



County of Onondaga
Department of Children & Family Services

Child Welfare • Mental Health Services • Juvenile Justice • Youth Bureau • School Based Initiatives

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Amy Cunningham
Commissioner

Community Services Board
September 8th 2025
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Monica Bacote, Marla Bymes, Lisa Coggi, Lashae Coleman, Sarah Easterly, Scott Herron, Paul Joslyn, Lisa Mancini, Sipho Mbuge, Elizabeth Nolan, Jennifer Parmalee, Kati Peals, Novelette Pierce, Anastasia Stark, Vince Schmidt

Welcome/Agenda Review

Jennifer Parmalee presented the agenda and opened the meeting.

Reviewed minutes from last meeting on 05/05/2025

Copies of the minutes from the last meeting on 05/05/2025 were made available to everyone present. Jenn asked if anyone wanted to propose changes on the minutes from the last meeting, but no one had any changes.

Presentation “Update on the Development of the Crisis Services System” by Jennifer Parmalee

Jenn provided an overview of the changes that are occurring in the crisis services system in Onondaga County with aid of Appendix A: “Crisis System Development Update”.

The county is currently in the process of integrating the crisis response with 911 emergency services. The county has begun to hire a Crisis Coordinator along with a team of Crisis Counselors to provide 24/7 support.

Two different groups are holding meeting to address challenges and coordinate care. The 911 Diversion Workgroup continues meets monthly to work on obstacles that impede connecting individuals to services without unnecessary law enforcement involvement.

There is also a CNY Crisis Response group that meets monthly to review calls and follow up with families.

A Sequential Mapping Event was held in the spring to identify barriers that need to be address and gaps in services.

CNY Crisis Network, established in 2021, is looking to standardize mobile crisis response, share best practices and enhance quality of care across providers.

Presentation “Introducing the Prevention Conference” by Novelette Pierce

Novelette presented about CNY Prevention Consortium, which is a collaboration of regional partners in CNY, who plan and provide educational and networking opportunities to empower those working in substance use and topics and topics that affect youth.

There are many organizations that participate in the consortium, including Onondaga County, OCM BOCES, Contact Community Services, Prevention Network and Center for Family Life and Recover, Inc. Attendees are providers and school-based staff. The consortium’s main focus right now is on expanding its efforts to include other age groups.

Presentation “New SCSD Program for Mental Health (McCarthy and Grant) by Lisa Coggi and Novelette Pierce”.

Lisa Coggi and Novelette Pierce provided an overview of the partnership between Upstate Medical University and Syracuse City School District that is in the process of being implemented. Two school-based mental health clinics have opened up: one in Grant Middle School and another in McCarthy at Beard School.

Theses clinics use the comprehensive integrated system of care. Services being offered at these two sites include: intensive outpatient, medication management, assessment and diagnostic testing, referrals to other community services.

Each site is comprised of an interdisciplinary team that consists of a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a nurse practitioner, social worker and care management staff. The future intent is to expand the current program to 9 school sites.

Presentation “Introduction to the START Model” by Kati Peals

Kati Peals provide a synopsis of the START Model founded by Dr. Joan Beasley and the University of New Hampshire that is being implemented at AccessCNY. This initiative is designed to address fragmented care, limited access to crisis support outside business hours, insufficient coordination between schools and developmental disability services and lack of culturally appropriate resources in the community.

The population in focus is individuals from 0 to 21 years old with co-occurring a mental health diagnosis and development needs. The program employs a Single Point of Entry centralized system to streamline referrals. The team consists of a Project Director, START Team Leader, START Coordinator and LEAD Family Coordinator.

Presentation “Federal Actions Update” by Jennifer Parmalee

Jennifer Parmalee provided an update on current federal actions underway. OMH is holding a series of meetings to explain an executive order emitted from the White House titled, “Ending Crime and Disorder on American Streets”, which intends to expand involuntary civil commitment for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders replacing the housing first model.

There is not a lot of concrete information about implementation currently or the effects this executive order and others may have on the refugee population in our community.

A recent federal budget bill will cut approximately \$4 billion in funds destined for New York, which may impact mental health urgent care, high utilizers and unreimbursed services in our community.

Other Pertinent Information

Contact Community Services will be holding its annual CNY Youth Mental Health Summit on October 23rd. Anyone interested can register at <https://www.contactsyracuse.org/events/cny-youth-mental-health-summit/>.

Action Items

Lashae Coleman will contact someone from the local refugee organizations to come talk next meeting about the trends they have been observing.

Next Meeting will be held on 12/01/2025 at 12:00 pm in OCM BOCES Elwood Davis Road.