



New York State Balance of State Continuum of Care

## **70<sup>th</sup> New York State Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting**

April 3, 2025  
9:30am-11:00am

### **Steering Committee Attendees**

Jodi Fuller, Cattaraugus  
Nicole Zink (on behalf of Commissioner Erin Whitcomb), Cattaraugus  
Crystal Narducci, Clinton  
Commissioner Christine Peters, Clinton  
Fern Hurley, Fulton  
Randy Viele, Fulton  
Shauna Cone (on behalf of Maureen Petrie), Herkimer  
Kelley Gilligan, Montgomery  
Janine Robitaille, Montgomery  
Ashley Brody, Putnam  
Piaget Solpiaget, Putnam  
Commissioner Donna Becker, Schoharie  
Meg Parsons, Schoharie  
Sarita Green, Sullivan  
Commissioner John Liddle, Sullivan  
Deborah Worden, Sullivan

### **Guests**

Lauren Canetto, OTDA Temporary Assistance  
Teah Cerina, OTDA Temporary Assistance  
Gretchen Crowningshield, Clinton County Department of Social Services (DSS)  
Michael Finocchi, Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties  
Kristen Giroux, IPHNY  
Atricia Graham-Owusu, OTDA Temporary Assistance  
Amanda Haley-Beaudette, ETC  
Lindsay Mehrman, Clinton County DSS  
Kathy Paton, Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties  
Stephanie Schermerhorn, CARES of NY  
Jennifer Schultz, Veterans Affairs

### **Ex-Officio Members**

Linda Camoin, OTDA  
Heather Diamond, OTDA  
Arden Estep, OTDA  
Jason Gallacchi, OTDA  
Dana Greenberg, OTDA  
Jordan Orayfig, OTDA  
Sarah Watson, OTDA

## **Welcome and Introductions**

## **Steering Committee Voting Actions**

### ***March Meeting Minutes***

The March Steering Committee minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Deb Worden and seconded by Ashley Brody. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

### **Planning Grant Stipends**

As part of the Continuum of Care (CoC) process, OTDA receives planning grant funding as the Collaborative Applicant. In FY2023, there was an increase to all CoC Planning Grants. The Balance of State (BoS) CoC proposed utilizing the funding for Coordinated Entry stipends to each county, as well as stipends for LEAB participation.

### **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Funding Updates**

The future of HUD funding remains unknown with the continuing resolution in effect that will provide CoC funding through September 2025. Grantees may submit claims via the Line of Credit Control System (LOCCS) as soon as an eligible cost is incurred. Connecting Communities in Action (CCA) shared that they received their new contract for FY2024. CCA shared updated contract language and offered to share the contract with other BoS members.

## **State Budget Update**

### ***Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program***

An estimated \$1.35 million is available in capital grants to expand services for organizations through the Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program, administered by the NYS Department of Veterans' Services and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to support efforts to expand and enhance quality services available to the state's veterans, service members and military families. More information can be found online at <https://www.dasny.org/news/2025/supporting-veterans-governor-hochul-announces-additional-round-funding-enhance-services>

### ***NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Family Voice Forum***

OTDA is forming a Family Voice Forum (FVF), which provides individuals and families who have navigated OTDA systems an opportunity to share their experiences and recommendations to help inform and improve policies and programs to better meet the needs of New York residents. More information can be found online at <https://otda.ny.gov/family-voice-forum/>

### **2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count**

The annual PIT Count was held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The BoS is finalizing 2025 PIT Count numbers and waiting for HUD to open the Homeless Data Exchange (HDX 2.0) for submission. The PIT has historically been due at the end of April. Preliminary data shows an increase in both the sheltered and unsheltered census compared to the previous year.

## **Committee/Program Updates**

### ***Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB)***

The LEAB met on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and is finalizing a stipend policy for LEAB membership and a Tenants Rights presentation.

### ***Balance of State Racial Equity Committee***

The first meeting of the local racial equity group was April 1<sup>st</sup>. The committee will be updating the Diversity Assessment Tool, developing a Board Matrix, and examining local data with an equity lens. Meeting structure will consist of monthly meetings at the local level, quarterly meetings at the regional level, and semi-annual meetings for the larger Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC) group. The committee is looking for representation from each county within the BoS. Anyone interested in joining the committee can contact OTDA.

### ***SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery (SOAR) Workgroup***

The SOAR workgroup will meet on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will include an Online Application Tracking (OAT) demonstration. Anyone interested in joining this workgroup can contact OTDA.

## **Local Planning Body (LPB) Updates**

### ***Cattaraugus***

No new information was reported by representatives from Cattaraugus County.

### ***Clinton***

No new information was reported by representatives from Clinton County.

### ***Fulton***

There is speculation that an encampment has moved to limit detection.

### ***Herkimer***

The Warming Center will close for the season later this month.

### ***Montgomery***

There is new Executive Director at Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties, Michael Finocchi. The Warming Center is open until April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Putnam***

Recent litigation regarding source of income discrimination was discussed. Historically, landlords in NYS cannot discriminate against tenants based on any legal source of income when applying for tenancy. Recently, a suit was brought before trial that ruled in favor of this legislation being unconstitutional. If this ruling is upheld, it would create further barriers to supporting low-income clients into housing. An appeal is underway by the Legal

Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) and the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY).

### ***Schoharie***

The Warming Center closed March 31<sup>st</sup>. Several individuals presented at the Warming Center after it was closed and were assisted by DSS in finding alternate placement.

### ***Sullivan***

The Warming Center remains open until April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Safe Options Support – Critical Time Intervention (SOS-CTI) team has been a great resource. The district reported the emergency shelter census is decreasing. The Public Health Fellowship Program is ending due to the Department of Health and Human Service Agency cuts, which impacts two staff in Sullivan County. Several participants are being assisted with Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP) prevention funds, including several households that have received exceptionally large utility bills. PepsiCo recently closed and laid off over 300 people. However, there was a successful local job fair with many companies in attendance, resulting in job offers.

### ***Schedule of Upcoming Meetings***

Cattaraugus – April 16

Clinton – April 17

Fulton – April 15

Herkimer – April 28

Montgomery – April 28

Putnam – April 23

Schoharie – April 14

Sullivan – April 22

Steering Committee – May 1 and June 18 (in person)

A motion to adjourn was made by Kelley Gilligan and seconded by Fern Hurley. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.