



Behavioral Health Services Advisory Council

September 22, 2022

Held at OASAS locations in Albany, NYC and Syracuse

BHSAC Minutes

Members Attending:

Glenn Liebman, Chair
Brianna Gower
David Woodlock
Diane Blohm
Roxanne Lewin
Angelica Paige
Joe Turner
Kathy Gardini
Sabina Lim
William LeCates

John Kastan
Kerry Whelan-Megley
Warren Ng
Ian Shaffer
Debra Pantin
Michael Orth
Donna Mae DePalo
Hilda Rosario Escher
Laura Kellemen

Received Notification Not Able to Attend:

Connie Wille
Trish Marsik
Robert Russell
Michael Martin
Chacku Mathai
Patrick Seche

Meeting notes:

Chairman, Glenn Liebman welcomed the Council members and acknowledged the new members, as well as gave congratulations to Angelica Paige on her marriage. Chairman Liebman then introduced the OASAS and OMH Commissioners to provide agency updates to the Full Council.

OASAS Commissioner Cunningham Updates:

Commissioner Chinazo Cunningham provided the Full Council with updates on the agency priority areas indicating under Equitable Services, the new Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) office being led by Carmelita Cruz who will be forming an internal Advisory Council to advise on trauma informed organizational change strategies and will also be conducting an agency-wide assessment Under the Harm Reduction priority, Commissioner Cunningham announced Associate Commissioner Mary Brewster will be leading the bureau and working on MMU and Street Outreach Awards, and holding ongoing office hours for providers. The Data-Driven priority will have OASAS working on initiatives that are more data accessible

and readily available, including launching a Data Bulletin. Commissioner Cunningham provided updates in Prevention highlighting the Youth Development Survey in 2023, the University of Buffalo and Buffalo State collaborations, as well as the Partnership with Office for the Aging. In the area of Treatment, the agency had approval of the first certified telehealth outpatient program and has developed a treatment in correctional setting guidance document, and OUD and AUD MAT regulations. Commissioner Cunningham spoke on the Recovery efforts where September is National Recovery Month and highlighted the 30 in 30 project, Recovery Friendly Workplace Tax Credit Media campaign and transportation awards. She indicated the agency launched a new campaign and tag line which can be seen on all media platforms. OASAS Commissioner provided a Fiscal update as well speaking about the workforce bonuses, contract updates, and stabilization funding. She ended with updating the members on the activities of the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board, encouraging them to be part of the process and send in their ideas to the Board.

OMH Commissioner Sullivan Updates:

Commissioner Ann Sullivan provided the Full Council with key initiatives in 2022, first speaking on Access to Services and updating on crisis services; homeless outreach and housing; safe options support teams; youth and family services; rehab and employment programs; and first episode psychosis efforts. Commissioner Sullivan indicated another key initiative focused on Ensuring Equity and Diversity and Inclusion highlighting the FMAP funds are supporting a collaboration between OMH, SUNY and CUNY to encourage a diverse population of students to enter mental health specific degree programs. OMH has also launched a new Vital Signs Dashboard to indicate the disparities between various groups in those they serve. Commissioner Sullivan provided an update in Prevention efforts highlighting expansion of Healthy Steps in Pediatricians Office, expansion of School Based Clinics; extensive suicide prevention services in schools; and provided an update on Project Hope and the Project Engagement initiatives. Commissioner Sullivan spoke on the First Episode Psychosis Program expansion indicating there are 29 FEB sites, with 25 currently operating and four in the start up phase. The OMH Commissioner spoke of the Mobile Access Program (MAP), which was a pilot in 2019 in 3 counties, and now is implemented in 20 counties with iPads provided to police and local mental health clinics to avoid unnecessary transport to hospitals; as well as a online Tableau portal established to allow agencies to view their data in comparison to others. Commissioner Sullivan highlighted OMH efforts in their Peer Support Program and ended her presentation on workforce 2022-23 Budget Supports and housing efforts.

