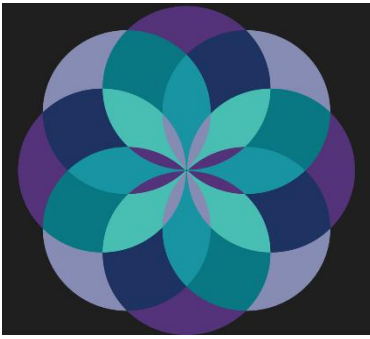




NYS System of Care Monthly Update MONTH 2026

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**YOUR VOICE, YOUR EXPERIENCES,
YOUR FUTURE**

Help shape services and supports for youth with mental health care needs!

Join a Conversation with the New York State Office of Mental Health and Department of Health

New York State is strengthening mental health services for young people and their families. If you have lived or work experience with mental health services and have feedback to share, we want to hear from you.

WESTERN NEW YORK - join us in person at:
Hillside Children's Center, 1 Mustard St., Rochester

AUG. 6 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. **OR** **AUG. 7** 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m.

Refreshments will be provided
We welcome you and your family - Activities for all

- Families, youth, and Youth and Family Peer Advocates who attend on the day of the session are eligible for \$25 stipends to assist with costs of participating.
- Organizations interested in providing transportation for a group of families and/or youth should contact ChildrensMHSettlement@omh.ny.gov to discuss the process for reimbursement.

 Please register in advance by using the link above or by scanning the QR code.

Office of Mental Health | Department of Health

ACT NOW: Invite youth and families to shape mental health services in New York!

The New York State Office of Mental Health and Department of Health are hosting **in-person** and **virtual meetings** this summer to gather recommendations to improve mental health services for children with complex mental health needs. Meetings are scheduled throughout the state between **late July** and **mid-September** to hear directly from families, youth, providers, stakeholders, and anyone who supports young people with mental health needs requiring intensive services.

The focus of these meetings is to help inform the redesign of intensive home and community-based mental health services for children and families statewide, with an emphasis on improving access, quality, and outcomes. These conversations were prompted by the [C.K. v. McDonald Settlement Agreement](#) and will help with the development of an Implementation Plan for system change.

Families, youth, and Youth and Family Peer Advocates who attend on the day of the session are eligible for \$25 stipends to assist with costs of participating.

Organizations interested in providing transportation for a group of families and/or youth should contact ChildrensMHSettlement@omh.ny.gov to discuss the process for reimbursement.

In-person meetings by region include:

- [Western New York](#) - Hillside Children's Center, 1 Mustard St., Rochester; **6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 6**; [registration link](#).

Please note registration is at capacity for the session scheduled 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 7.

- [Hudson River](#) - Orange County Community College, 1 Washington Center, Newburgh; **6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11** or **9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 12**; [registration link](#).

- New York City - Office of Mental Health NYC Field Office, 330 5th Avenue, New York, 10001, 9th floor; [6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 24](#); [9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday Aug. 25](#), or [2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday Aug. 25](#); please use the corresponding links to register.
- [Long Island](#) - Suffolk County Community College Grant Campus, Crooked Hill Rd., Brentwood; [6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17](#) or [9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 18](#); [registration link](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment. The input you share and the voices of the communities we serve is invaluable as we work together to enhance youth mental health supports across New York.

If you have any questions, please email ChildrensMHSettlement@omh.ny.gov.

Children's System Support Unit Updates

System of Care

System of Care County Collaborative

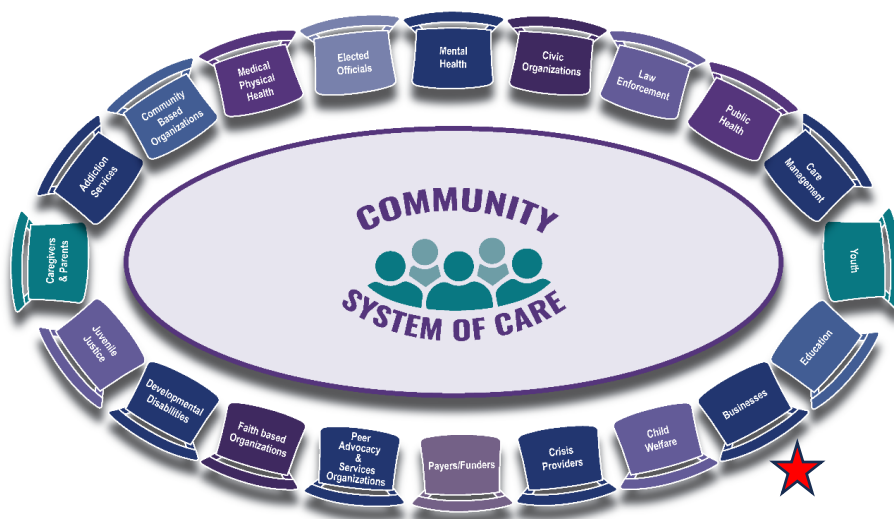
The next System of Care County Collaborative will be held on **Wednesday, September 9, 2026**, from **1:00 – 2:00pm**.

