House
 - There will be a review of all aspects of the research findings
 - Draft report will be released soon
 - “Get Outdoors & Get Together Day”
 - To be held June 8th, 2024
 - Hosted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation & State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
 - Partnering with Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
 - Further information attached

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Director’s Report – Lori Morgan

- Discussion: Updates:
- Waverly site is a go
 - Will have Mental Health and Substance Misuse services
 - Goal is to have open by this coming Fall
 - County Plan
 - Next month will bring plan to the subcommittee for review and updates

Status: Informational – Complete

Topic: Achieve Report – Shannon Westbrook/Carley Hoover

- Discussion: Updates:
- Day Hab facelift has started
 - Three individuals enrolled in Day Hab Without Walls
 - Three more are looking at the program

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: FSS Report – Gayle Pado

- Discussion: Updates:
- Results of the OPWDD Reimbursement Providers Survey
 - Changes to allowable and non-allowable list
 - Meeting to review changes
 - \$ 124,133 in grant funding
 - Top three priorities
 - Respite
 - Reimbursement
 - After school/Camps (doing an RFP)
 - Local RFP process underway
 - Seeking new members at the Regional Level
 - Open to Providers
 - Deb Bennett is the new Chair for the Tompkins Area

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: CCO Reports

Discussion: Updates:

ST Connects – Emily Jackson

- Following best practices & tasks to make the program better
- Trainings taking place
- More tabling & network events

Life Plan – Anne Seepersaud

- Status: Taking referrals
- Topic: New Program – Link to Better Health – TriaDD (flyer attached)
- Discussion: Program funded by a grant from the CDC in collaboration with the NYS Department of Health
- Program to help assist those with intellectual or developmental disabilities link to services such as:
 - Help with medical appointments
 - Connect with social services like SNAP, HEAP and so forth
 - Help guide individuals through the healthcare system
 - Connect with preventative services such as screenings and well care visits

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Racker Report – Gayle Pado

- Discussion: Updates:
- Adaptive Game Night/Bingo in April
 - Sponsored by the Voice of 607 Advocacy Group
 - Event is open to all

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Catholic Charities – Not Present

Topic: Self-Advocacy – Not Present

Topic: Other Business:

Discussion: Tina opened a discussion on Consumer Directed Personal Care and the state budget cut. The governor changed the program. Discussion ensued. Anne Seepersaud saw a mass email and a lot of concern was expressed. A number of individuals could be affected by this change.

Status: Informational - Complete

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:53am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th, 2024, at 9:00am.

DRAFT

MAKE FRIENDS AND MAKE THE WORLD BETTER.

Aktion Club is a club for adults with disabilities who want to make a difference in our community. We take turns managing projects and our club so we can learn how to lead as we serve others. We work together to decide what projects we want to do and how we want to do them.

Helping others ends up helping us too. We learn how to lead and make things happen. We discover how to work with each other and bring out the best in one another. Best of all, we make friends who care as much as we do about creating a better community.

Kiwanis
AKTION CLUB



EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN AKTION CLUB.

We hope you will come to one of our club meetings and check out what we do. We need good people like you.

Club name:

Kiwanis Aktion Club of Owego

Contact:

Advisor Kathy Nichols-Newell

Advisor:

text 859-358-0164

Meeting details:

**First Tuesday of each month
at Owego Boys and Girls Club
on Erie Street 1:30-2:30.**



Aktion Club is a Service Leadership Program that provides adults living with disabilities opportunities to give back to their communities, build leadership and decision-making skills, and develop and use their talents. Ultimately, Aktion Club helps to improve their self-esteem. People living with disabilities—more than anything—want to be treated like everyone else, and Aktion Club allows that to happen.

As a part of Kiwanis International Aktion Club members are a part of a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

Each year the kiwanis family dedicates more than 18.5 million hours to service and raises more than US\$100 million for local and global causes. Our members come from all walks of life, all corners of the globe and from every age group and ability. But make no mistake about it – we are family.



