



Behavioral Health Services Advisory Council

**April 7, 2022
Held via WebEx**

BHSAC Minutes

Members Attending:

Glenn Liebman, Chair
Hilda Rosario-Escher
Michael Martin
Warren Ng
William LeCates
Patrick Seche
Sabina Lim
Connie Wille
Kathy Gardini
Susan Salomone

Patrice Wallace-Moore
Ian Schaffer
David Woodlock
Donna Mae DePola
Michael Orth
Kerry Whelan-Megley
Diane Blohm
Roxanne Lewin
Chacku Mathai
Judge Robert Russell

Meeting notes:

Chairman, Glenn Liebman welcomed the Council members and called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last full Council meeting. Motion was made, Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes. Chairman Liebman indicated he is involved in the budget and will need to turn the meeting over to Vice Chair Patrice Wallace-Moore after the OASAS and OMH Commissioner updates. Chairman Liebman then turned to the Commissioner's Reports.

Commissioner Reports:

OMH Commissioner Ann Sullivan discussed the Agency Updates:

Commissioner Sullivan indicated the proposed budget includes robust funding for OMH. She provided an update on the homeless and serious mental illness on the streets initiatives. Spoke on the Safe Options Support (SOS) Teams and the Safe Haven Beds, Learning collaborative with hospitals and CPEPs/EDs on how to best engage and serve these individuals; and then updated the Members on the 988 project, Children and Youth Updates and the Crisis Stabilization awards coming in July. The Commissioner provided funding information regarding Healthy Steps Expansion with \$10 million; Trauma Informed Care with \$10 million; School Based Mental Health Services with \$10 million, including Expansion of School-Based MH Clinics. In addition, she spoke about the Youth Mental Health First Aid across NY regions; Student Mental Health Support Grants for School Districts, to connect with mental health services, provide mental health programming for students and parents etc. with 10 million RFP due May 25th; and

discussed the Expansion Project Teach. Commissioner Sullivan also discussed further Children and Families expansions and support with rate increases to youth ACT, clinic, CCR, CFTSS, HCBS, RTF; Workforce Recruitment, Retention, and COLA; 20 Youth ACT teams – 15 recent awards; Home-Based Crisis Interventions (HCBI) - \$7.5 million in 22-23, \$10 million full annual; double family enrollment to 2,600. As well as indicated the expanding the systems of care in the follow areas: Intensive Outpatient – 12 Start Up, 1 Expansion; Partial Hospital Programs – 2 Start Up, 1 Expansion; Clinic – 31 Expansion; and HBCI – 8 Expansion. She ended her presentation noting the final budget negotiations are continuing. Members the discussed concern and opposition over Kendra’s Law and how it is stigmatizing and has families constantly under court order.

OASAS Commissioner Chinazo Cunningham discussed the Agency Updates:

Commissioner Cunningham indicated the proposed 2022-2023 Executive State Budget is still ongoing and shared the \$1 million in funding is available for Opioid Treatment Program Providers to establish additional locations outside of their current facilities, with application deadline of April 14, 2022. Commissioner Cunningham noted \$3.5 million dollars is available to fifteen providers to develop integrated Outpatient Treatment programs throughout New York State with an emphasis on communities with gaps in treatment; and \$3.2 million in funding is available for OASAS Permanent Supportive Housing Providers to provide rental subsidies for individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD). In addition, up to \$1 million in funding is available for OASAS certified and funded Prevention providers to establish and support paid internship positions. Providers can receive up to \$21,000 under this initiative, which is focused on attracting diverse individuals into the prevention field and providing them a pathway towards a professional credential. Commissioner announced there is also a new media campaign to raise awareness of the Recovery Friendly Workplace Tax Credit. Commissioner Cunningham gave an update on the problem gambling efforts and indicated since mobile sports wagering went live on January 8, 2022, \$3.19 billion has been wagered by New Yorkers, and the agency has seen a small uptick in HOPEline numbers for January and February. She announced The Responsible Play Partnership (RPP), of which OASAS is a partner, with the Gaming Commission and the NY Council for Problem Gambling is working collaboratively to raise awareness of online mobile sports wagering and responsible gambling. Commissioner Cunningham noted the various efforts OASAS is providing at the prevention, treatment and recovery service levels. She announced OASAS will have a new Chief Equity Officer who will be responsible for coordinating the design, implementation, and policy development associated with an Equity Framework at OASAS. Commissioner Cunningham discussed there will be a new charge for the BHSAC; through new legislation passed last year and finalized through Chapter Amendment signed by the Governor in January, there are additions to the Behavioral Health Services Advisory Council (BHSAC) scope of work. These changes will officially go into effect on June 22nd of this year. The BHSAC will be required to form a committee to specifically look at treatment disparities and help to ensure greater treatment equity in diverse areas and for vulnerable populations statewide. The agency will provide the Council with more information prior to the implementation date in June.