The Commissioners then took questions from the Full Council Members addressing. Questions were raised regarding the 1115 Waiver and support for prevention, data analysis and a comprehensive structure. Commissioner Sullivan indicated two planning groups, The Regional Heroes Organization and the Social Determinants of Health. She also discussed the finance piece of the value-based purchasing and the bundle payment for wrap around services. Both Commissioners encouraged the Board members to be united on key issues and have a strong voice on the governance of behavioral health in these areas. A Council Member indicated instead of looking at Regionally, have in NYC do a borough by borough look. Council members also asked about the Mobile Medication Units locations and Commissioner Cunningham indicated there have been 13 MMUs funded for both update and NYC areas. Another mention was on the HHS Prevention Task Force efforts for screening with every person under 65. Concerns raised

for screenings of now youngsters and possible no place to refer them. Commissioner Sullivan addressed the concern by looking at telehealth services in healthcare settings to take the referrals. A question was raised on having an inpatient capacity update and the amount of beds closures. Commissioner Sullivan responded by indicating efforts are to bring the hospital beds that were closed during COVID back on-line but there are those that are still struggling; and also indicated that the State has not closed beds in three years and looking to see where investments are to be made in community services, wrap around services or community and residential beds. Chairman Leibman thanked the Commissioners for their informative presentations and appreciation for the updates and discussions.

Chairman Liebman then called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last full Council meeting on June 16, 2022. Motion was made, Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Regulations:

NO OMH Regulations

OASAS Regulations:

Voluntary Certification of Recovery Residences

OASAS is proposing to create a new Part 860 regarding the voluntary certification of recovery residences (also known as recovery homes or sober homes). OASAS has not previously regulated recovery residences as we have not had the statutory authority to do so. However, earlier this year, the Legislature expanded the authority of OASAS to create a voluntary certification for recovery residences. This regulation implements that certification system, which allows, but does not require, recovery residence to certify with OASAS. Those that certify will be required to abide by standards in line with current OASAS approaches to recovery. OASAS is requiring certified recovery residences to provide support in case of recurrence, access to MAT, and facility standards. Additionally, the regulation establishes occupant rights and obligations, including occupant governance, access to services, and the expectation that these residences should be substance-free environments. The regulations also clarify the applicability of New York State Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law and the scenarios in which a resident can be evicted. Regulations Committee discussion was entirely devoted to questions regarding the regulation language and implementation. There were no recommendations from the committee regarding the language and no recommendations for agency consideration. There was a motion to approve, and then second. The Regulation was approved unanimously at Committee and Full Council.

Project Reviews:

OASAS Projects:

2021.077 – Recovery Center of Niagara, LLC. (RCN) submitted a Certification Application requesting New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) approval to

become a new OASAS Provider of Part 818 Inpatient Rehabilitation and Part 816.7 Medically Supervised Inpatient Withdrawal & Stabilization Service to be located at 2600 Williams Street, Newfane, New York 14108. This application was presented in full at the June 16, 2022 Advisory Council meeting. At that meeting representatives from the community spoke on this application; some in favor and some opposed. Due to the dialogue that then followed, this project was “tabled” until the September 2022 meeting. The questions raised during the discussion were formalized by the Advisory Council and submitted to OASAS for response. Responses to those questions were then sent back to the Council prior to the September 22nd meeting. The Project Review Committee recommended approval to the BHSAC Full Committee, and the Full Committee recommended approval with two abstentions.

2022.048– Cayuga Health System, Inc. (CHS) requested OASAS approval to become the Sponsor of Ithaca Alpha House Center, Inc. d/b/a Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services (CARS). CARS is currently an OASAS-certified provider with one Part 820 Residential Service in Trumansburg, and a Part 822 Outpatient Treatment Service and Opioid Treatment Program in Ithaca. CARS will maintain its current executive leadership team and its current approach and philosophy regarding the treatment of substance use disorders. There are no new services being proposed in connection with this action, and there will be no changes made to the approved 2022 CARS budget. Cayuga Health Systems has programs which are currently licensed by New York State Department of Health and Office of Mental Health of which are reported to be in good standing. The Tompkins County Mental Health Department and OASAS recommended approval with the following contingency: Copy of filing receipt from the NYS Department of State indicating that the amended Certificate of Incorporation, including the OASAS required language, have been filed. The Project Review Committee recommended approval to the BHSAC Full Committee, and the Full Committee gave a unanimous recommendation of approval for this application.

