

**FAMILY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE and PROGRAM/HR COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Access: Supports for Living Inc.  
and affiliate Envision Coordinated Supports Inc.  
and affiliate The Guidance Center of Westchester, Inc.,  
and affiliate Meaningful NY Initiatives for People with Disabilities, Inc.,  
and affiliate New York Families for Autistic Children, Inc.**

**Location: WebEx**

**Date/Time of Meeting: June 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Attended:** Cheryl Sanza, Board Member and Committee Chair; Melissa Arenas-Dewitt, Board Member; Cheryl Marsh, Board Member; Dan Kurpiel (Committee Participant) and Brian Smidga (Committee Participant)

**Other Attendees:** Thomas Gorman (Community Member) and Dustin Bailey (Community Member)

**Program/HR Committee Attendees:** Melissa Arenas-Dewitt, Frank Hariton, and Cheryl Marsh

**Staff:** Naim Korca, Chief Program Officer; Katariina Hoas, Chief Clinical Officer; Angela Woods, Chief Administrative Officer, Cathey Duryea, Director of Behavioral Health; Rebecca Goodman, Urgent Care Director; Evelyn Magdaleno, Director of IDD Operations NYC—NYFAC; Michele Quigley, Executive Director—MNY; Valerie Litt, IDD Quality Outcome Coordinator; Teresa Maranzano, PROS Specialist; Atif Deen, Self-Direction Broker—MNY; and Courtney Jones, Social Media & Administrative Coordinator

**Recorded By:** Kathryn Taggart, Executive Assistant

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	Cheryl Sanza thanked everyone for attending and suggested a round of introductions, as Program/HR Committee joined the meeting. She then provided a brief background and overview of the committee for the new attendees.	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Report Out on Subcommittees—CCBHC<sup>1</sup>/CMHC<sup>2</sup></b></p>	<p><b>1. Report Out for Westchester County—Naim Korca</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings continue to take place on a bi-monthly basis. As stated in the last meeting, the subcommittee has created a flier and identified a peer advocate in efforts to reach out to community members. During the last meeting in April the following was discussed: Need for more food resources in Mount Vernon, suggestion to partner with Feeding Westchester to have a pantry at 256 Washington. Need for better communication about community services available in the area, at TGCW and more generally. More availability of MetroCards at programs would be helpful. Discussed need for more resources to support adult literacy and helping program staff to better support participants with literacy difficulties, for example when completing program paperwork. Need for more recreational space and community centers in Mount Vernon. Currently youth in particular mostly hang out in street corners after school and don't have enough safe spaces to go to.</li> <li>• However, staff are having trouble with linking individuals to services and resources.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Report Out for Orange and Sullivan Counties—Cathey Duryea &amp; Valerie Litt</b></p> <p>The committee brainstormed different events that participants could attend, such as: volunteering at a food bank or starting a food bank at the residential programs; volunteering at a park; or creating a community newsletter with events and news. Valerie Litt plans to have meetings held earlier in the day to allow Day Habilitation members to participate. Their next meeting is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>3. Report Out for Dutchess County PROS<sup>3</sup>—Teresa Maranzano</b></p> <p>Teresa Maranzano visited each PROS site on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Overall, the participants feel they do not have many supplies, such as art supplies and access to computers, compared to other sites. Ms. Maranzano has spoken to the IT Department to inquire about new computers or tablets for participants to use during program hours. Katariina Hoaas will follow-up with leadership to see what type of devices they can provide.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