Regulations:

NO OMH or OASAS Regulations

Project Reviews:

OASAS Projects:

2021.028– Samadhi Center, Inc. submitted a Certification Application requesting the approval of the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to become a new OASAS Provider of Part 822 Outpatient Services to be located at 368 Broadway, Suite 204, Kingston, NY. Samadhi Center will utilize a person-centered recovery-oriented system of care by providing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT); Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT); Motivational Interviewing; Trauma Informed Care and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). Hours of operation will be Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 8:00 pm and Saturdays 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Samadhi Center, Inc. became established as a not-for-profit organization in April 2019 to provide community outreach services in Kingston. The Board of Directors consists of five members, one of which has extensive management/oversight of substance use disorder treatment services. OASAS Fiscal Audit and Review Unit (FARU) reviewed Samadhi Center’s fiscal status and determined they are fiscally viable. The provider will accept Medicaid. The Ulster County Department of Mental Health and the OASAS Hudson Regional Office submitted recommendations for approval. OASAS recommended approval with the following contingencies: final approval of sufficient staff hired to meet minimal regulatory compliance, final inspection of the completed facility, and a copy of the filing receipt from the NYS Department of State indicating that the Amended Certificate of Incorporation containing the OASAS required language was filed. The Project Review Committee unanimously recommended approval to the BHSAC Full Committee and the Full Committee gave a unanimous recommendation of approval for this application.

OMH Projects:

Comprehensive PAR #77 submitted by Lodestar Children’s Services, Inc.

Establish CFTSS/CMHRS program

Lodestar seeks to establish a Children’s Mental health Rehabilitation Services Program to serve children, adolescents, and adults to age 21 in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Lodestar Children’s Services, Inc. (Lodestar) works with children and families through the NYS Office of Mental Health Home and Community Based (HCBS) waiver program and Children & Family Treatment Supports & Services (CFTSS) array and have been providing these services since February 2019. They are a designated provider of these services in Suffolk and Nassau Counties. The agency’s plan is to expand services to New York City at some point in the future. Committee Members requested more specific information regarding Language and Cultural Diversity the applicant responded that they will try to hire diverse staff, and work on their methods of intake a familiarize themselves with the unique needs of the community so that they can meet those needs. When asked about working with other providers to meet the capacity and volume projected the applicant stated the Long Island does a good consolidation to get those in need to the providers, and that they believe this program type is only scratching the surface of those in need of these services. Committee members also asked for detail regarding the hiring and training process if they expect to have a family peer and a youth peer on staff. The hiring and

training plan includes cross training and working with resources they find through word of mouth and networking in the community as a whole. They expect work with Youth Power to help have a peer presence on staff.

Reviewer Comments and Conditions:

1. Provide a protocol for ensuring families know how to reach an appropriately trained clinical staff for immediate access in times of crisis, and for routine follow-up.
2. Submit final Telehealth protocol. Long Island Field Office is available for guidance.
3. Confirm that the correction to the agency's designation was finalized, per email received from Shannon Fortran on March 30, 2022.

PRC Council members present recommended moving the project to the full Council for approval. Sabina Lim abstained; the Full Council approved.

