

## Chautauqua Tapestry Raises Mental Health Awareness and Demonstrates Program Strengths

In 2015, Chautauqua was awarded a four-year Expansion Cooperative Agreement to build, develop and expand a comprehensive system of care in Chautauqua County by focusing on sustainable financing, cross-agency collaboration, the creation of policy and infrastructure, and the development and implementation of evidence-based and evidence-informed services and supports. The initiative is known as the Chautauqua Tapestry Expansion Initiative, or simply "Tapestry." The purpose of this program is to improve mental health outcomes for children and youth (ages 4 - 21 years) with serious emotional disturbances and their families. Expansion adds regional and statewide focus as well as connecting to other systems of care nationally.

CCSI's Chautauqua County based staff were busy with a broad array of activities in recognition of Mental Health Awareness month:

- On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Chautauqua Tapestry along with Compeer, hosted their 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Ribbon Gala to raise awareness for mental health and to respect and value people with mental health needs. Families and service providers have the opportunity to interact at this free event which included a potluck dinner, door prizes, Chinese auction, games and more.
- Chautauqua Tapestry offers a partner newspaper campaign in May to their partners in the community. Each partner is offered a discounted ad rate for a "full page" center ad and their logo is featured around the border for the entire month of the campaign. The ads are printed in the Dunkirk Observer and the Jamestown Post Journal. They had over 25 different community partners participate this year.
- Their team had information tables at multiple health fairs including Pine Valley School, Silver Creek School, and Parent University by Hispanic Success Center.



Tapestry hosted their SAMHSA site visit on May 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> and the site team reported out on the final day the strengths, challenges and recommendations that were identified over the course of their visit. Recommendations will guide planning and technical assistance to enhance the further development of the System of Care.

- The site visit team noted areas of strength including: shared resources, leveraging opportunities, community ownership and participation, connection with State, building sustainable events and trainings, using evaluation strategically, connection with BOCES and Schools, true systemic transformation (vs. temporary services), solid infrastructure, potential for the Program Evaluation Center in development, sustainability throughout all funding decisions, strong community partnerships, and having Family Peers involved in the National Evaluation process.
- Over all sections, the theme for recommendations focused around the opportunity for youth engagement and the development of youth leaders and trainers. There is great potential for this due to the strong partnerships with schools and higher education.

For more information on Chautauqua Tapestry and their events, visit Chautauqua Tapestry's [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, as well as the [Community Alliance for Suicide Prevention on Facebook](#).