<sup>2</sup> Community Mental Health Clinic

<sup>3</sup> Personalized Recovery Oriented Services

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p><b>4. Report Out for Ulster County—Rebecca Goodman</b></p> <p>The committee of individuals met in May and discussed the need to make their building more client centered. They agreed to create art projects, which they hope to display at Ulster County building in the near future.</p> <p><b>5. Report Out for NYC—Evelyn Magdaleno and Michele Quigley</b></p> <p>Evelyn Magdaleno reported that NYFAC staff presented on Family Support Funds. Many families expressed their frustration with the Front-Door process as well as the lack of accessibility to tips and strategies on how to make the process easier. Michele Quigley stated that Self-Directed staff are focusing on improving ways to lead individuals to potential job opportunities. They hope to establish a relationship with Simply Home Company, for potential employment opportunities.</p>	
<b>Other Business</b>	In closing, Brian Smidga requested that all subcommittees email him the meeting invitations, so he can attend whenever possible.	
<b>Board Committee Meeting—2024 Schedule</b>	<p>Current schedule in place:</p> <p>September 10<sup>th</sup> - virtual and in-person option</p> <p>December 3<sup>rd</sup> -virtual</p>	
<b>2024 Outreaches</b>	<p>Mr. Korca suggested the committee discuss dates for the below 2024 outreaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urgent Care Center in Kingston</li> <li>• PROS-TGCW, PROS-Millbrook</li> <li>• Youth ACT in Goshen</li> <li>• HONOR for outreach to the homeless</li> </ul> <p>An email will be sent between Mr. Korca and Ms. Sanza to discuss dates that will be shared with committee participants.</p>	<p>Kathryn Taggart, Executive Assistant will email Mr. Korca and Ms. Sanza—  <b>Complete by 6/25/24</b></p>
<b>CARF<sup>4</sup></b>	Angela Woods provided a brief overview of the 5-Year Accessibility Plan. According to the 2024 Performance Measurement Plan, The Accessibility plan is briefed to the Family Community Advisory Committee annually. Although Ms. Woods reviewed	

<sup>4</sup> Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	the nine focus areas, discussion focused on Transportation. Consensus was that people receiving services across the network struggle with accessing transportation. Community Participants expressed their inability to access public transportation in Long Island and the boroughs, while people in Hudson Valley struggle to afford reliable transportation. Atif Deen stated he is often left to wait outside in the cold when waiting for public transportation, and Dustin Bailey would like to see a vehicle program for participants, which might include affordable vehicles for auction.  Ms. Woods thanked everyone for their feedback and will take it back to the team.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The Family Community Advisory Committee meeting adjourned on June 18, 2024, at 6:58p.m.	

7/30/24

Minutes Approved on 7/31/24



Thomas Buchanan, Board Chair  
 Access: Supports for Living Inc. Board of Directors

**FAMILY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Access: Supports for Living Inc.  
and affiliate Envision Coordinated Supports Inc.  
and affiliate The Guidance Center of Westchester, Inc.,  
and affiliate Meaningful NY Initiatives for People with Disabilities, Inc.,  
and affiliate New York Families for Autistic Children, Inc.**

**Location: WebEx**

**Date/Time of Meeting: September 10, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Attended:** Cheryl Sanza, Board Member and Committee Chair, Dan Kurpiel (Community Committee Member), and Brian Smidga (Community Committee Member)

**Committee Members Excused:** Cheryl Marsh (Board Member) and Melissa Arenas-Dewitt (Board Member)

**Staff Present:** Katariina Hoaas, Chief Clinical Officer; Cathey Duryea, Director of Behavioral Health; Rebecca Goodman, Urgent Care Director; Evelyn Magdaleno, Director of IDD Operations NYC; Valerie Litt, IDD Quality Outcome Coordinator; Teresa Maranzano, PROS Specialist; Ben Davis, Director of Integrated Services; Atif Deen, OPWDD Certified Self-Directed Services Broker; Andrew Thomas, ESSHI Supported Housing Coordinator; Kathryn Taggart, Executive Assistant and Courtney Jones, Social Media & Administrative Coordinator