2022.041 – Central Park Recovery, LLC requested OASAS approval for a change in ownership of their Part 822 outpatient and outpatient rehabilitation program located at in Yonkers. They have been an OASAS certified provider since July 2021. One of the current owners Stephan Giuffrida, is divesting himself of his interest in this program and plans to sell his 90% interest to Mr. Mark Bassani with (85%) and Ms. Melissa Mondella (5%). Mr. Bassani is the current landlord and owner of the building that Central Park Recovery leases, as well as the CFO of Central Park Recovery. Ms. Mondella is an LMHC and CASAC-T, and the current Assistant Clinical Director of Central Park Recovery. A third owner, Nicole Intervallo, will continue to hold 10% ownership and has the OASAS required experience managing substance use disorder treatment services. Existing services are not affected by this action. The Westchester County Department of Mental Health and OASAS recommended approval. The Project Review Committee recommended approval to the BHSAC Full Committee, and the Full Committee recommended approval with one abstention.

2022.009 – Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE) requested (OASAS) approval to become a new OASAS provider of Part 822 Outpatient Treatment Service in Oakdale. Services will be integrated with their Article 31 Health (OMH) licensed clinic and will serve its existing patients who are diagnosed with co-occurring mental health disorders as well as offered to members of the community. The clinic will provide services in -person and through telehealth. Services will be client centered and include, education, medication assisted treatment,

psychotherapy services, including individual and group counseling, vocational, peer support services and outreach. Approximately 150 individuals will be served annually. Hours of operation will be Monday, Thursday, and Saturday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. FREE is a domestic not-for-profit corporation founded in 1977 to provide support for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, mental health illness and traumatic brain injury and are licensed by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities as well as the Office of Mental Health and are in good standing. The Board of Directors consists of 12 members, two of which meet the OASAS requirements in managing or operating substance use disorder services. The Suffolk County Department of Health Services and OASAS recommended approval with the following contingencies: Copy of filing receipt from the NYS Department of State indicating that the amended Certificate of Incorporation including the OASAS required language, has been filed; and hiring of staff. The Project Review Committee recommended approval to the BHSAC Full Committee, and the Full Committee gave a unanimous recommendation of approval for this application.

2022.005 – New Day Treatment Center, LLC. requested OASAS approval to become a New OASAS Provider of Part 822 outpatient services to be located in Far Rockaway. Services will include individual, group, and family counseling, along with medication assisted treatment. They will also offer identified gender specialty groups, along with LGBTQ+, youth, elderly, those with co-occurring mental health issues, significant others, and parenting groups. New Day plans to provide flexible scheduling that fits within the client’s present life schedule and will be open 365 days per year, including all holidays. They plan to operate Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am – 9:00 pm, Fridays from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, and from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. New Day was established on August 24, 2021, as a New York State Domestic Limited Liability Corporation and is comprised of three owners: Chaim Genger, and Joel Friedman each of whom own 45%, and Paul Creary owns the remaining 10%. Paul Creary has 15 years of prior and current experience in the delivery of substance use disorder services and meets OASAS ownership requirements. Chaim Genger has six years of experience in the financial field and currently works in real estate development and Joel Friedman has experience in the pharmaceutical field and is currently a Vice President of Operations at a skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility. The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and OASAS recommend approval with the following contingencies: Verification of the hiring staff, OASAS inspection and approval of the completed facility, final review and acceptance of policies and procedures and copy of filing receipt from the NYS Department of State indicating that the amended Articles of Organization, including the OASAS required language, have been filed. The Project Review Committee recommended approval to the BHSAC Full Committee, and the Full Committee gave a unanimous recommendation of approval for this application.

