

# **Tioga Department of Mental Hygiene Annual Report 2023**

Tioga County Mental Hygiene continues to offer a comprehensive continuum of care for citizens of Tioga County who have needs related to Mental Health, Substance Misuse, and/or Developmental Disabilities. The Department provided nearly 17,100 services to Tioga County residents in 2023. Unfortunately, the Waverly Clinics' lease expired in August of 2023, and we are eager to acquire a new site due to significant need in that part of the County. We continue to see an increase in requests for services by consumers not previously known to the department. We can provide tele-health to residents, which increases access to care. The department provides quality and timely care thanks a to tireless, dedicated and resilient workforce, despite the continued workforce shortages.

The Community Services Board continues to review and approve policies for the department as well as participate in planning. NYS requires the Director of Community Services to submit each year (New York State Mental Hygiene Law § 41.16). The plan outlines goals and objectives for the county as a guide to and facilitation of local service planning. The plan is developed with stakeholders in the county, many of whom are on our three Subcommittees.

The Director of Community Services is charged with oversight, planning and passing through funding to providers in Tioga County that are part of a continuum of care. Please see the list of providers below that the department provides state aid, apart from Developmental Disabilities which is provided directly from the state.

**Tioga County Mental Health Clinic**

**Tioga County Alcohol and Drug Services**

**Aspire Hope NY**

**Rehabilitation Support Services**

**A New Hope Center**

**Tioga County Veterans**

**Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga**

**Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES**

**Trinity, CASA**

**Glove House**

**Franziska Racker Centers**

**Achieve**

The Department would also like to mention some of our successes and highlights:

- The Department Head supported OMH /NYS DEPT ED grant that allowed for the expansion of school-based services at Spencer VanEtten and Tioga Center and are currently licensed and operating (Tioga Central currently vacant).
- Received State Aid to develop and contract for Medicated Assisted Treatment Program in the Tioga County Jail.
- The Department was able to purchase two new vehicles, 38 chairs, and therapeutic tools for the OASAS program with state aid.
- The Director provided increased support needed by NYS OMH to approve a state-of-the-art eating disorder clinic for adolescents'/teens in Tioga County. The Healing and Health Retreat (HeaHea).
- Offer free Narcan Kits and Training to anyone who requests.
- We are very proud of our two coalitions that provide a valuable service to Tioga County. Tioga County Advocacy, Support and Prevention Coalition (Tioga ASAP) and Tioga County Suicide Prevention Coalition. Both coalitions bring new interest, awareness, trainings, ideas and support to the community through hosted and planned community events as well as media campaigns.

Finally, we are always looking to improve and address needs for the population we serve. Below please find a list of goals for 2024:

Goal 1: Increase Workforce of experienced and trained workforce.

Goal 2: Increase affordable housing for all populations in Tioga County

Goal 3: Access to Public Transportation in Tioga County

Goal 4 (Optional): Crisis System for OPWDD

Goal 5 (Optional): Increased Prevention Services in Tioga County School Districts

Goal 6 (Optional): Increase Residential treatment services for OMH and OPWDD

Goal 7 (Optional): Increase Transitional Age Services for OPWDD

Goal 8 (Optional): Increase non-clinical supports for OPWDD.

**Annual and intermediate plans for addiction services:**

Plan is to continue to address lack of funding for additional OASAS prevention services needed throughout Tioga County School Districts. Continue to advocate for a transportation that addresses the need in our community. Continue to advocate for affordable housing in Tioga County, as well as a supportive living congregate care II. Continue to offer any incentive possible to retain and recruit workforce. Continue Anti-Stigma Campaign.

**Annual and intermediate plans for developmental disability services:**

Continue to advocate for a transportation that addresses the need in our community. Continue to advocate for affordable housing in Tioga County. Continue to offer any incentive possible to retain and recruit workforce throughout the region. Continue to advocate for replication

successful semi-independent living options. Provide funding to grassroots task forces that are working to increase social/recreational opportunities for people and their caregivers.

**Annual and intermediate plans for mental health services:**

Continue to offer any incentive possible to retain and recruit workforce. Continue to advocate for a transportation that addresses the need in our community. Continue to advocate for affordable housing in Tioga County, continue to advocate for increased access to residential treatment services for youth. Continue Anti-Stigma Campaign

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Morgan, LCSW - R  
Director of Community Services Tioga County  
Tioga County Department of Mental Hygiene