**Recorded By:** Tanya L. Polkowska, Administrative Assistant

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	Katariina Hoaas thanked everyone for attending, and requested a round of introductions.	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Report Out on CCBHC/CMHC<sup>1</sup></b></p>	<p>Ms. Hoaas announced that Access was recently awarded NYS CCBHC<sup>2</sup> Demonstration Model for Ulster County.</p> <p><b>1. Report out for Westchester County—Ben Davis</b></p> <p>Mr. Davis reported that the subcommittee meeting was held on August 16, 2024. Due to the low attendance, a plan was made to reach out to community members for additional participation in the upcoming meetings. In addition, there was a discussion on healthy recreational opportunities within lower Westchester, including how the committee can coordinate and rally with the community to enhance opportunities for further engagement of the program.</p> <p><b>2. Report out for Ulster County—Rebecca Goodman</b></p> <p>Ms. Goodman reported that the subcommittee last met in July 2024, with the next meeting to be held on September 11, 2024. During the meeting there was a discussion on the various services provided, i.e., Mobile Health. Various ideas were presented for participation such as a client art exhibit, Farmers Market, etc.</p> <p>The Kingston program received a \$500 donation by a local thrift store within the community.</p> <p><b>3. Report out for Orange and Sullivan Counties—Andrew Thomas</b></p> <p>Mr. Thomas reported that the subcommittee met on September 3, 2024, with very positive participation. Clients were very excited to attend and to feel a part of the community. Discussion included the ‘Deerfield Newsletter’ that was created for the clients, which includes various events, as well as a spotlight on clients that wish to share their stories. Two guest speakers— Patti Archiere and Marianne Cheney from the Development Team—spoke about the upcoming Picnic in the Park.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Community Mental Health Clinic


<sup>2</sup> Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Mr. Thomas will send a copy of the next ‘Deerfield Newsletter’ out to the committee members. In addition, there was a brief discussion on the transportation options for Middletown, including for Deerfield. Dan Kurpiel will attend the next Advisory Committee Meeting for Orange and Sullivan Counties to further discuss transportation options in the geographic area.</p> <p><b>4. Report out for Dutchess County—Teresa Maranzano</b></p> <p>Ms. Maranzano expressed that it has been a bit challenging gathering all of the Dutchess County programs together for the meeting; however, those that did attend expressed the need for additional technology supplies such as iPads, laptops, and discussed Employment Services.</p> <p>In addition, there was a general discussion on how to improve morale. The subcommittee will work on holding meetings in a more generalized location to increase in-person participation.</p> <p><b>5. Report out for NYC—Evelyn Magdaleno</b></p> <p>Ms. Magdaleno reported that the subcommittee met on August 27, 2024. Due to changes in leadership, meeting participation did drop; however, they will work on bringing the numbers back up for both staff and clients. Atif Deen has been supportive and is committed to actively working with the subcommittee. During this meeting, they discussed the importance of reviewing policies, consent forms, etc. In closing, the subcommittee is working towards creating a video focused on the rights for people who receive services.</p>	
<p><b>Report Out on August 13, 2024 Outreach</b></p>	<p>The committee members provided positive feedback from the Kingston Outreach. Cheryl Sanza stated, “The artwork created by the clients used to decorate the location was found to be a most pleasing addition, making for a very welcoming atmosphere.”</p> <p>The one concern noted was the need for more staffing. Ms. Hoaas stated that the NYS CCBHC Demonstration Model award for Ulster County would provide funding to increase the space as well as the staff.</p>	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>Next Meeting</b>	The last meeting for the year will be held on December 3, 2024 via WebEx.	
<b>2024 Outreach</b>	October 2024 Outreach confirmed by the committee: Youth ACT—Goshen, NY. The team will begin to plan with Rae Rivera, Family Services Director.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The Family Community Advisory Committee meeting adjourned on September 10, 2024, at 5:48pm.	

10/25/24

Minutes Approved on 10/30/24

  
Thomas J. Buchanan, Board Chair

**FAMILY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Access: Supports for Living Inc.  
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and affiliate Meaningful NY Initiatives for People with Disabilities, Inc.,  
and affiliate New York Families for Autistic Children, Inc.**

**Location: WebEx**

**Date/Time of Meeting: December 3, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Attended:** Cheryl Sanza, Board Member and Committee Chair and Dan Kurpiel (Community Committee Member),

**Other Attendees:** Thomas Gorman (Parent)

**Committee Members Excused:** Brian Smidga (Community Committee Member), Melissa Arenas-Dewitt (Board Member), and Cheryl Marsh (Board Member)

