



Southern Tier

Regional Steering Committee

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Various Locations

Regional Southern Tier Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Attendees by County:

(Broome County) Lenore Boris, Phillip Ginter, Renita Malone, Bouakham Rosetti, Jack Salo, Mary Shaheen

(Chenango County) Brianna Curley, Jamie Hagenbuch, Victoria Mitchell, Elizabeth Monaco

(Delaware County) Amy Beveridge, Jeanne Darling, Susan Kurkowski, Mary Rosenthal, Judi Salton, Amanda Walsh

(Tioga County) Nancy Glasgow, Mary Maruscak, Heather Morgan, Christine Shaver

(Tompkins County) Bev Chin, John Mazzello, Samantha Hillson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcomes and introductions were performed by Phillip Ginter and the meeting opened at approximately 1:08 pm with County attendees joining via video conference.

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Phill asked if everyone had a chance to review minutes and no changes were made. The minutes from previous meeting were accepted.

III. Old Business

a. Mental Health Toolkit

Phill then provided the group with an update on the Mental Health Toolkit. He conveyed that we have completed over 50 interviews thus far in Hudson Valley and Southern Tier combined and are in the process of coding all interviews with CauseWave. We will be meeting with CauseWave to discuss the design and layout of the toolkit on Tuesday, May 23rd and the rollout of the toolkit is set for early July 2017.

Phill also relayed that we had a mixture of sectors included in the interview process, such as law enforcement, health care providers and manufacturers. One of the things that is evident during the interview phase is that

regardless of the business sector, very few organizations have incorporated a mental health component into their wellness plan despite making interviewees agreeing mental health is important.

b. Transportation Pilot

The next item discussed was the update on the Transportation Pilot. Phill relayed to the group that all five MOU's have been executed for the pilot sites and submitted to Yvonne Johnston for IRB approval. Phill also, reminded the group that we are looking at June 1st as target date for data collection.

The participating pilot sites are: Guthrie Clinic of Ithaca, Guthrie Clinic of Oswego, Chenango Memorial Hospital in Norwich, Cornerstone in Binghamton, and UHS Primary Care in Sidney.

Phill explained we continue to work on the consumer education plan with RVSA and that Spectrum (formerly Time Warner Cable) has expressed interest as well. We are now awaiting approval from the State on the consumer education proposal. Phill reminded the group that these will be targeted micro campaigns via social media that will be used to try to reach consumers who do not assess healthcare because of their lack of transportation.

IV. New Business

a. Stakeholder Engagement

Phill explained to the group that we are going through our list of stakeholders to clean up our email distribution list. Phill relayed that the group should have received a survey prior to the meeting. This is the survey which will be distributed to individuals for whom we have an e-mail.

V. OASAS Grant – Substance Use Workgroup

The next item on the agenda was the OASAS Grant. Phill relayed to the group that HealthlinkNY has been awarded the OASAS Grant and funding. The grant extends into three additional areas of service – Chemung, Stueben, and Schyler. Additionally, we had spoken with the Mental Health Workgroup about combining a new substance use workgroup into the current mental health workgroup and the group thought it would be best to form a separate workgroup to support the work we will be performing under the OASAS Grant giving others an opportunity to join.

Phill explained that as part of the grant, county mental health departments and prevention providers will be our starting point for recruitment and potentially do a large-scale kickoff in September 2017. We can also see if there are opportunities to partner with organizations to support activities they already have planned in September.

Bouakham Rosetti stated that she can push out flyers in Chemung and Stueben and can reach out for organizations to get us connected.

VI. Meeting Schedules

Phill explained that a list of meetings dates was distributed with meeting materials prior to the meeting and asked if anyone had any objections to the meeting schedule. Phill also encouraged members to stay after our

Transportation meeting to attend the Mobility Management Advisory meeting in June, August, October and November 2017.

Jack Salo mentioned that on the third Tuesday of the month a regular supervisory meeting occurs so a change to the Steering Committee meeting schedule may be needed.

VII. ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) Project Presentation

The next item on the agenda was the presentation of the ALICE Project. Phill introduced by Mary Shaheen, Vice-President United Way of New York State, to the group to share insights that came about through ALICE Report. Mary shared an in-depth ALICE report with the group that she stated was intended to shed a light on those that are employed, but still cannot afford to make ends meet and struggle to pay their own bills.

The ALICE Report was discussed in detail with the group and full report is available by visiting the United Way website – www.uwnys.org/ALICE.