2022.038 – Rego Park Counseling, LLC requested OASAS approval for a change in ownership of their Part 822 outpatient program located in Rego Park. Nina Iouran who held 10% ownership in Rego Park Counseling and had the OASAS-required substance use disorder experience, has retired, and divested herself of her ownership interest. Dr. Raul Ulloa, the current Medical Director at Rego Park, has purchased Ms. Iouran’s 10% ownership interest and has the required substance use disorder background. Existing services are not affected by this action. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and OASAS recommended approval. The Project

Review Committee recommended approval to the BHSAC Full Committee, and the Full Committee gave a unanimous recommendation of approval for this application.

2022.026 – Seth Benkel MD Queens PLLC, d/b/a Platinum Recovery Center requested OASAS approval to become a new OASAS provider of Part 822 Opioid Treatment Services, to be co-located in his (Dr. Benkel's) multi-specialty health care practice (Platinum Health) located in Far Rockaway. In addition to the full array of OTP services, Platinum Recovery Center patients will be afforded access to an integrated and coordinated system of care inclusive of Platinum's existing primary and specialty medical care capacity. Proposed hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7am to 3pm, Saturday 8am to 1pm and hours for dosing are proposed as Monday through Friday 7am to 2pm and Saturday 8am to 12pm. Platinum will offer evening hours based upon the expressed needs of clients. In order to remain flexible, responsive, and person-centered, once they become operational the program will continually evaluate and make specific changes to hours of operation to accommodate evenings, if indicated. Seth Benkel MD Queens, PLLC is Professional Service Limited Liability Company newly established as of October 25, 2021. There are two owners: Dr. Seth Benkel MD (90%) and Dr. David Molina (10%). Drs. Benkel and Molina bring more than 50 years of cumulative experience providing community-based medical care in diverse, underserved neighborhoods. Both are committed to a person-centered, integrated care philosophy. Dr. Molina meets the requirements for the SUD experience, as required by OASAS. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and OASAS recommended approval with the following contingencies: Verification of the hiring staff, OASAS inspection and approval of the completed facility, and a copy of filing receipt from the NYS Department of State indicating that the amended Articles of Organization, including the OASAS required language, have been filed. The Project Review Committee recommended approval to the BHSAC Full Committee, and the Full Committee gave a unanimous recommendation of approval for this application.

2022.039– Under Angel's Wings Recovery Center, LLC Cazenovia Recovery, Inc requested OASAS approval to become a New OASAS Provider of Part 822 Outpatient Services to be located in Brooklyn. Services will include admission assessment; treatment planning and review; trauma informed individual and group counseling; medication assisted treatment; toxicology testing; post treatment planning; medication prescription and management; ancillary withdrawal services as well as peer support services. Services will be delivered in person and through telehealth and will be provided in three languages including English, Polish and Spanish to patients ages 16 and older. The Provider intends to serve the community at large but also plans to have a special focus on licensed professionals who face additional stigma for addiction, such as members of the New York City Police Department (NYPD, Fire Department of New York (FDNY), medical professionals and other professionally licensed individuals. Hours of operation will be Monday – Friday 8:30am to 9pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am-5pm. Staff will be on -call after hours as well. The Provider reached out to four services providers for support of their proposed services and are in the process of finalizing memorandum of understanding agreements. Under Angel's Wings Recovery Center was established as a Limited Liability Company on May 5, 2021. There are two owners: Monika Siergiej and Anna Maria Mendez. Both bring experience in the provision of substance use disorder treatment. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and OASAS recommended approval with the following contingencies: Verification of the hiring staff, and a copy of filing receipt from the NYS Department of State indicating that the amended Articles of

Organization, including the OASAS required language, have been filed. The Project Review Committee recommended approval to the BHSAC Full Committee, and the Full Committee recommended approval with one abstention.

