



New York State Balance of State Continuum of Care

53rd New York State Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting

October 5, 2023
9:00am-2:00pm

Steering Committee Attendees

Commissioner Erin Whitcomb, Cattaraugus
Adam Anderson, Cattaraugus
Jodi Fuller, Cattaraugus
Commissioner Christine Peters, Clinton
Crystal Narducci, Clinton
Commissioner Anne Solar, Fulton
Amanda Anderson, Fulton
Randy Viele, Fulton
Commissioner Matthew Beck, Montgomery
Kelley Gilligan, Montgomery
Janine Robitaille, Montgomery
Commissioner Mike Piazza, Putnam
Ashley Brody, Putnam
Ann Ellsworth, Putnam
Commissioner Donna Becker, Schoharie
Christy Houck, Schoharie
Commissioner John Liddle, Sullivan
Sarita Green, Sullivan
Deborah Worden, Sullivan

Guests

Jennifer Schultz, Albany VA
Kelli Clark, CARES of NY
Megan Clark, CARES of NY
Nichole Zink, Cattaraugus County DSS
Gretchen Crowningshield, Clinton County DSS
Mary Ann Oliver, HUD Buffalo
Abby Kirkman, SAMHSA/SOAR TA Center

Ex-Officio Members

Jennifer Heidemann, Department of Health
Julie Duncan, OMH
Timothy Bethea, OTDA
Linda Camoin, OTDA
Heather Diamond, OTDA
Arden Estep, OTDA
Jason Gallacchi, OTDA
Dana Greenberg, OTDA
Sarah Watson, OTDA

Welcome and Introductions

Steering Committee Voting Actions

Previous Meeting Minutes

The August 3rd Steering Committee meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Donna Becker and seconded by Janine Robitaille. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

New Steering Committee Representative

Cattaraugus County DSS Commissioner Erin Whitcomb was nominated to the Steering Committee. A motion to accept Commissioner Whitcomb to the Steering Committee was made by Jodi Fuller and seconded by Commissioner John Liddle. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) – Abby Kirkman

SOAR is a model for assisting eligible individuals to apply for Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits. Abby Kirkman provided an overview of SOAR and the benefits SOAR-trained staff can provide to individuals being served by CoC member agencies. Benefits include a higher rate of success upon first application to SSA, the decision process taking less time overall and receipt of SSI/SSDI income for vulnerable households.

FY2023 NOFO

The NYS BoS CoC's NOFO application was submitted to HUD on September 25th. The application included renewals for all current projects. It also included an expansion for the DV-RRH program that serves Fulton, Montgomery, Herkimer and Schoharie, as well as expansions for Clinton and Sullivan PSH programs.

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) and Emergency Solutions Grant-CARES Act (ESG-CV) Wrap Up

Both EHV and ESG-CV programs ended on September 30th. NYS BoS CoC providers made 478 total referrals to the EHV program. There are 124 people on the waitlist, 105 households were housed, 27 vouchers were issued (with households still looking for a unit), and a further 25 are pending verification. NYS BoS CoC providers served 523 households, consisting of 615 adults and 286 children, with ESG-CV funding. More than 82% of ESG-CV program participants exited the program to permanent housing.

Committee/Program Updates

Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC)

The RRJAC held their annual summit on October 3rd. Topics of discussion included creating more inclusive work environments, data obtained from the Diversity Assessment Tool and the development of a lived experience advisory committee.

Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB)

The LEAB met on September 25th and members discussed key points in the NOFO application. Several individuals from Chautauqua County were in attendance to observe the LEAB in hopes of creating their own committee. Future topics for the LEAB include community outreach.

HMIS

The new data standards went into effect on October 2nd. There were several changes including sexual orientation being a required data element, new race options and race/ethnicity have been combined. There were some roll-out issues regarding the new changes that will be resolved in the next few weeks. CARES has created a training for those who are using paper forms at Warming Centers and Emergency Shelters. This will be available on CARES' YouTube channel. CARES is also changing the format of the HMIS new user training.

CARES is preparing for the NYS BoS CoC to move to an open HMIS system. OTDA is updating consent forms, after which a date will be chosen to open the system and training will begin.

Coordinated Entry

A draft of the new Balance of State-Vulnerability Assessment Tool (BoS-VAT) is nearly complete. The draft tool will be shared with the Steering Committee members along with a training video for review and approval.

Vouchers

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers

Fulton County has one youth with a voucher. Schoharie's MOU is nearly complete.