The group had questions regarding the ALICE report such as, the percentage of families that are ALICE and whether it is increasing or decreasing; how does NY compare to other states in ALICE reports; transportation portion of the report; whether United Way of NY has considered ways to use this information effectively advocating for the community.

Mary Shaheen reported that United Way of NY has made sure that legislation received a copy of the ALICE Report and data has been useful for other organization to push agenda. Also, United Way Public Administration is looking at the report and trying to figure out a realistic advocacy agenda.

VIII. Adjourn for County Meetings

Regional Steering Committee Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:14 pm to attend the County Level Forum Meetings.

IX. County Level Forum Meetings

All groups then met after the Regional Steering Committee Meeting to attend the County Level Forum Meetings for each of the respective counties in attendance starting with a continued discussion around the ALICE Report which was presented.

Forum Report Out on Broome County

The group convened following the Regional Steering Committee to discuss local implications of the ALICE report presented by Mary Shaheen during the Regional Steering Committee meeting. The group agreed the issue of financial stability is a complex issue and was pleased to see how United Way of New York State had drawn a connection between economic wellbeing and physical wellbeing.

The group shared concerns about the prospect of high-paying jobs in the local area given the current trends in employment in the region which tend to lean more towards the service and hospitality industry. The group discussed the growing income gap in our society but also noted there are individuals with limited financial resources who do fair well and are able to get their needs met.

This led the group into a discussion of resiliency and social capital. The group noted while households falling into the ALICE category may lack financial resources, they have access to other assets which allow them to be more successful. The group acknowledged having a clear understanding of available resources is critical to the success of ALICE households.

The group also acknowledged the need to develop new models to help ALICE households become viable. This includes better engagement of faith communities and helping communities of faith rethink their ministries in the community. An example of a church in Schenectady was shared where the church has developed a new ministry which provided transportation for home health workers. The benefit of the ministry was twofold, it helped people get to work but also helped those needing in home care by making sure staff could get to their homes.

The group discussed the fact ALICE households are employed and the implications that has for service delivery, access care, and public policy. Several in the group could identify examples of where individuals lost benefits and ended up worse off by getting a raise at work or starting a new job. The “benefits cliff” is a serious concern which needs to be addressed through policy change.

The group felt the information presented in the ALICE report was helpful and important information. Further discussion of the implications of the report and how it relates to the work of the Community Network is warranted.

Forum Report Out on Chenango County

This group discussed the local implications of the ALICE report and how it directly affects Chenango County. Elizabeth Monaco spoke about the Chenango County findings and how ALICE is affecting the community.

Chenango County participated in the ALICE report to help validate what was thought to be already transpiring within the community which was families working hard but still struggling to put food on the table and pay for necessities, such as housing, transportation and medical expenses. The group discussed how a large majority of the families within Chenango County must travel outside of the county for specialty healthcare services, such as dental and only two thirds of the families deliver babies outside of the county. This causes concerns especially with transportation being a major contributing barrier for the county residents.

The group discussed concerns over the number of lower-paid workforce and how most the working families work part-time jobs with no benefits. Potentially individuals could be working three part-time jobs and still not be able to make ends meet or have any benefits for themselves and their family. Housing affordability, although reports being good on the ALICE report, does not reflect the quality of the housing available. The group discussed how quality housing is a major concern for the county.

Finally, this group also discussed the mental and behavioral health section of the ALICE population and how that can be affected from the toxic stress. This led to a conversation on how the Workplace Wellness initiative along with other local coalitions and initiatives can be beneficial to the community. The group felt that the information that was presented in the ALICE report was valuable, helpful and important information, and this led to an informative conversation.

Forum Report Out on Delaware County

The group continued to discuss the ALICE Report conversation and it was pointed out that it was a lot like “Reclaim NY” which has the agenda to push back against Governor Cuomo. It was also discussed that missing data of disabled population has impacts on income outcomes.

The group discussed a medium to high level of frustration surrounding challenges within the county. The County has 19 towns and difficulty arises to engage stakeholders from the towns; get them off their own agendas; and working together.

Also discussed was the economic development constraints due to:

- Complexity of the small towns
- Water shed
- Funds available – 80% of county land state/county land
- Impacts infrastructure
- Job development
- Lower school census

The next item discussed was property values/tax assessments and how the large volume of home owners as second home drives the following:

- Drives up property values
- Drives up tax assessed values
- Drives up COL
- Drives up housing market
- Influences disparities

The group also discussed the healthcare gaps focusing on:

- Lack of service providers
- Lack of cell coverage for providers

Forum Report Out on Tioga County

Due to technical difficulties, the group closed out of the join.me portion of the meeting and Mary Maruscak facilitated the meeting based on the agenda.

