



Implementation Advisory Committee

DATE:	May 20 th 2025
TIME:	1:00 - 3:00pm
PARTICIPANTS:	Co Chairs: Myla Harrison & Meredith Ray-LaBatt Settlement Coordinator: Kimberly Heffner Independent Reviewer: Suzanne Fields KPMG: Rachel Pratt, Jason Ganns, Anna Folz

New York State Representatives

Attendee or substitute present	Name	Organization
✓	Vanessa Threatte (Elana Martin)	CCF
✓	Antionette Dukes	DCJS
✓	April Hamilton	DOH
✓	Trisha Schell-Guy	DOH
	Maria Morris-Groves	OASAS
✓	Nina Aledort	OCFS
	Gail Geohagen-Pratt	OCFS
	Bob Moon	OMH
✓	Jill Pettinger	OPWDD
✓	Suzanne Bolling	SED
✓	Gemma Rinefied	SED

Committee Members

Attendee or substitute present	Name	Organization
✓	Matthew Barron	NY Public Welfare Association
✓	Jill Benson	JBFCs
✓	Elizabeth Bruce	NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors
✓	Nicole Bryl	Children's Health Home of Upstate NY
✓	Alice Bufkin	Citizens' Committee for Children of NY
	Gabriela Burgos	Parent to Parent of NYS
✓	Marnie Davidoff	NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
✓	Jennifer Fuchs	SCO Family of Services
✓	William (Bill) Gettman	Northern Rivers
✓	David Goldstein	NAC
✓	Brad Hansen	Families Together of NYS

✓	Dr. Jennifer Havens	NYC HHC
✓	Christina Hauptman	Healthy Minds Healthy Kids
✓	Todd Karlin	Astor Services
✓	Carolyn May	OCFS
✓	Dr. Angel Mendoza	NYC Administration for Children's Services
✓	Heather Mermel	UnitedHealthcare
✓	Jackie Negri	NYS Care Management Coalition
✓	Dr. Warren Y.K. Ng	NYPH-CUMC
	Miiko Phillips	Families Together of NYS
✓	Sherri Romano	Child Center of New York
✓	David R. Rossetti	Mental Health Association – Columbia & Greene Counties
✓	Jodi Saitowitz	The Collaborative for Children & Families
✓	Patricia (Patty) Schaap	Cortland County Department of Mental Health
	Sara Taylor	BIPOC PEEEEEEK
✓	John Venza	Outreach
✓	Michelle Woolever	Molina Healthcare
✓	Thalia Wright	Monroe County Department of Human Services
✓	Kayleigh Zaloga	NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health

NEXT STEPS and UPCOMNG DATES

- **Co-Chair Selection:**
 - A third co-chair will be selected from committee membership to serve alongside the OMH and DOH chairs (Meredith Ray-LaBatt and Myla Harrison).
 - Two brief surveys will be sent to all members
 - Survey 1 solicits nominations and gauges interest
 - Survey 2 gathers votes on nominees
- **Stay Connected**
 - Submit feedback anytime: ChildrensMHSettlement@omh.ny.gov
 - OMH Settlement webpage: <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/childservice/mental-health-settlement.html>
- **June 24, 1–3 PM: Next IAC meeting**
 - Before next IAC meeting; review community session materials
 - Read [Settlement Agreement](#)
 - Read the [original lawsuit](#)
 - Review [NYS Settlement Landing Page](#)
 - Join Listserv: listserv@list.ny.gov
 - Watch [Public Webinar](#)
 - Review any advance materials sent from Co-chairs
- **Hold 2026 IAC Meetings**
 - June 24th 1:00-3:00pm
 - September 23rd 2:00-4:00pm
 - November 18th 1:00-3:00pm
- **Community session**
 - Details (dates, locations) to be finalized and communicated
 - Dates and Times will also be listed on the Settlement webpage

