



HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, September, 2023

Time: 3:03 PM - 3:56 PM

Location: Zoom Video Conference

Attendance (73): Alissa Steele, Alissa Venturini, Amila, Annette Lock, Ashley Matrassi, Bailey Norris, Bill Higgins, Caitlin Bauer, Carolyn Brunelle, Cassiah Gilvin, Celina Bryan, Christina Waters, Christine Slocum, Clinton Parker, Dan Gordon, Dan Szewc, Daniella Gellego, Darwin Rosales, Deanne Atkin, DeMarco Ogletree, Desmond Truesdale, dhill, Diana Proske, Diane Gayles Livingston, ECMC Behavioral Health, edavis, Emily Tennant-Koller, gturri, Holly Rutkowski, Holly Rutkowski, J Martin, Jada's phone, Jarrett Steffen, Jill Mattson, Joshua Ziccarelli, Katey Soellers, Kathleen Leonard, Katrina Cropo, Kelsey Jeff, Kexin Ma, Kim Baughan, Kim Hubert, klingos, Kristin Rivera, Kristin Tanner, Lindsay Goodenough, Lisa Freeman, Luanne Firestone, Morgan Ashton, Nadia Pizarro, Nancy Langer, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Paul Martell, Paulette, Phone 1, R Tabone, Rae Frank, Rob Williams, Ryan Trubits, Ryan Undercoffer, Samantha Crance, Sara Carlson, Sara Gartland, Sara Pisa, Shannon Ramos, Stephanie Mejia, Stephanie Saunders, Stephanie Velez, Stephanie Velez, Thanh Nguyen, Tracy Schmidt, Trudy Decker, Will Marcy

1. Introductions

2. Guest Speaker: Parent Network of WNY, Emily Tennant-Koller

- Mission of Parent Network is supporting families and professionals to empower individuals with disabilities to reach their full potential;
- They offer family support and educational programs. Specific services include 1:1 support meetings, multi lingual support groups in all 8 counties in WNY, educational workshops, professional development, community outreach, and developmental screenings through Help Me Grow organization.
- Parent Network is a NY state funded FACE center, a federally recognized Community and Parent Resource Center along with an ACCES-VR funded youth transition provider;
- Parent network has following services for OPWDD services;

- Eligibility navigation that can assist families in Erie and Niagara county with completing necessary paperwork to get OPWDD eligibility process started;
- Family Behavioral support that provides individualized support for family members of school age children and young adults with developmental disabilities
- Family support and advocacy that works directly with families to build their skills to learn to positively advocate for their children

3. HMIS Updates

- FY2024 HMIS Data Standards Updates:
 - Annual update from HUD on October 1st, 2023;
 - Mandatory compliance for all HMIS users;
- Changes that are coming this update:
 - HAWNY will be updating new project types, new funding sources that will be coming, and CE participation status.
 - Updated language changes in HMIS.
 - Living situations are going to be updated in HMIS to be more organized and more clear;
 - Data collection practices will be updated. Clients now can choose to provide a preferred name, legal names are not required unless specified by the funding agency. Full social security numbers will not be required, and providers will now be allowed to just collect the last 4 digits. Race and ethnicity are combined into a single question that allows for multiple selections. Also, “translation assistance needed” will be a new option that is available for selection. Gender Identity responses have been altered as well

4. CoC Updates

- HAWNY provides a NOFO update, with the full amount of funding that is being sought being \$18.4 million dollars, 14 of which for renewal projects, with the rest for new projects.
- Two new projects have been approved by the local project selection committee and are waiting for approval from HUD. The two projects are Cazenovia PSH expansion and Children and Family Services CE staff for DV program;
- The COC board just approved a new written standard with major changes regarding RRH. Changes are based on consultant groups contracted by HAWNY to examine policy and recommend necessary changes to better serve clients in the community.
- Notable changes include:
 - Emergency transfer plan updated.

- Category 4 definition of homelessness has been updated.
- Lived experience program participation language updated as well.
- ECDMH announced that free PPE will be available at:
<https://www3.erie.gov/covid/form/-community-organization-personal>

5. 2023 Luncheon: Friday, December 8, 2023 at Classics V

- Event Page: <https://wnyhomeless.org/2023luncheon/>
- Ticket Sales: <https://2023hawnyluncheon.eventbrite.com/>
- HAWNY is seeking donations, advertisements, and sponsorships. Details can be found on the event page.
- Details about Award Nominations and Large Raffle Prizes will be released in the coming weeks.

6. Community Announcements

- Next HAWNY meeting for the month of October will be held in person, at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library at 1030 Losson Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 from 230-430pm.
- Catholic Charities of Buffalo announced a new PSH housing program opening in mid october, at 99 best street in Buffalo with 49 units of supportive housing ages 55+ and up.
- Project homeless connect is coming up on September 28th at the convention center from 9:30-3:30pm.
- Community services for Everyone also announces new PSH housing, more details will be released to the community soon.

7. Adjournment