

ONONDAGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES



**Children's
Mental
Health**



INTRODUCTION

Onondaga County administers and oversees a coordinated system of children's mental health and substance use services. The County receives state aid through the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS). These funds support prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery services for children and youth with mental illness, developmental challenges and substance use disorders. Onondaga County also has received Federal funding through a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant for a System of Care since 2009.



The System of Care is designed to support youth with serious emotional and behavioral challenges by ensuring that services and supports are available when families need them, without unnecessary administrative barriers. Through a “no wrong door” approach, youth identified through schools, mental health, child welfare, or juvenile justice systems are connected to the full range of community-based services and supports that best meet their needs.

SYSTEM OF CARE AND THE “NO WRONG DOOR” APPROACH



Values:

- Family Driven
- Youth Guided
- Community Focused
- Evidence Based Practices
- Culturally Responsive
- Data Driven

The Onondaga County System of Care is a coordinated network of supports and services working toward the same goal of success in the home, school and community under a shared set of values.

This work is made possible through strong collaboration among schools, child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health providers, and community partners. Some partnerships are formalized through contracts, while others are guided through a quarterly stakeholder collaborative that reviews system strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement.

The County’s ACCESS Team through CCSI serves as the central entry point to this system, with more than 35 staff supporting teachers, providers, law enforcement, youth, and families in identifying challenges early and connecting them to appropriate services and supports.

LEVELS OF INTERVENTION

Onondaga County Children’s System of Care is made up of community providers, hospitals, and New York State agencies to ensure children and youth have access to a full range of services. These services include prevention programs, crisis response, treatment, and recovery supports. These services are provided through local agencies and specialized treatment providers and are often funded through Medicaid, managed care, or New York State aid through Onondaga County.

LEVEL	SERVICES	PROVIDERS
Crisis and Immediate Help	• 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline • 911 Emergency • Mobile Crisis Teams • Intensive Crisis Stabilization Center • Psychiatric Emergency Rooms	Contact Community Services, Helio, Liberty St. Joe’s, DOH SUD Crisis Team, Upstate Medical University
Community Based Services and Treatment	• ACCESS ‘No Wrong Door Portal’ • Home Based Crisis Intervention • Outpatient Mental Health and SUD • School Based Mental Health Clinics • Specialty Needs Clinic • Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program • Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) • Care Coordination • Intensive Care Coordination - System of Care • Skill Building • Educational Advocacy • Day Treatment	Catholic Charities, Elmcrest, Helio, Hillside, LAUNCH, Liberty Resources, St. Joe’s, SCHC, CCSI, Toomey, Upstate

LEVELS OF INTERVENTION

continued

LEVEL	SERVICES	PROVIDERS
Peer Support and Recovery	• Youth Peer Support (Healthy Transitions) • Medicaid Billable Peer Programs • Family Peer Support (System of Care)	ACCESS CNY, CCSI, Hillside, Liberty,
Residential Services	• Crisis Respite (21+ days) • Community Residence • Residential Treatment Facility	Elmcrest, Hutchings, Hillside, Toomey Residential
Inpatient and Hospital Care	• Psychiatric inpatient treatment • Bio-Behavioral Health Unit for Youth with Developmental Challenges (BBHU)	Upstate Medical University

2024-2028 STRATEGIES

1

Prevention

Prevent the onset or escalation of mental health and substance use challenges

- Community prevention collaborations
- School-based behavioral health supports
- Drug and suicide prevention education
- Expansion of MTSS and Student Assistance Programs

3

Focus on High Need Population

Improve services for individuals with complex behavioral health needs

- Expanded crisis response (988, mobile crisis)
- Supportive housing expansion
- Transportation solutions for crisis care
- Specialized interventions (FACT, Youth ACT, CSIDD)
- Law enforcement referral portal

Each county in New York State develops a multi-year behavioral health strategic plan that outlines priorities for serving individuals experiencing mental health, substance use, and developmental disability challenges. In Onondaga County, this plan is informed by community focus groups, ongoing stakeholder meetings with providers and partners, and analysis of statewide data and county Results-Based Accountability reporting to identify gaps and guide system improvements.

2

Access to Services and Supports

Increase access to treatment and community supports

- Expand outreach/navigation (Adult SPOA)
- Increase outpatient service locations
- Increase overdose prevention strategies
- Peer and family support networks
- Workforce initiatives

4

Data and Accountability

Use data to guide decision-making and system improvement

- Results-Based Accountability across programs
- Quarterly outcome reporting
- Integrated data review with county analytics
- Data-driven planning and oversight