2022.034– Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. (WJCS) requested OASAS approval to become a New OASAS Provider of Part 822 Outpatient treatment Services to be in Hartsdale with an additional location to be co-located at their Article 31 clinic in Mount Vernon. Services will be offered to adolescents, adults and family members and will be delivered through evidenced-based approaches with a particular emphasis on self-determination and include principles of harm reduction. Therapies will include cognitive behavioral therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, medication assisted treatment, motivational interviewing/motivational enhancement therapy, and family therapy. The proposed hours of operation (for both locations) are Monday through Thursday 9am-7pm and Fridays 9am to 5pm. Westchester Jewish Community Services is a non-profit organization founded in 1943 and one of the largest providers of services in the County. They are currently licensed by the Office of Mental Health and are in good standing. The Board of Directors consists of 31 individuals with three board members holding OASAS required experience in the delivery of substance use disorder services. The Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health and OASAS recommended approval with the following contingencies: Verification of the hiring staff, OASAS inspection and approval of the completed facility, and a copy of filing receipt from the NYS Department of State indicating that the amended Articles of Organization, including the OASAS required language, have been filed. The Project Review Committee recommended approval to the BHSAC Full Committee, and the Full Committee recommended approval with one abstention.

OMH Projects:

MH-D-2865 Hope House on Crotona Park, LLC: Hope House on Crotona Park (HHCP) requests approval to establish a 16 bed Community Residence that will serve as an alternative to incarceration for Adults in New York City. HHCP is governed by The Greenberger Center for Social and Criminal Justice, Inc. (Greenburger Center). Greenburger Center is focused on reforming the criminal justice system particularly for individuals with behavioral health disorders whose involvement in the criminal justice system is often a barrier to recovery. Data from the VERA Institute of Justice and the Journal of American Medical Association show a disproportionate number of individuals involved in the criminal justice system also have a behavioral health diagnosis, and that with appropriate treatment and access to community-based services this population is less likely to be re-incarcerated and more likely to lead healthy and productive lives.

To ensure that this population's unique needs are met, including the trauma associated with incarceration, HHCP has partnered with Argus Community, Inc. (Argus). Argus will establish a co-located Continuing Day Treatment Program (CDTP) to meet the clinical needs of the individuals admitted to HHCP. Greenburger Center and HHCP have ensured their Board of Directors and Board of Advisors have experience providing mental health services and operating Article 31 programs, including a psychiatrist and a psychotherapist who have extensive experience working in and overseeing Article 31 residential and outpatient programs.

All reviewers are recommending approval with the following conditions: revise policies and procedures related to discharge, incident management, visitation, and resident's rights per feedback from OMH, provide a filing receipt from the Department of State for the amended Articles of Organization, provide a revised floor plan that indicates the location and visual coverage of all security cameras, provide a letter of substantial completion, valid Certificate of Occupancy, and a satisfactory pre-occupancy visit.

The applicant provided more background on the project, and the fact that it has been eight (8) years in the making, and they appreciate all the work that got them to this meeting. Committee members provided positive feedback on the plan and expressed a need for alternatives for recipients with incarceration challenges and asked for more detail about how this program will be accessed. The applicant reiterated the intent of the program is to help recipients to find ways out of jail prior to going/receiving a prison sentence. The applicant also mentioned that in addition to the eight years invested in getting to this meeting, there was also a lot of guidance and support from public officials. The committee chair made a motion to vote, this was seconded, and the committee unanimously recommended approval to the full council.

CPAR #67 Westchester Medical Center, HealthAlliance Hospital, Mary's Avenue Campus:

HealthAlliance Hospital requests approval to renovate HealthAlliance Hospital and reduce its licensed capacity by 20 beds. This proposed bed reduction is directly related to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and action taken by Health Alliance to convert the entire Mary's Ave campus as a COVID-19 surge hospital. During this time, an additional 15 bed psychiatric unit was created at the Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital to ensure continued access of behavioral health services. From this experience, WMC Health realized the benefits of consolidating most inpatient psychiatric beds to the Mid-Hudson River Campus, including the opportunity to develop a Center of Excellence (COE) for both psychiatric and chemical dependency services and improved overall operational and financial performance for the agency.

