

Regional Community, Agency, and School Alliance (RCASA) Minutes- November 19, 2021

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Presentations: Agency Virtual Fair

Carla B. Mackenna, MSW
Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc.
Niagara Visions PROS Intake Coordinator
418 3rd Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14302
(716) 205-8708 x4228
cmackenna@communitymissions.org

Carla spoke about Niagara Vision PROS (Personalized Orientated Recovery Services) program, which provides services for individuals with a mental health diagnosis for ages 18 and above. PROS program offers rehabilitation and clinical treatment with a psychiatrist and RN on staff. They offer a variety of groups for individuals to participate in. Vocational services are also offered. Transportation is available to this program. Niagara Vision PROS currently has openings, call Carla if interested in a tour.

Michelle Varvaro- Children's Health Home
Regional Manager
Children's Health Home of Upstate NY (CHUNY)
(845)709-0047

Michelle spoke about services offered through Children's Health Home. Health Home came out of NYS Medicaid Redesign, and offers support to individuals and families. Children's Health Home provides:

- Comprehensive Care Management
- Health promotion
- Follow up from inpatient care
- Patient and family support
- Referral to community and social support services

Eligibility: Children under the age of 18

- Children who have Medicaid or are Medicaid eligible (And)
- Have two medical conditions like diabetes, asthma, obesity, substance abuse, alcohol abuse, etc

Or have one of the following:

- Serious mental illness

- HIV/AIDS
- Complex trauma

After age 18, individuals transition into adult health home. CHUNY offers services in both Niagara and Orleans Counties. Any questions, please call Michelle.

Shawna Dumphrey
Community Missions
Housing Intake Manager
1570 Buffalo Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
716-285-3403 ext 2275

Shawna spoke about housing options offered for adults (ages 18 and above) with emotional/mental illness. Community Missions provides a variety of housing options depending from 24 hour staffing, to subsidized apartments that offer limited case management. Virtual tours are offered. Referrals go through Niagara County SPOA. Participants contribute 30 percent of their income (SSI, SSD or other) toward rental costs.

Services offered:

Assistance in locating quality housing

Subsidized rent

Assurance that the housing is furnished and appropriately equipped

Linkage and coordination with community based services

Tenant advocacy/Landlord relations

Planned Transportation

Melissa Rhim, LMSW
Coordinator of Care Management
Melinda.Rhim@orleanscountyny.gov
Orleans County Mental Health & Community Services
14014 Route 31 West, Albion, New York 14411
585-589-3292

Melinda spoke about the services Orleans County Mental Health offers.

Mental Health Programs offered include:

- Individual, family or group counseling
- Providers in all five school districts
- Care Coordination to assist with obtaining housing, or legal aid (for example).

- Medication monitoring and evaluations
- Outreach and education on topics related to mental health
- Crisis intervention, court evaluations and consultations

OCMH offers open access for new patients seeking treatment. Priority open access is Monday-Friday with start times at 1 pm and 2 pm. Bring ID and insurance card.

Crisis Services Care and Crisis Helpline is a free and confidential, 24/7 crisis helpline answered by skilled counselors. Care and Hotline number: 585-283-5200, or text: 741741

Kari Stadtmueller, LMHC

Senior Licensed Clinician

SPOA Program Coordinator

Kari.stadtmueller@niagaracounty.com

Niagara County Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse

(716) 438-3071

Kari spoke about services offered and updates within Niagara County SPOA. Eligibility for referral: Niagara County resident, ages 5-20 years old, and have a diagnosis of severe emotional disturbance.

SPOA's services provided:

- Case Management (former intensive and supportive case management)
- Community Crisis Intervention
- Mobile Integration team
- Multisystem therapy
- In-Home Respite
- Family Support

Individuals need to have Medicaid, or be working towards obtaining. There are non-Medicaid spots for children if they have mental health needs. Kari mentioned people can call her at if there are any questions, or if unsure about a referral. The 24-hour crisis line: 285-3515.