The group discussed the Mental Health Toolkit and an update was provided.

This group discussed the Transportation Pilot and an update was provided. Attendees were interested to learn that the Owego Guthrie practice has employed a Care Coordinator to work with patients with additional needs. Mary shared the contact information for the Care Coordinator, Wendi Hamm, with attendees.

Stakeholder engagement was also discussed and Nancy Glasgow asked to be added to the stakeholder list. Additionally, Christine Shaver asked for Steve Timchack to be removed, as he will not be attending the meetings.

The group then discussed the OASAS Grant and Mary provided limited information on this workgroup, based on the work plan proposed. There was some concern that this would be duplicative of already existing county-level substance abuse coalitions. Mary explained that this was not intended to be duplicative, but instead to be a supplement and a support to those existing coalitions. Mary also explained that it is an opportunity for representation from existing coalitions to come together and ensure more cohesion between county-level coalitions, less overlap, more filling of existing gaps, and to take a regional approach to substance use/abuse

concerns. Mary explained that since this is a relatively new project for PHIP, details were limited and Mary committed to following up with Phill Ginter to learn more. Regarding the question of whether to combine the work group with our existing mental health work group, the attendees felt that they should not make that decision because they are not providers in either of those sectors and weren't sure what would be the best action to take.

Next, the group discussed the Meeting Schedules submitted to the group prior to this meeting and discussed conflicts with currently scheduled meetings. We may look at changing the Steering Committee Meeting dates. More information to come.

The group then discussed the ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) Project. Attendees at the meeting were not familiar with the report. Mary gave a brief overview of the information contained within it. Mary also plans to follow up with Carolyn Palladino, Director of the Tioga County United Way, to learn more about what may be taking place in Tioga County in response to the information contained within the ALICE report. More information will be shared with the group after that meeting takes place.

Two primary issues came up for the Tioga County group, which have been discussed, before:

- Discharge planning from Robert Packer Hospital for Behavioral Health

This is a long-standing concern in Tioga County, as there have been a lack of referrals to the Children's SPOA Coordinator for Tioga County residents, resulting in adolescents not receiving the appropriate level of care they require after an inpatient stay. Mary plans to follow up with Josie Anderson, DSRIP Program Manager from Guthrie, to learn more about whether this process can be streamlined through the DSRIP initiative.

A meeting between W. Arnold, SPOA Coordinator; L. Morgan, Commissioner of Community Services in Tioga County; E. Hotchkiss, RPC Regional Coordinator; and M. Maruscak is currently being scheduled to discuss whether this is something the RPC can address as a regional concern.

- Data flow from Robert Packer Hospital to the Tioga County Health Department

This is another long-standing concern. H. Morgan spoke about how the data lag, particularly for birth data (which leads to a lag in lead testing, immunizations, and breastfeeding data), causes inaccurate reporting and follow-up from the Health Department for Tioga County residents. The group discussed how Guthrie is now part of HealthlinkNY's HIE, and there may be a way to access the data. H. Morgan asked whether the Health Department would be able to become a member of the HIE to access the data. Mary was unsure of the details, but will speak to Phill Ginter to learn more about what is possible.

Tompkins County Forum Report Out

The group discussed some data limitations in the ALICE (and other) data sets because of the heavy concentration of college students in Tompkins County, which can skew income levels, housing, employment, and other data points if not accounted for. Local context is important for interpreting data, but one place where that context can be explored is through the PHIP program.

The group discussed workforce issues and the efforts of Care Compass Network around workforce capacity. Bev has been involved with the Care Compass Network workforce committee and reported on its initiatives.

The group then discussed the Local Health Department Performance Incentive Initiative, which is a state program for which Tompkins County is applying. The upcoming fourth year of funding is for initiatives around chronic disease. Previously, the county had been awarded funds for environmental health and communicable

diseases. We reviewed some application requirements and the documentation that will need to be submitted.

We discussed transportation issues and barriers, and reviewed the HealthlinkNY Community Network pilot project in more detail, as well as the Move Together NY regional transportation planning project, for which John serves on the advisory group. We reviewed materials from Move Together NY and shared how to get involved in the project, which is focused on inter-county medical transportation and employment-related transportation.

Finally, the group discussed the New York Academy of Medicine Place-Based Health Disparities Learning Collaborative, in which Samantha is participating.

County Forum Meetings adjourned at 3 pm.