NYS System of Care Monthly Update September 2026

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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.

Upcoming in person meetings include:

- 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.

Upcoming virtual sessions include:

- September 3, 2026 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. via Zoom; registration link.

NEW Virtual session added for community members who speak Spanish as their primary language:

- September 22, 2026 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m; registration link.

A flier will be shared in the coming days. In the interim, please share this with Spanish speaking communities:

> *English:* New York State is changing how we support youth with intensive mental health care needs and their families, to ensure they receive timely and high- quality services that help them thrive at home and in their communities. We need to hear from you!
> A virtual feedback session will be held in Spanish on Tuesday, September 22 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm.
>
> Please register in advance here: https://omh-ny.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/d17t9nhHTvao2mDJLgPeAA
>
> If you have any questions, email ChildrensMHSettlement@omh.ny.gov.
>
> *Español*: El estado de Nueva York está cambiando la manera en que apoyamos a los jóvenes que necesitan servicios intensivos de salud mental y a sus familias, para garantizar que reciban servicios oportunos y de alta calidad que les ayuden a prosperar en el hogar y en sus comunidades. ¡Queremos escuchar su opinión!
> Se llevará a cabo una sesión virtual de comentarios en español el martes 22 de septiembre, de 5:00 p. m. a 6:30 p. m.
>
> Por favor, regístrese con anticipación aquí: https://omh-ny.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/d17t9nhHTvao2mDJLgPeAA
>
> Si tiene alguna pregunta, envíe un correo electrónico a ChildrensMHSettlement@omh.ny.gov.

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.

Other Updates of Interest

September is National Suicide Prevention Month

Preventing suicide across New York State requires concerted effort from individuals, organizations, and communities. Given that each part of the state is unique, local participation is critical to prevent suicide within communities.

In New York State, county suicide prevention coalitions are a driving force for suicide safer communities. Almost every county in the state has a coalition or task force that brings together key stakeholders to develop and implement suicide prevention plans that are unique to their community. Stakeholders range from law enforcement, education, health systems, and Veterans' Affairs to substance use agencies, medical examiner and coroners' offices, clergy, and individuals with lived experience.

A key strategy of New York State's multifaceted approach to suicide prevention is creating suicide safer communities. Suicide safer communities may be created through:

- Raising awareness of suicide as a public health problem in communities
- Training community members who may come into regular contact with individuals who are at-risk for suicide – or gatekeepers – to identify and assist those who are thinking of suicide. Visit our Training Options page to learn more! (link to page)
- Connecting individuals with mental health and suicide prevention services in their communities and marketing free services such as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
- Developing and strengthening strategic partnerships to advance suicide prevention among all populations at risk
- Creating and strengthening county suicide prevention coalitions that are positioned to select and implement suicide prevention initiatives that target the needs of their local communities
- Improving data collection on causes and circumstances surrounding suicide deaths so that data may be used to inform local suicide prevention efforts

You can learn more about prevention efforts and access resources by visiting the Suicide Prevention Center of New York State.

Resource Spotlight:

A new Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit was developed by the Reproductive Mental Health Team at Project TEACH, a program funded by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH).

Project TEACH supports perinatal and pediatric clinicians across New York State in delivering quality mental health care. Designed as a practical clinical resource, this brief toolkit is an evidence-based instrument that can be used in perinatal mental health decision-making.

To maximize its value, Project TEACH encourages clinicians to use this toolkit alongside Project TEACH's full range of services, including our:

1. Consultation services where clinicians can ask general questions or discuss clinical cases in real time with perinatal psychiatrists and psychologists.

2. Perinatal mental health training programs that include professional credits and are offered at no-cost.

3. Referral assistance to identifying appropriate community mental health programs for those you serve.

4. Project TEACH services can be accessed by calling our warmline: 1-855-227-7272 (Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., excluding federal holidays).

You can also learn more about Project TEACH and find additional tools and resources on our website: www.ProjectTEACHny.org

Individuals interested in pursuing further training in perinatal mental health may be interested in the following scholarship opportunity:

Postpartum Support International (PSI): Perinatal Mental Health Certification Program (PMH-C)

For New York State Medical and Mental Health Professionals

The Perinatal Mental Health Certification (PMH-C) is a professional credential offered by Postpartum Support International (PSI). Individuals with PMH-C designation have acquired specialized perinatal mental health education and passed a national certification exam. It signifies they possess the competency to best support individuals, their partners and families experiencing perinatal mental health disorders. This Project TEACH scholarship aims to encourage NYS providers to pursue certification and reduce financial barriers to certification in perinatal mental health.

Click here for more information, including frequently asked questions about eligibility, timeline, and directions to apply.

Deputy Commissioners' Corner

NYS Office For People With Developmental Disabilities: Cross Systems Training Initiative

In March 2026 the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy selected New York as one of the six core states for a fourth year to participate in National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network initiative. This initiative provides technical assistance to states that will enhance on-going systems change efforts and provider transformation. After a very competitive selection process, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, and Tennessee were also named core states.

This technical assistance award is a result of a collaborative effort between the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to research and develop a specialized training program for staff on how to foster a supportive work environment that accommodates the needs of people with serious mental illness, neurodevelopmental disabilities, and co-occurring conditions.

This training program will include an overview of serious mental illness, common intellectual and developmental disabilities and typical characteristics associated with those diagnoses, an overview of common psychiatric diagnoses and typical characteristics associated with those diagnoses, an overview of integrated care approaches to support people who are dually diagnosed, an overview of functional communication skills and understanding behavior as communication, and basic mental health first aid training to empower staff to build stronger support systems in the workplace.

A multi-disciplinary work group has been formed to research existing trainings, and to compile and evaluate ten major subject areas for inclusion in a curriculum. In 2027, the ten subject areas will be further broken down into curriculum module topics in consultation with a curriculum developer and subject matter experts from OMH, OPWDD, universities, provider associations, non-profit advocacy organizations, and NEON.

Of primary importance is a curriculum designed for employment specialists in New York to assist them in an understanding of significant mental illness and developmental disabilities and offer practical approaches to solving some of the challenges people face in finding and maintaining employment.

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: Delivering Sources of Strength OMH Suicide Prevention Center of New York (SPCNY)

The Office of Mental Health through its Suicide Prevention Center of New York announces funding to implement Sources of Strength in high schools across the state.

Sources of Strength is a school-based suicide prevention program. It trains students as peer leaders and connects them with mentoring adult advisors at school and in the community. The goal is to build protective influences and reduce the likelihood that vulnerable youth die by suicide.

Please see the RFP document for full details and funding information:
https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/rfp/2026/spcny/index.html

New York State Department of Education Funding Opportunity: MBK Family and Community Engagement Program (FCEP) 2026-2030

The purpose of the FCEP is to increase the academic achievement and college and career readiness of boys and young men of color. Many schools and districts are faced with the challenge of how to develop and sustain effective relationships with families toward the goal of increasing student success. Teachers, Principals and School District leaders identify family engagement as one of the most challenging aspects of their work. When narrowing the scope of this ongoing concern to the issues of boys and young men of color, it is not only an issue of engaging and connecting to the immediate family, but to the extended family and the larger community.

Please see the RFP document for full details and funding information:
https://www.nysed.gov/funding-opportunities/rfp-199-mbk-family-and-community-engagement-program-fcep-2026-2030

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