Kiwanis

Katherine E. Newell
Lt.Gov-Susquehanna Division

Home Club- Owego Kiwanis Club
342 Hiawatha Rd
Owego *NY 13827*

knewell00804@gmail.com PH: (859) 358-0164



February 2024

The Owego Kiwanis Club is excited to announce we will be chartering an Aktion Club in Owego. We hope to involve local adults, 18+ with disabilities in this Kiwanis-family program.

INFORMATION MEETING:

Tioga County Boy's and Girl's Club on Erie Street in Owego.

Tuesday February 20th, 2024.

Choose one of these 2 meetings that day. 1:30PM or 6:30PM

Please come to a short informational meeting and share this club meeting with friends or family who may interested as well.

Our basic plan involves identifying interested members, plan our first meeting and our first volunteer project.

Our goal is to meet once a month to plan that month's volunteer project.

Members that function independently may participate on their own, but may always attend club meetings and volunteer events with a parent or support person. Parents and support people who attend regularly will be put on roster.

Members requiring support and supervision are very welcome to attend with their support person who will become a club member with the group.

We are very excited to have a club in place by National Aktion Club Month in March of 2024.

PLEASE CONTACT Kathy Nichols-Newell to get your name on the roster ASAP!

INFORMATION/SIGNUP / future meetings will be held at the Owego Boy's and Girl's Club.

Kathy is a member and past president of the local Owego Kiwanis Club.

She is currently serving as Lt. Gov of the NY District, Susquehanna Division. This division serves Owego, Broome and Conklin area clubs.

Call or text Kathy @ 859-358-0164 or email knewell00804@gmail.com

DATE: 3/5/2024 TIME: 1:30-2:30pm LOCATION: TIOGA BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, OWEGO



1. WELCOME
2. INTRODUCTIONS
3. MAKE NAME TAGS
4. MAKE BIRTHDAY MARKERS
5. INTRODUCE **AKTION CLUB** PREMISE
6. DISCUSS LEADERSHIP ROLES
7. MAKE APRIL MTG PLAN AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY
8. CLEAN UP AREA/ADJOURNMENT AT 2:25 PM
9. NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024 @ T.C. BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, ERIE STREET
10. NEXT VOLUNTEER PROJECT !!!!
TIOGA COUNTY RURAL MINISTRY SPRING CLEANUP
APRIL 13, 2024, A SATURDAY, @ 9:30-300 pm
DRESS FOR WEATHER, WEAR BOOTS, BRING A RAKE PLEASE



Aktion Club Facts

Aktion Clubs draw members from various organizations that support individuals with disabilities, as well as other community programs. Aktion clubs can also be established at churches, libraries, YMCAs, lodges or similar facilities. A Kiwanis club, composed of like-minded, service-oriented people from the community, serves as the club's sponsor.

Motto:

Where development has no disability.

Vision:

To develop competent, capable, caring leaders through the vehicle of service.

Mission:

To provide adults living with disabilities an opportunity to develop initiative, leadership skills and to serve their communities.

Core Values:

1. **Character Building:** The ability to do the right thing, even when it might be the unpopular choice
2. **Leadership:** The ability to listen, communicate, serve and guide others
3. **Inclusiveness:** Accepting and welcoming differences in other people
4. **Caring:** The act of being concerned about or interested in other people or situations

Pledge:

I pledge on my honor to follow the Objects of Aktion Club.

To better my community, my country and myself.

To help those in need.

To demonstrate loyalty to our community and nation.

And to encourage others to do the same

It is important to note that Aktion Club is not the only way that special needs individuals can choose to participate in Kiwanis. Many people with disabilities choose to join and participate in Kiwanis Clubs and all the other Service Leadership programs.