Comprehensive PAR #91 submitted by Project to Empower and Organize the Psychiatrically Labeled, Inc. (PEOPLE, Inc.)

Establish a Crisis Residence serving adults

PEOPLE, Inc. seeks approval to convert four existing crisis respite programs to three licensed Crisis Residences. PEOPLE, Inc. aims to provide people living with behavioral health challenges a path for healing and recovery through the delivery of high-quality services. This not-for-profit organization is staffed entirely by individuals with their own lived experience with mental illness and addiction and have found paths to recovery and wellness. PEOPLE currently operate 30 unlicensed mental health programs, including supported housing, self-help programs, mobile crisis, peer services, and respite services. PEOPLE established Rose House in Ulster County in 2001 as a unique model of crisis respite and hospital diversion. The model has been studied and replicated across the country. The four unlicensed crisis respite programs, Rose Houses, currently operate as short-term alternatives to emergency rooms or inpatient psychiatric units. Each 8-bed Rose House can prevent 2,920 psychiatric days, serving up to 500 individuals annually.

Reviewer's Comments and Conditions:

1. Confirm that staff will have access to a secure refrigerated storage for medications.
2. Complete architect feasibility review for each site.
3. Upon completion of the renovations provide a letter of substantial completion from the project architect, Certificate of Occupancy (COO), and complete a successful pre-occupancy visit with the Hudson River Field Office.

The PRC moved to recommend approval to the full council. Committee vote was unanimous and Full Council approved.

Comprehensive PAR #98 submitted by Hillside Children's Center

Hillside Children's Center (HCC) seeks approval to close their eighteen-bed Stillwater Campus RTF.

HCC currently operates eight (8) programs licensed by the Office of Mental Health (OMH). This includes four (4) residential treatment facilities (RTF), three (3) day treatment programs, and a Children and Family Treatment Services and Support (CFTSS) program. Additionally, they are in the final steps of opening another RTF that will serve Juvenile Justice youth. HCC provides residential services to a diverse population of youth placed by OMH, OCFS, Department of

Social Services, and local Committees on Special Education. Committee members inquired about challenges in providing services, the logistics of those challenges, and concern about how far recipients would need to travel for services with the closure of the program. The applicant specified that the majority of those in the program were not area/county residents. They also pointed out that there was no school on the campus which presented more challenges, and that travel was a very challenging aspect of operating the program. The provider did state they would be applying for a Youth ACT program.

Reviewer's Comments and Conditions:

1. Provide a de-identified disposition list for each youth that indicates the aftercare services they will receive.
2. Ensure that all discharges are reflected in CAIRS.
3. Provide a copy of the DOH CFR template to the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Department of Health (DOH).

The PRC moved to recommend approval to the full council. Committee vote was unanimous and Full Council approved.

Comprehensive PAR #99 submitted by Hillside Children's Center

Hillside Children's Center (HCC) is seeking approval to expand their Finger Lakes Campus RTF capacity by eight beds that will serve female and transgender youth. HCC currently operates eight (8) programs licensed by the Office of Mental Health (OMH). This includes four (4) residential treatment facilities (RTF), three (3) day treatment programs, and a Children and Family Treatment Services and Support (CFTSS) program. Additionally, they are in the final steps of opening another RTF that will serve Juvenile Justice youth. HCC provides residential services to a diverse population of youth placed by OMH, OCFS, Department of Social Services, and local Committees on Special Education. The Hillside Finger Lakes Campus RTF (FLC) currently has a forty-two (42) bed capacity that serves Children and Adolescents in Cayuga and surrounding counties. Through this project eight (8) of sixteen (16) OCFS licensed Residential Treatment Center (RTC) beds will be converted to RTF beds licensed by OMH, increasing the RTF capacity at the FLC to fifty (50) beds. This project also includes minor renovations to the bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchen, and common area. These renovations removing ligature risks, replacing doors, windows, light fixtures, flooring, remodeling the bathrooms, and installing new furniture and artwork. Committee member discussion was concurrent with the previous RTF closure application.