Who Should Attend? Leaders and partners in local System of Care implementation are interested in sharing and learning about other counties' successes and engaging in peer problem-solving with local challenges.

No invitation needed but if you want to receive calendar invites for these sessions, please email SOC.TeamSharedCalendar@omh.ny.gov.

System of Care Exemplar

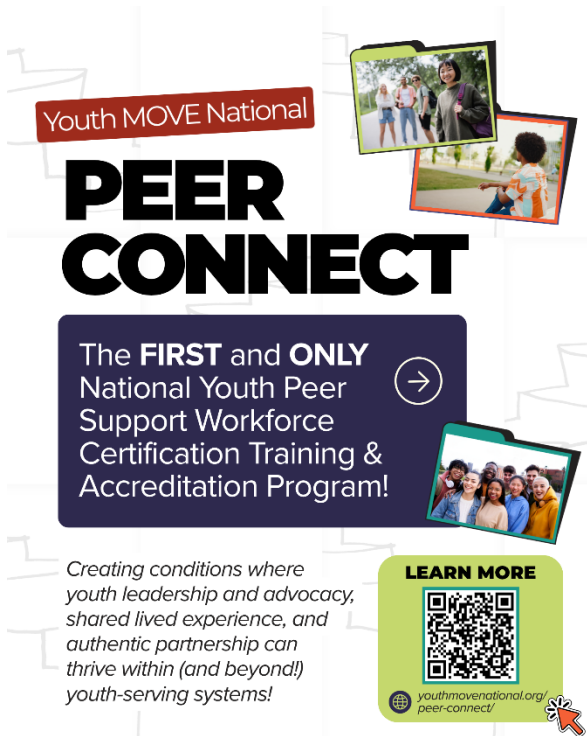
When the NYS SOC Team worked with counties around the state on reflecting on the membership of their SOC teams or infrastructure, this visual has been shared.



In many communities, engaging local businesses to help solve community challenges has been a missed opportunity. Recently, a news story highlighted the creative efforts of the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District in Wayne County to provide free meals this summer by partnering with Amazon. Check out [this story!](#)

Other Updates of Interest

National Youth Peer Support Specialist & Supervisor Certification and Accreditation



Youth MOVE (Motivating Others through Voices of Experience) National's (YMN) [Peer Connect](#) training program is the first and only comprehensive national peer support certification, accreditation, workforce development, and implementation model designed specifically for youth and young adults all across the country. This validated, peer-reviewed, and evidence-based framework is built from decades of youth-informed practice, national workforce development, and systems change experience. It was co-designed by and for systems-impacted youth in collaboration with multidisciplinary experts, including clinicians, doctors, social workers, researchers, state health departments, community care behavior health organizations, universities, and more, while integrating other evidence-based scientific models through implementation science. The Peer Connect training program serves as both a rigorous certification pathway and a comprehensive implementation support framework. Through training, accreditation, implementation support, and technical assistance, YMN partners with state behavioral health systems, youth-serving agencies, and community organizations to co-create the specific organizational conditions necessary for youth peer support programs to succeed as a sustainable and

essential workforce pathway.

Resource Spotlight: New Family Support Workforce Toolkit

The National Family Support Technical Assistance Center recently released a new [Family Support Workforce Toolkit](#). The purpose of this toolkit is to share a collection of family-friendly resources, videos, and tip sheets to assist the Family Peer Workforce when supporting families on best practices related to mental health and substance use challenges across the lifespan. When families have family peer support as they enter services, families and providers are better able to work as a team.

Learn more and access resources by [clicking here](#).

Deputy Commissioners' Corner

NYS Office of Mental Health: Children's Mental Health Settlement Agreement Community Engagement Sessions

New York State is developing a plan to strengthen intensive home- and community-based services for children and youth with significant behavioral health needs. The [Children's Mental Health Settlement Agreement](#) guides how OMH will improve services to make sure children and youth under age 21 receive timely and quality care while remaining at home with their families and in their communities, whenever possible.