Although this application seeks approval to reduce inpatient bed capacity by 20 beds at the Mary's Ave. Campus, a second Comprehensive PAR application will be submitted by Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital to expand their inpatient psychiatric bed capacity by 20, resulting in 20 beds at the Mary's Ave Campus and 60 beds for the Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital. Therefore, the overall 80 psychiatric bed capacity will not be reduced in the Hudson Valley region.

All reviewers are recommending approval with the following conditions: submit utilization data of services across the network for Ulster County residents, submit Architect's letter of substantial completion, and a successful preoccupancy visit.

The committee did not have any further questions, the committee chair moved to vote, this was seconded, and the committee unanimously voted to recommend approval to the full council.

MH-C-2869 Beacon Place, LLC: Beacon Place requests approval to establish an Article 31 Clinic Treatment Program to serve children, adolescents, and adults in Orange County. The private practice was founded in 2014 by Solomon Lebovitz, to provide mental health counseling and medication treatment services. Beacon Place has relied on the expertise and knowledge of

experienced staff, such as its Executive Director, Randolph Bleiwas, LCSW, with expertise in mental health, trauma, and traumatic brain injury.

Beacon Place is seeking to expand its services to include individuals with severe and persistent mental illness to close identified gaps in mental health services. As an established private practice, Beacon Place has developed relationships with local providers and will continue to integrate and coordinate services within the local mental health system.

All reviewers are recommending approval with the following conditions: complete all required staff clearances and a successful preoccupancy visit by the Hudson River Field Office

The committee asked for and received confirmation that this provider did not have any affiliation with the Department of Health. It was also clarified that this approval was being sought so that the provider will be able to bill Medicaid. Not being able to bill for these services has caused them to refer people out for those services. By being able to bill Medicaid they will be able to maintain better continuity of care. The committee chair moved for a vote, this was seconded, and the committee unanimously voted to recommend approval to the full council.

MH-A-2874 The Rural Outreach Center, Inc: The Rural Outreach Center (ROC) requests approval to establish an Article 31 Clinic Treatment Program to serve children, adolescents, and adults in Erie County. Founded in 2006 by the Reverend Frank Cerny, ROC's mission includes breaking the cycle of rural poverty by emphasizing early intervention and serving rural populations through wrap-around, centralized services.

Access to resources is a frequent challenge in rural communities, with a lack of transportation being one of the most difficult to access and provide individuals with the means to connect to any service. The need for services was particularly noticeable for children; with many demonstrating more mental, behavioral, and developmental disorders. ROC proposes to serve individuals with complex trauma associated with poverty and PTSD, personality disorders, low self-esteem, acute stress disorders, and others.

All reviewers are recommending approval with the following conditions: provide a filing receipt from the Department of State for the amended Articles of Incorporation, complete all required staff clearances, and a successful preoccupancy visit by the Western NY Field Office.

The discussion began with clarification of the hours of operation and provision of Telehealth as an optional service. More detail was received regarding the types and method of wrap around services and how they surround the program participants. They work with individuals to assess their own strengths and needs which in turn determines the types of services sought to support the individual with their goals. Committee members inquired about the low number FTE for psychiatry/prescriber time. They sought clarification as to whether this number was determined by need or challenges to recruit prescribers. The applicant described the current need and how that will inform how they would increase that time as needed. It was also brought up that they may find challenges in recruiting staff based on the budgeted salaries. When asked about Peer Support, the applicant stated they would be using Peer and Professional staff to provide services

to families. The committee chair moved for a vote, this was seconded, and the committee unanimously voted to recommend approval to the full council.