NEW YORK DISTRICT AKTION CLUBS

Jaimie Neuringer, District Administrator – Upstate & Western NY • jaimie@aktionclub-ny.org

Dennis Gabel, District Administrator – Downstate • dennis@aktionclub-ny.org

www.aktionclub-ny.org

Graves, Susan

From: FERGUS, VICKIE (OPWDD) <VICKIE.FERGUS@opwdd.ny.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Graves, Susan; Morgan, Lori
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Follow up

Good morning,

Please see the below information as discussed at today's meeting. Have a great week! 😊

Get Outdoors & Get Together Day on June 8th

Get Outdoors & Get Together Day events will be held at select locations across New York on **Saturday, June 8**. This event is hosted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (State Parks) in partnership with the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the NYS Department of Veterans' Services.

These free, low-cost events connect people to nature and increase outdoor access. Get Outdoors & Get Together Day will bring people of all abilities, ages, identities and backgrounds together for fun, healthful activities as part of the state's initiative to ensure all New Yorkers have the opportunity to enjoy the state's public lands.

See all our event locations and learn more about the day here:
<https://opwdd.ny.gov/gettogetherday>.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This year's National DDAM theme is a "World of Opportunities." To celebrate, OPWDD has released three sets of videos focusing on empowerment.

- In **"The Art of Advocacy" videos**, you'll hear from self-advocates who aren't afraid to speak up and tell us what advocacy means to them and what they hope the future of advocacy will hold.
- In our new **"Look Beyond" series of videos**, you'll learn how people with developmental disabilities choose to define themselves and how they want others to see them.
- In our **"Sexuality and People With Developmental Disabilities" series of videos**, you'll be educated about the importance of providing information to people with developmental disabilities and supporting them in their sexual self-advocacy.
 - This last series of videos was developed in collaboration with the training company Elevatus, the Self Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS) and the filmmaker, the University of Minnesota.

- The videos will soon be followed up with an online toolkit that will further assist self-advocates, professionals, and family members in supporting people with developmental disabilities in their sexuality and relationships.

We're giving people another opportunity to share their own "I Am" messages. People can participate by sending a photo to communications.office@opwdd.ny.gov and finish the sentence I am... or they can share on their own social media pages with the hashtags **#LookBeyond** and **#DDAM2024**

Upcoming Solar Eclipse

A total solar eclipse will occur in parts of upstate New York on **Monday, April 8, 2024**. In a total solar eclipse, people who are in the "path of totality" see the sun's bright disk totally covered by the moon for a short time.

A total solar eclipse is a rare event that occurs only once in the same place every 400 years and New York State is expecting record crowds to travel to our state for optimum viewing.

The state has been planning for this event since November 2022 to ensure public safety and in preparation for the anticipated influx of people from neighboring states. You can find resources for experiencing the solar eclipse, including a map for exact timing and where to find safety glasses near you, at <https://www.iloveny.com/events/eclipse-2024/>.

Vickie L. Fergus, LCSW-R/Treatment Team Leader

Regional Front Door Lead

Regional Field Office 2- Service Access, Program Implementation, Stakeholder Support (SPS)

NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

Address: 249 Glenwood Road (4E)

Binghamton, NY 13905

OFFICE: (607) 217-6610 **EMAIL:** vickie.fergus@opwdd.ny.gov

OPWDD Info Line-To Access the Front Door: 866-946-9733

www.opwdd.ny.gov



LINK TO BETTER HEALTH

Do you have an intellectual or developmental disability?

Struggling to find a healthcare provider or make medical appointments?

LINK TO BETTER HEALTH

Find out if you qualify for this free 90-day program to help you meet your healthcare needs.

BENEFITS

- ☒ Help with medical appointments.
- ☒ Connect with social services, such as SNAP, HEAP, and more.
- ☒ Guide you through the healthcare system.
- ☒ Connect to preventative services, such as screenings and well-care visits.

Sign up and receive up to \$100 in Visa Gift Cards if eligible.
Visit triaddny.com/link-to-better-health-eligibility