Last month, the New York State Office of Mental Health and New York State Department of Health began hearing from communities about their experiences in the children's mental health system. The first in-person session occurred in Liverpool, New York, on July 22nd and July 23rd, 2026. A total of 72 unique participants attended these events, including youth, families, providers, and community members. The first virtual session

occurred on July 27th, 2026 with over 100 participants. Attendees in both settings had an opportunity to hear directly from state leadership on the Settlement Agreement, learn about what needs to be included in the implementation plan to redesign services, and participate in 1-hour long group discussions to share feedback that will help inform the plan.

The state is hosting additional opportunities for families, youth, providers, advocates and community members to learn about the settlement and share feedback on how services should be implemented across the State and virtually. Community feedback will inform the development of the plan and ensure it reflects the needs of the communities we serve. OMH invites stakeholders to register for a Community Feedback Session and stay up to date by visiting the [Children's Mental Health Settlement webpage](#), where you can also subscribe to their listserv.

Deputy Commissioners' Workgroup Membership: CCF (Vanessa Threatte, Elana Marton, Chris Tosado, Kristin Weller, Ehasuyi Gomes, Brenda Lincoln, Yan Wu, Patricia Persell, Meghan Glass), CDD (Kristin Proud, Jennifer Goldman), DCJS (Tom Andriola, Damon Bacote), DOH (April Hamilton, Myla Harrison, Colette Poulin, Bianca Sanders, Kirsten Siegenthaler), DOL (Dana Politis), DOS (Cynthia Stewart), Justice Center (Serena Sturman-Pupons), OASAS (Bridget Hartman-DeCenzo, Patricia Zuber-Wilson, Esteban Ramos, Pat Lincourt, Maria Morris Groves, Sam Kawola), OCFS (Gail Geohagen-Pratt, Jason DeSantis, Kennetha Glover, Rosemarie Postighone, Marla Smith, Kim Dwyer, Nina Aledort, Erin Cassidy, Homero Martinez, Damien Pratt, Nora Yates, Joy Connolly), OMH (Dr. Audrey Erazo-Trivino, Bonnie Catlin, Angela Keller, Meredith Ray-LaBatt, Matt Perkins), OPDV (Elizabeth Bliss, Michael Whiteley) OPWDD (Jill Pettinger, Abiba Kindo, Josh Olsen, Whitney Salters), SED (Gemma Rinefierd, Suzanne Bolling), OTDA (Cheryl Contento, Valerie Figueroa), SOFA (Alana Stelline, Michael Gunn), Chamber (Kim Hill, Cheryl Mahady, Holly Saupp)

Useful Links and Tools

[Go here](#) to view our **downloadable** running list of NYS SOC Useful Links and Tools! This document will be updated as new resources are found. Pay notice to the "Last Updated On" date at the bottom of the document to assure you have the most current list of useful links and tools.

Funding Opportunity

Looking for funding check the OMH procurement page (<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/rfp/>) frequently.

OMH Funding Opportunity: Youth Safe Spaces Round 3

In response to the demand for more youth-driven programs, the Office of Mental Health is funding one Youth Safe Space Program. The program will target individuals ages 12-24.

The Youth Safe Space Program framework allows community spaces to expand service offerings through an application and funding process. Community spaces may include:

- Libraries
- OASAS Youth Recovery Clubhouses
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Park & Recreation Centers
- Local recreation centers

Applicants are not required to be licensed OMH providers.

Please see the RFP document for full details and funding information:

<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/rfp/2026/yssp3/index.html>

Organizations whose work aligns with SOC Work!

Have you signed up for these Listservs/Newsletters?

ACT for Youth	OMH NYS Trauma-Informed Network Resource Center
Behavioral Health News (BHN)	PeerTAC
Center for Practice Innovations	Project TEACH
Child Mind Institute	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Collective Impact Forum	The Community Technical Assistance Center of New York (CTAC)
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)	The Evidence-Based Treatment Dissemination Center (EBTDC)
National Training & Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC)	The Managed Care Technical Assistance Center of New York (MCTAC)
National Wraparound Initiative (NWI)	The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP)
NY Health Home Coalition	UConn School of Social Work TA TELEGRAM
NYS DOH Health Homes	

NYS SOC Links to Highlight

Keep up to date on all things NYS SOC by visiting our website!

Be sure to [bookmark us while you're there!](#)

Did you miss a SOC Newsletter?

[Go here](#) to access our archive of past NYS Systems of Care monthly Newsletters.

SPARK!

SPARK some thoughts, conversations, and initiatives using the newest addition to SOC content, the SPARK e-mails! The purpose of these e-mails is to provide a tool and/or resource that is intended to *spark* an idea to assist local teams in further implementing the Systems of Care framework. [Go here](#) to see the monthly SPARK archive.

Subscribe to (or unsubscribe from) the NYS Systems of Care Listserv by emailing SOC.SharedTeamMailbox@omh.ny.gov