MEETING NOTES

Children's Mental Health Settlement Overview

- How we got here:
 - Persistent gaps in access to community-based mental health services for children led to a class action lawsuit
 - NY state now has a binding settlement agreement between plaintiff attorneys and NYS OMH/DOH and has been reviewed and approved by the Court
 - The settlement was signed **January 15, 2026**, starting an 18-month clock to develop and submit a final Implementation Plan to the Court by **July 15, 2027**
 - This is a legally enforceable document with specific required actions and timelines, not aspirational guidance. OMH and DOH are accountable to the Court for compliance
 - Who is Covered:
 - The agreement covers 2 classes of Medicaid-enrolled children under 21
- EPSDT class: Children with a mental health diagnosis who have been clinically recommended for intensive services in the home or community.
- ADA subclass: those within the EPSDT class who are at risk of institutionalization without intensive in-home services
- What the State Must Do:
 - Agreement requires NYS to strengthen the system's ability to:
 - Identify children through standardized screening and assessment
 - Increase provider capacity and reduce wait times
 - Deliver services in the home and community settings
 - Use data collection for quality improvement and oversight
 - Educate providers, families, and children about available services and how to access them
- Relevant Services (the 4 service areas):
 - **Mobile Crisis Services:** 24/7/365 response by phone and in person; designed to de-escalate, prevent ED visits, and support safety planning
 - **Intensive Care Coordination / High Fidelity Wraparound:** Single point of contact for service planning, referrals, and cross-system coordination; strengths-based, family-driven, culturally responsive
 - **Intensive Home-Based Treatment:** Individualized, evidence-based clinical treatment delivered in the child's home or community
 - **Home and Community Based Services Waiver:** For children in the ADA subclass at risk of hospitalization or out-of-home placement; supports skill-building and family/caregiver capacity

Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) Charter

The IAC serves in an advisory capacity to OMH/DOH Governance and Executive Leadership to inform the development of the Implementation Plan. This committee does not hold final decision-making authority.

- Settlement Guiding Principles
 - Child and family centered, coordinated and integrated, community based, timely and accessible, individualized and strength based, culturally and linguistically responsive, accountable and outcomes focused
- Purpose and Role

- Committee reviews implementation planning materials, identifies risks and barriers, provides recommendations for feasibility and equity, and offers forward-thinking solutions on behalf of themselves and the organization they represent
- Scope of Authority
 - The IAC is authorized to review materials, provide formal recommendations, identify equity and access concerns, recommend refinements, and escalate significant unresolved issues to Governance Leadership
- Membership
 - Includes members from child-serving systems, local government, providers, advocacy groups, CBOs, and individuals with lived experience (youth and caregivers)
 - Membership is designed to reflect cross-system expertise, geographic diversity across NYS, balanced perspectives and population equity
- Success Criteria
 - Committee will be considered effective when:
 - Stakeholder feedback is meaningfully integrated
 - Equity implications are identified early
 - Risks and mitigation strategies are surfaced
 - Feedback is documented transparently
 - Final plan reflects representative community engagement
- Membership Roles and Expectations
 - Members are expected to represent their constituency, serve as two-way intermediaries between the committee and their networks, attend and actively participate in meetings, review materials in advance, and provide constructive, solution-oriented feedback. Members are expected to serve at minimum through **July 2027**

Timeline

Timeframe	Activity
Month 0	Signed Settlement Agreement
Months 1-3	Complete National Scan and establish initial vision
Months 4-6	Develop draft redesign plan and comprehensive engagement strategy for collecting stakeholder input and community feedback
Months 7-9	Conduct Statewide Community Stakeholder Activities and compile feedback
Months 10-12	Draft service details based on updated redesign plan and required federal authority, including Eligibility Criteria, Standards and Requirements
Months 13-15	Finalize Implementation Plan, including proposed reimbursement methodology and Quality Improvement Plan
Months 16-18	Obtain Implementation Plan approval for submission to the Court

Comments and Discussion:

- Community Engagement & Stipends
 - Members raised that DOH and OMH should consider compensation for the constituents attending community feedback sessions. This was noted as under consideration by the state.
- Language Access
 - Concern raised about whether community sessions would only be offered in English. The state indicated they are exploring making a virtual option available in Spanish.
- Funding
 - A question was raised about how the required services and system changes will be funded and sustained.
- Between-Meeting Communication
 - Members asked how to reach the state team between formal meetings. Response: submit information and recommendations via the settlement email address (ChildrensMHSettlement@omh.ny.gov).
- Relevant Services Scope
 - Discussion about the four relevant services and whether the list is comprehensive. A question was raised about whether intensive outpatient clinical treatment should be included.
- Co-Chair Nominations
 - Members were encouraged to share their interest in self-nominating the third co-chair role ahead of the survey process.
- CFTSS
 - Members raised the topic of Children and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS) and its future relationship to the services being redesigned under the settlement.
- Recommendations prior to next meeting
 - Members should read the Settlement and the original lawsuit to fully understand the purpose and scope of the agreement.