Reviewer's Comments and Conditions:

1. Describe how previously employed RTC staff will be trained to provide services in an RTF, including the differences in the treatment philosophies between an RTC and RTF.
2. Provide a copy of the final staffing plan for the entire RTF program. Provide a copy of the DOH CFR template to the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Department of Health (DOH).
3. Upon completion of the renovations provide a letter of substantial completion from the project architect, Certificate of Occupancy (COO), and complete a successful pre occupancy visit with the Central New York Field Office. (DOH).

The PRC moved to recommend approval to the full council. Committee vote was unanimous and Full Council approved.

Comprehensive PAR MH-D-2864 submitted by Amudim Community Resources, Inc.

This application seeks to establish an article 31 clinic treatment program to serve primarily the residents of Inwood as well as the rest of Nassau County. Services would be available to all age groups and include evening and weekend hours as follow: Monday through Thursday, 9 am – 10 pm, Friday 9 am – 4 pm, & Sunday 9 am – 7 pm. Established in 2016, Amudim has operated a community service program for residents of New York City and on Long Island. Amudim services include case management, education and referrals related to sexual abuse, developmental disabilities, at-risk youth, and substance abuse and addiction. Case Management services are offered for free to the public and is supported totally by fundraising. Audited financial reports show robust fundraising revenue of 7.3M in 2018, 6.9M in 2019 and 9.3M in 2020. Specific to mental health, Amudim provides outreach and education services to adults, children and adolescents and their families experiencing serious and persistent mental illness. In 2021 Amudim also received a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Mental Health Awareness Training Grant of \$125,000 to increase mental health awareness and reduce mental illness stigma in New York's Orthodox Jewish community. With this grant, Amudim will provide Mental Health First Aid and culturally competent care training to 2,000 individuals, including Orthodox school personnel and first responders. For expert knowledge and advice in mental health, Amudim relies on a 7-member advisory board composed of licensed clinical psychologists, social workers, and psychiatrist of child, adolescent and adult psychology and psychiatry. Among the Advisory Board members is Dr. Gary Lelonek, an emergency department child and adolescent psychiatrist at Northwell Health/LIJ Hospital where he leads a team of social workers, child psychiatry fellows and residents working with families in crisis and evaluating high-risk patients. He is also an associate professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at Zucker Medical School where he also focuses on the practice of mental health emergencies. Dr. Lelonek also provides training and holds workshops on mental health, adolescent suicide prevention and school violence for Amudim staff and at New York City public schools. Committee members inquired about the number of individuals the applicant expects to serve, what that staffing will be comprised of, and more specific information about the Latino staff they plan to hire as the application referred to this population as one in need of the services to be provided. The applicant responded that those they intend to serve and being part of the Latino community will be taken into consideration during the hiring process. The models of care they intend to use include trauma informed care, CBT, and that their plan is to first establish the clinic and that they are currently working with at least 5 clinic/providers in the area to assist with this development. They also indicated that Motivational Interviewing will be part of their models of care regarding individuals with co-occurring disorders.

Reviewer's Comments and Conditions:

1. Please clarify whether the proposed clinic space will be shared with any other programs the agency operates.
2. Scheduled with a site visit Erin Rostron of the New York City Field Office. The purpose of this visit is to ensure adequate staffing and sufficient space to accommodate the program. Ms. Rostron can be contacted at (212) 330-1650 to arrange this visit.

PRC Council members present recommended moving the project to the full Council for approval. Sabina Lim abstained; the rest of the members present approved and Full Council approved.

Closing:

Vice Chair Patrice Wallace-Moore opened up the floor to discuss new business. The Members would like to be informed more of the new Equity Committee forming under the BHSAC and understand their role and expectations, such as with the data and annual report. Members discussed importance of having lived experiences presented before decisions are made, such as done with CCBHC. Members also discussed new innovations with self-directed care models to be offered to young people, and importance of scaling it up on health homes.

The committee then adjourned at 1:45 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled for June 16, 2022.