

# **Regional Community, Agency, and School Alliance (RCASA) Minutes-May 16, 2018**

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

## **2. Presentation:**

### **OPWDD updates**

**Stephanie McLean Beathley**

**Front Door Training Facilitator/Front Door Coordinator**

**608-2732, [Stephanie.e.mclean-beathley@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Stephanie.e.mclean-beathley@opwdd.ny.gov)**

Stephanie spoke about the transition process from school to OPWDD services. This process began in October 2017 when referrals were accepted for review, pre-planning and pre-approval of services. Stephanie recommends referral early next year due to the high volume (234 referrals so far this school year). Students who are referred late may not have services in place upon completing school.

Regarding eligibility:

- Only 5 of these above mentioned students needed eligibility for services.
- Districts can refer students to the eligibility committee.
- When the change to Care Coordination begins July 1, agencies will still be able to assist with eligibility.
- Parent Network of WNY can also assist with this.
- Stephanie suggested referring students for eligibility in middle school or earlier-even if no services will be requested.
- The number of students being referred to eligibility for services in Buffalo and Niagara County is low. They are exploring ways to improve these numbers.

Front Door informant sessions will be continuing as in the past. New schedule is attached with dates and locations.

### **Kristen Garrasi, MSC Coordinator**

**608-2733, [Kristen.r.garrasi@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Kristen.r.garrasi@opwdd.ny.gov)**

Beginning July 1, a new system will replace existing MSC (Medicaid Service Coordination). Note that no services will change.

Two companies (Prime Care and Person Centered Services) called CCO's (Care Coordination Organizations) have been formed and all existing MSC services are now part of a Care Coordination Organization. MSC's will now become Care Managers or Care Coordinators depending which CCO they are affiliated with, and will develop a Life Plan (taking place of the ISP-Individualized Service Plan) that can also address health and mental health issues. Feel free to check out the CCO websites:

Prime Care- [www.primecareny.org](http://www.primecareny.org)

Person Centered Services- [www.personcenteredservices.com](http://www.personcenteredservices.com)

There are two levels of Care Management for participants to choose from:

1. *Home Health Care Management* –develop a care plan and review twice a year, monitors health and safety, identifies resources, anticipates future needs, link to various providers, etc.

2. *Basic HCBS Plan Support*-will develop a plan and review twice a year, and monitor health and safety only.

All on-going services such as adult services, respite, etc. will be provided by existing agencies

### **3. Announcements/sharing of information**

- a. **Tonia Weichmann, Transition Coordinator, Parent Network of WNY** [www.parentnetworkwny.org/](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org/), reminded us the DD Day is May 24 Resource guides, a summer activities guide and a recreation guide have all been updated.
- b. **Elizabeth Loughran-Amorese, Erie I RSE TASC** discussed the newest pathway to graduation: If a student passed a Regent's exam, they do not need to take that portion of the TASC.
- c. A discussion was held regarding referrals to eligibility for OPWDD. This should be done within a year of completing IQ testing and must include adaptive scores. Olivia Schlager, Starpoint School Psychologist, has a tip sheet which she offered to share.

### **4. Transition Conference-** The conference date was Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>.

38 Parents/students and teachers attended.

There were 22 no shows/cancellations.

14 Agencies were present for the agency/vendor fair

Discussions focused on how to increase enrollment-

Different month-perhaps April

Send invites to CTE teachers asking them to share with Sp. Ed. students, etc.

**Meeting dates for 2018-19 school year:**

**To be determined**