Laura Lloyd, BSW

Family Peer Support Supervisor

New Directions Youth & Family Services, Inc.

6395 Old Niagara Road

Lockport, NY 14094

(716) 535-1745

Laura spoke about services offered through New Directions.

- Children's Clinic of WNY
- Outpatient mental health counseling

- Psychiatry services for children and adolescents 5-21 for families living in Niagara and Erie Counties. Offer services both in-person and telehealth utilizing Trauma Informed and Solution Focused Care.
- Anyone can make a referral for services, and self-referrals. Some services require a referral from a Licensed Practitioner.

Alan Vanesky- Person Centered Services
Community Relations Manager
avenesky@personcenteredservices.com
716-324-5100 ext 1917

Alan provided information and updates on Care Coordination and enhances case management, which promotes integration of primary and behavioral healthcare to better meet needs of OPWDD individuals. Person Centered Services offers specialized caseloads and a Benefits and Entitlement Specialist.

Health Home Core Services provide:

- Comprehensive Care Management
- Care Coordination and health promotion
- Comprehensive Transitional Care
- Individualized and family/advocate support
- Referral to community and social supports
- Use of health info technology to link services

Eligibility: Developmental disability that is described by certain qualifying diagnosis or condition before the age of 22. Developmental disabilities include: intellectual disability, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, familial dysautonomia, and neurological impairments.

Person Centered Services has a referral packet on their website and includes an orientation video. Hot Topic Webinars are also available on their website and information for transition aged students.

Family or a referral source can start the intake process. Toll free phone number 855-208-3533.

Elisabeth (Libby) Bentley Prime Care Coordination
Student and Family Education Specialist
Prime Care Coordination
585-491-5836
elisabeth.bentley@primecareny.org

Prime Care also provides Care Coordination to this region. Libby spoke about the services offered through the Student Information Specialist at Prime Care. The Student Information Specialist can assist families with navigating the school system and can attend school meetings with parents. This service can assist students and their families with transition planning for graduating students.

Any questions please contact Libby or Prime Care Coordination: 1-844-347-3168.

Jennifer Loughran, LMSW- Horizon Health

JLoughran@horizon-health.org

www.horizon-health.org

716-831-1800

Jennifer spoke about services offered through Horizon Health Services. This agency has twenty locations in Niagara, Erie, and Niagara Counties. This agency provides hope and healing for individuals and their families dealing with substance use and /or mental health disorders.

Comprehensive and person-centered care for the treatment of mental health and/or substance use disorders including: outpatient, detox and stabilization, residential treatment, and support services. Telehealth offers mental health counseling, substance counseling and psychiatry services. Horizon Health offers mental health and substance use treatment for adolescents, ages 13 and older.

Additional services:

- Parent and Family Support Services
- CRAFT
- Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry
- Support Services including: Care Coordination, Recovery Coaching, Financial Social Work, and Therapy Dog Program.
- Jennifer also spoke about a variety of services provided for women's services, Veterans and First Responders, Children's Services (ages 3+), and LGBTQIA+ Services.

Any questions, call the Admission team at 716-831-1800.

Tonia Weichmann- Parent Network

Transition Coordinator

1021 Broadway Street

Buffalo, NY 14212

Office: (716)-332-4163

Tonia spoke about behavioral support services offered for OPWDD eligible children through Parent Network for minor behaviors. This program is offered for Niagara and Erie Counties. For more complex issues, they can refer families to another provider for behavior support services. Parent Network offers Family Support Services and a Disability Navigator to assist families going through the OPWDD eligibility process.

For more information, call Parent Network at 716-332-4170.

DD Day will be May 24, 2022. Hope to be in-person and provide a virtual component.

Announcements/sharing of information:

RSE-TASC- GED coming back as of January 1, 2022. More information will follow.

Next RCASA meeting will be March 25, 2022.