

Regional Community, Agency, and School Alliance (RCASA) Minutes- September 18, 2019

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Presentations:

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

Alan reviewed OPWDD eligibility requirements, Care Coordination and OPWDD services. Eligibility is determined through New York State's Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Examples of qualifying conditions include:

- Intellectual Disability
- Cerebral Palsy
- Epilepsy
- Neurological Impairment
- Autism
- Familial Dysautonomia
- Prader-Willi Syndrome

Care Coordination offers:

- Monitoring circumstances & services during life transitions
- Coordinating access to medical, dental, and behavioral health services
- Monitoring safety and residential needs
- Referring to community and social support services
- Creating a holistic Life Plan

OPWDD Services:

- Family Support Services
- Respite
- Family Education and Training
- Assistive Technology
- Environmental Modifications
- Community Habilitation
- Self-Directed Services, Support Brokers, Fiscal Intermediaries
- Education, Training , Job Readiness, and Employment Supports
- Residential and Day Habilitation

Alan reviewed feedback from changes since move from Medicaid Service Coordination to Care Coordination from teachers and school psychologists.

There is a less of a shift in Care Coordinators/plans. Less changes for families (are not jumping to different agencies).

There are more specialists under one roof. Easier to connect students and families through one point contact.

Update on Intake and Enrollment

PCS partnered with UB to improve internal function. There is a customized referral process.

There is a dedicated intake phone line, fillable forms, full packets, and mobile staff.

Care Coordination Updates:

There are new staff positions dedicated to minimize disruption in services. Ex: There is a care coordinator to assist to cover for staff leaves or to help when an individual in crisis to help with applications etc.

PCS Clinical services assists with complex medical and behavioral needs. Contracts with providers.

Person Centered Services Customer Service number: 888-977-7030

Intake phone number: 855-208-3533

Sarah Wolf- ACCES-VR

Senior VR Counselor Transition and Youth Services

Sarah.Wolf@nysed.gov

716-848-8054

Sarah mentioned extra support to get students ready for ACCES-VR. Sometimes students may benefit for other services such as Pre-vocational services before going through ACCES-VR. When planning for transition services, ACCES-VR does not provide a denial letter. She mentioned that vocational assessments can take up to 18 months.

ACCES-VR would like student applications two years before they exit school.

Sarah discussed services provided by ACCES-VR. There are still training services through Pre Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), offered through school districts through the Steps to Work program. This program is for students who are age 14 and/or more than two years prior to anticipated exit from high school. Services are provided by local agencies. This program can also assist with work place readiness, interview prep, how to apply for jobs.

Self-advocacy is also addressed to help students understand, advocate for themselves, and who and how to disclose information to.

Steps to Work is an after school program, which usually starts Jan through Feb. Then agencies place students in jobs over the summer.

There will be a new Pre Employment Program for grant 14-15 year olds, for individuals in Niagara and Erie County. This service will be provided through community providers. There will be more news to come.

ACCES-VR proposed changes-

Sarah discussed several changes to services. Driver training- will require a financial need review and be based on economic need. Driver evaluation and training will only be provided in conjunction with another ACCES-VR service.

For students, it will only fund driving school during the last year of secondary school.

College cutbacks:

- Out of state colleges- ACCES-VR will only pay towards if a program isn't available within New York State.
- Financial Aid review 10,000- go down to 7,000.
- Fees/books 1000 maximum.
- Computers 800 maximum.
- ACCES-VR Public Meetings on Vocational Rehabilitation Services and updates- form is attached.

**Elisabeth Bentley- Prime Care Coordination
Student and Family Education Specialist
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585-491-5836**

**Andrea Foote
Individual & Family Engagement Coordinator
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585-397-0087**

Elisabeth and Andrea presented from Prime Care which also provides care coordination to our region for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Criteria would be the same as discussed during Person Centered Services presentation.