Stability Vouchers

The Stability Voucher initiative makes Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) available to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in partnership with CoCs. Nine vouchers were split between Cattaraugus, Clinton, Fulton, Putnam and Sullivan Counties. Referrals have been made for most of the vouchers. Some PHAs have availability for regular Section 8 Vouchers which are being utilized before the Stability Vouchers.

Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (SNOFO) Vouchers

NYS HCR committed 20 vouchers to Cattaraugus County and five vouchers for Fulton County. These vouchers will be paired with IPH and CCA's new rural Rapid Rehousing programs beginning in October.

Pathstone (Sullivan)

Pathstone opened their Section 8 waitlist with a homelessness preference. Sullivan DSS submitted approximately 90 applications for individuals to receive these Section 8 vouchers. Approximately 20 individuals have received eligibility packets.

Funding Opportunities

NYS Office of Mental (OMH) Health Funding Updates

Safe Options Support (SOS) Teams are being formed across the state. SOS teams are street outreach teams that assist homeless individuals to become stably housed over the course of

nine to twelve months. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been released for Housing First supportive housing in counties where the SOS teams are located.

There were 430 Apartment Treatment units awarded across the state and OMH will be releasing a RFP for an additional 170 units later this year. Future RFPs include 500 units of transitional longer-term congregate care and a new short-term housing, robustly staffed (120-day) transitional residence program developed for those going through periods of transition, such as individuals transitioning from incarceration or those leaving hospitalization but who are still in need of extra support.

Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI)

The ESSHI RFP will be released in the next few weeks. The RFP requires documentation that the applicant notify the community of the project application. Priority populations have remained the same. Extensions are available for those with 2021 awards as ESSHI is being released later this year than in the past.

Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP)

HHAP makes available \$128 million for capital funding for emergency, transitional and permanent supportive housing. It requires operating dollars and supportive services. Funds can also be used to preserve existing homeless units if potential grantees can demonstrate how the units will be lost to the community, without preservation funding.

Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program (NICIP)

The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) recently released a RFP for \$50 million in funding for capital infrastructure projects for any not-for-profit. Grants are awarded on a first come, first serve basis.

Local Planning Body (LPB) Updates

Cattaraugus

Connecting Communities in Action (CCA) is starting their SNOFO Rapid Rehousing program on October 1st. CCA is also working on a rehabilitation grant for the Derby Single Room Occupancy (SRO) program. Two new housing projects are under development. The State Street project will have 46 total units, with 14 units set aside for survivors of domestic violence. The DePaul project will have 62 affordable units, with 37 supportive housing units.

Clinton

Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN) was awarded Treatment Apartment Program funding. Additionally, Clinton County is working towards opening a Warming Center.

Fulton

IPH is providing technical assistance to a Fulton County permanent housing facility. The Family Counseling Center's 2nd Annual Fall Gala raised \$43,000 for a roof and new beds. The regional animal shelter is applying for grant to provide pet housing for DV survivors in a separate wing of their building.

Herkimer

Herkimer County received an award for the Treatment Apartment Program (15 units). The Warming Center is ready to open as of October 1st. Herkimer County was also awarded a System of Care grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAHMSA).

Montgomery

Montgomery County is in the process of establishing a Warming Center in partnership with Catholic Charities.

Putnam

Putnam County’s Warming Center is planning to open in December. Putnam County has had a rise in evictions recently. The Putnam/Northern Westchester Women’s Resource Center has finished the first year of their Rapid Rehousing program. They are also in the process of hiring an individual to be SOAR trained.

Schoharie

Schoharie County’s Warming Center will be open again this year and will be expanding their hours to include weekends and holidays. Schoharie County was awarded Treatment Apartment Program funding. IPH’s new Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing projects will be starting in the coming weeks.

Sullivan

Action Towards Independence (ATI) was awarded \$85,000 in Opioid Settlement funds for rental assistance for individuals with a substance use disorder. Rehabilitation Support Services (RSS) was awarded Treatment Apartment Program funding.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

- Schoharie – October 10th
- Clinton – October 16th
- Fulton – October 17th
- Cattaraugus – October 18th
- Herkimer – October 23rd
- Lived Experience Advisory Board – October 23rd
- Montgomery – October 23rd
- Sullivan – October 24th
- Putnam – October 25th
- Steering Committee – November 2nd
- OTDA Regional Meetings – October 13th Syracuse
October 20th White Plains

Meeting adjourned at 1:26pm.