MH-D-2873 Hands on Health Associates, LLC: Hands on Health Associates, LLC (HoHA) requests approval to establish an Article 31 Clinic to serve adults in Kings County. HoHA operates an Article 32 Part 822 outpatient program that was established in 2016 and is in good standing with OASAS.

Many of the individuals receiving services at HoHA have a dual diagnosis of substance use disorder (SUD) and mental illness. The proposed population for these services will be residents in Community Board 5 in which 23.4% of residents living in poverty, and the rates of avoidable hospitalization and suicide rates are more than twice the NYC average.

All reviewers are recommending approval with the following conditions: provide a filing receipt from the Department of State for the amended Articles of Incorporation, submit confirmation and identification of at least three (3) new members to the Governing Body, complete all required staff clearances, and a successful preoccupancy visit by the NYC Field Office.

Committee members inquired of the state whether a second oversight agency is needed to integrate services. The state confirmed that this is the current practice and that they are working to revise this practice. The committee chair moved for a vote, this was seconded, and the committee unanimously voted to recommend approval to the full council.

MH-D-2875 The Door – A Center of Alternatives, Inc.: The Door, A Center for Alternatives, Inc. (The Door) requests approval to establish an Article 31 clinic treatment program to serve young adults ranging in age from 12 to 25 in NYC. Since 1972, when a group of young professionals in the fields of medicine, psychiatry, law, education, social work and the arts, The Door has been serving the New York City's young adults using innovative and alternative methods. The Door's mission is to empower young people to reach their potential by providing comprehensive youth development services in a diverse and caring environment.

Through its services and involvement in the community, The Door has identified 400-500 individuals in need of outpatient mental health services. A number of these are served at its Article 28 D&TC, which has reached the 30% threshold limit for providing mental health services. Article 31 certification would allow The Door to continue to provide mental health services to its participants and allow it to provide a wider array of mental health treatment services.

All reviewers are recommending approval with the following conditions: provide a plan for determining when services will be provided in person and via Telehealth, identify the language needs of the target population, and a successful preoccupancy visit by the NYC Field Office.

The committee and applicant discussed the use of Telehealth, the continued need for innovation, and how this works well with young people. The applicant provided confirmation that they have three (3) psychiatrists on staff and one that specializes in children and adolescent care. The

committee chair moved for a vote, this was seconded, one member, abstained, the rest of the committee voted to recommend approval to the full council.

CPAR # 100 NYC HHC Woodhull Medical & Mental Health Center: NYC HHC Woodhull Medical & Mental Health Center (Woodhull) requests approval to reduce its licensed inpatient psychiatric program by 23 general adult psychiatric beds, resulting in a total operating capacity of 89 general adult psychiatric beds. Since 2016 Woodhull has been operating and staffing 89 general adult psychiatric beds on four of the five inpatient psychiatric units.

There has not been a negative impact on patient care, and the 89 operationalized beds have been able to meet the need for adult inpatient psychiatric services. Woodhull reports that between 2016 and 2021, admissions and discharges have gone down by 39%, and patient days have declined by 23% for an overall occupancy of 61% based on 112 certified beds and an occupancy rate of 77% based on the 89 staffed/operational beds. Over this six-year period, the average length of stay has been consistent at 17.5 days. The decertification of 23 adult psychiatric beds, will not negatively impact the provision of inpatient psychiatric services.

All reviewers are recommending approval.

The committee expressed concern that the proposed closure of the 23 beds goes against the message being communicated by OMH. The state confirmed that there are seven hundred fifty-one (751) beds in Kings County, with one hundred seventy (170) offline. It was reiterated that the beds in question have not been staffed or utilized since 2016. The applicant also confirmed that they operate a CPEP, and that space vacated by the reduction will be used for an expanded OASAS outpatient program. They also reported that New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation has not transferred any individuals to another hospital due to lack of beds. Committee members inquired about the occupancy of the operational beds in Kings County, and what types of psychiatric beds are needed. The committee chair moved for a vote, this was seconded, two (2) members abstained, the rest voted to recommend approval to the full council.