The position of Student and Family Specialist is unique to this agency, which helps students and families to navigate through the special education process.

Student and Family Education Specialist is a complimentary add on service at Care Coordination meetings. Elisabeth can come out and speak to a class on the transition process. Prime Care will be adding another position soon.

Prime Care uses weighted caseloads for their Care Coordinators, some people have extended needs, events increase and decrease needs.

Prime Care has Care Manager Assistant position to support care managers and their caseload. This ensures that caseloads are balanced and manageable for Care Managers.

Prime Care has clinical teams in each region, which include: Clinical Support Specialists (Behavioral Health), LMSW's, and RN's. They will complete clinical case reviews as needed to provide additional levels of perspective, support, and expertise.

Prime Care is on track with OPWDD expectation for Life Plan completion. They have quality audits on Life Plans being completed internally through their Quality Assurance Department.

Call the Referral line to speak with an Enrollment Coordinator or fill out the form on Prime Care's website (primecareny.org).

An Enrollment Coordinator can assist with the OPWDD eligibility process. Care Coordination is funded primarily by Medicaid. An Enrollment Coordinator can help with the Medicaid process as well.

Referral line for WNY: 716-345-2719

Bryna May, LMHC

Single Point of Access Program (SPOA) Contact

Senior Licensed Clinician

Bryna.May@NiagaraCounty.com

716-439-7410

Bryna discussed the various supports and services available to children and families through SPOA. Bryna discussed the new state change. Goal is to keep children home and out of residential care.

Criteria for CSPOA:

- Ages 5 to 20
- Willingness to participate in services
- Has Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) diagnosis or suspicion of mental health diagnosis.
- Extended Impairment of functioning.

Bryna discussed services accessible through CSPOA:

- Child and Family Treatment and Support Services
- Home and Community Case Services- via Care Management
- Community psychiatric support and treatment

- Psychosocial rehabilitation services
- Mobile Integration Team
- Community Crisis Intervention
- Care Management
- Family Support
- In Home Respite Services
- Multi-systemic Therapy
- Non-Medicaid Care Management
- Children and Youth Evaluation Service-CYES

Bryna spoke about Health Home Care Management, which participants must have Medicaid and Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), or two chronic conditions.

- Have Medicaid
- Have chronic health, medical, and or mental health conditions.
- SED
- Two chronic medical conditions
- HIV/AIDS
- Complex trauma

Some services provided through Health Home Care Management:

- Explore goals with child and family
- Work with the child and family on their plan of care in order to link to the most appropriate services
- Care Coordination
- Transitional care – to make sure families are connected to the services they need.

Bryna discussed Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and what could be provided through this service:

- Community Habilitation
- Day Hab
- Caregiver and family support services
- Prevocational services, supported employment, respite services, palliative care
- Environmental modifications
- Vehicle modifications, adaptive and assistive equipment to support child's health, welfare and safety.
- Non-medical transportation to services and activities that support goals.

Bryna also discussed Family Peer Support services which are parent led support groups in a variety of community sites in Niagara County. This is for caregivers raising children with emotional and behavioral problems. There will be crisis intervention and peer support coming 1/1/2020.

She also spoke regarding Non-Medical Care Management, and Niagara County has a set number of slots available. This would be for children who do not have Medicaid, no insurance, or have private insurance.

CSPOA manages this Non-Medicaid slots and waitlist. This service provides the same services as Health Home Care Management.

CSPOA referral can be found online: [http://www.niagaracounty.com/Departments/Mental - Health-Services/Child-Single-Point-of-Access](http://www.niagaracounty.com/Departments/Mental-Health-Services/Child-Single-Point-of-Access)

Or call 716-439-7410, and request an application.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2019- Topic will be Mental Health

Kristin Miller- O/N BOCES Mental Health Services Counselor, will be presenting on new mental health laws for school districts and discuss mental health practices to support well-being. Community Missions will also be presenting on their mental health transition programs.