CPAR # 103 Northern Westchester Hospital Center: Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH) requests approval to renovate and convert the space of the OMH licensed 15 adult bed inpatient psychiatric unit. The scope of the renovations include reconfiguration of the space to provide a new patient comfort room, a new pantry, two new interview rooms, a new staff locker room, add a doorway for an examining room, add a new Sally Port, upgrade the nurse station which includes eliminating blind spots for better monitoring, adding a doorway, add an emergency egress, enlargement of the medication room to improve flow for med dispensing, new flooring for the main corridor, and Mechanical modifications to the HVAC system to bring it in compliance with building codes.

The project will require the closure of the unit for a period of 4 weeks while renovations are completed. During this period, NWH has arranged with Phelps hospital, which also operates an adult inpatient psychiatric unit, as well as with other local hospitals as back up, that will be able admit patients from NWH.

All reviewers are recommending approval pending submission of Architectural attestation for substantial completion and a successful preoccupancy visit by the Hudson River Field Office.

The committee inquired about disruptions to the patients during the renovation and how they would be addressed. The applicant reinforced that patients would still be assessed and evaluated in the ER during the project, and that they would be transferred to Phelps, or another hospital unit as needed. The committee chair moved for a vote, this was seconded, one member abstained, the rest of the committee voted to recommend approval to the full council.

EZPAR # 3991 DePaul Community Services, Inc.: DePaul Community Services, Inc. requests approval to renovate an existing OMH certified 85 bed SRO Community Residence program for adults. The program, known as Edgerton Square, is in a building in need of significant repairs.

The scope of the project is extensive, including but not limited to replacing 20 resident shower units, replacing roof, upgrade fire alarm system, replace heating water boilers, replace generator, and reseal floor and shower drains. The project will take place over a period of two years. There will not be any displacement of staff or residents while work is completed. Work will be conducted around residents' schedules to minimize disruptions. There will be no change to existing bed Capacity or building inventory.

All reviewers are recommending approval with the following conditions: submit Architect's attestation of substantial completion, provide revised Certificate of Occupancy, and a successful preoccupancy visit by the Western NY Field Office.

The committee requested more detail regarding the plan to mitigate the effects of the renovation on the recipients. The applicant responded that most of the work in the units will be done when the recipients are elsewhere, such as attending programs, work, appointments, or other activities. The committee chair moved for a vote, this was seconded, and the committee unanimously voted to recommend approval to the full council.

Council for Treatment Equity:

Carmelita Cruz had Patrick Totarro speak about the changes to the By-Laws to create the Council for Treatment Equity into BHSAC, setting forth the duties and responsibilities of the Council for Treatment Equity. Motion was made and all voted in favor. Carmelita then discussed the plan for scheduling the meetings for the new Council indicating they will be scheduled on a different day than the BHSAC so members who serve on the other Committees won't have a conflict. She announced those members who have indicated their interest and explained other members can still provide interest as well. Currently the following members have interest: Debbie Patin, Hilda Rosario Escher, Angelica Paige, Chacku Mathai, Laura Kelemen, Joe Turner and Roxanne Lewin. The first meeting will have an overview of the scope and responsibilities of the Council members and request names who are interested in serving as Chair and Vice Chair.

Closing:

Chairman Glenn Liebman thanked the Council for their great discussions. He indicated he would be drafting a letter to the Commissioners for support to the Behavioral Health Workforce and the

COLA. The Council Members had discussions on the need to have a greater role in agency plannings and priorities, such as a more aggressive role in the 1115 Waiver; the OASAS telehealth pilot project; and housing expectations. Council members indicated they would like to provide Commissioners with suggestions on what agency updates they would like to hear regarding more targeted areas and priority discussions, asking Commissioners to define what is their overarching strategies and what is driving their initiatives. Chairman Liebman thanked the Full Council for their ideas and indicated he will add their discussions to the Commissioners' letter and will send his draft along to the members for review.

The Council adjourned at 2:53 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled for December 7, 2022.