**Staff:** Katariina Hoaas, Chief Clinical Officer; Angela Woods, Chief Administrative Officer; Cathey Duryea, Director of Behavioral Health; Valerie Litt, IDD Quality Outcome Coordinator; Ben Davis, Director of Integrated Services—TGCW; Atif Deen, OPWDD Certified Self-Directed Services Broker—Meaningful NY; Andrew Thomas, ESSHI Supported Housing Coordinator, Monica Leiter, ESSHI Clinical Director; Kathryn Taggart, Executive Assistant; and Courtney Jones, Social Media & Administrative Coordinator

**Staff Excused:** Naim Korca, Chief Program Officer

**Recorded By:** Tanya L. Polkowska, Administrative Assistant

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	Katariina Hoaas thanked everyone for attending and asked Cheryl Sanza if there were any new participants. Ms. Sanza confirmed there were no new participants and called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Valerie Litt provided a brief description and update on CQL<sup>1</sup>, as it relates to all IDD<sup>2</sup> Programs. She explained the overall purpose and importance of the CQL Accreditation and the formal recognition it provides by setting a very high standard for programs.</p> <p>CQL is worldwide and seeks quality improvements for the people we serve by focusing on specific areas in ones life. In 2024, IDD focused on ensuring individuals are engaged in learning and knowing their rights. This is accomplished by identifying Personal Outcomes Measures (POMS). Data collected by these measures led to improvement in personal plans as well as confirmed that IDD is moving in the right direction when it comes to the people we serve living their best life. In closing, Ms. Litt stated Access received no recommendations and are awaiting the official two-year accreditation.</p>	
<p><b>Report Out on CCBHC<sup>3</sup>/CMHC<sup>4</sup></b></p>	<p><b>1. Report out for Orange and Sullivan Counties—Monica Leiter</b></p> <p>Ms. Leiter reported that the subcommittee met on November 19, 2024. Attendees were very engaged in discussions related to Thanksgiving, as well as other various activities, which included community-based activities. One community-based activity in particular will take place tomorrow, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Enterprise Day Habilitation Program will be Christmas Caroling at the Galleria at Crystal Run shopping mall in Middletown, NY. Many individuals as well as staff will participate in this event from both IDD and Behavioral Health.</p> <p>Ms. Leiter also spoke about a group that focused on SAD<sup>5</sup> and how it affects many people during the winter and holiday season. The group identified coping skills to</p>	

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<sup>1</sup> Council on Quality and Leadership

<sup>2</sup> Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

<sup>3</sup> Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

<sup>4</sup> Community Mental Health Clinic


<sup>5</sup> Seasonal Effective Disorder

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>manage stress and feelings of sadness, depression, loneliness, etc. Resources were provided to all whom attended.</p> <p>During this meeting, individuals expressed their frustration over staff turnover. A discussion took place about preference on how they would like to receive notice of staff leaving. Many stated they prefer to know sooner than later to allow for closure.</p> <p>Lastly, a hairdresser of a person who resides at Deerfield Commons has agreed to provide services at their location on Tuesdays, during the holiday season at a 50% discount for the clients.</p> <p><b>2. Report out for Westchester County—Ben Davis</b></p> <p>Mr. Davis reported that the subcommittee meeting was held on October 18, 2024. Staff along with five participants enjoyed conversation and pizza. There was a lively discussion on recreational activities within the area and the lack of space for activities, particularly in Mount Vernon. The subcommittee discussed putting together a proposal for a recreation center in the community that would offer opportunities to engage in community-based activities. Some proposed activities included, games, social groups, workout equipment, community services, etc.</p> <p>The other geographical areas will be reporting out during January’s meeting.</p>	
<b>Abilibee Launch</b>	<p>Ms. Hoaas introduced Abilibee a mobile app, which has been launched by Abilities First. The app is designed to help children and adults with IDD and their families and advocates navigate the complicated systems of support in New York State. Committee members were provided two links to access the app and the media release from Spectrum News.</p>	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>2025 Board Committee Meetings and Outreaches—Planning</b></p>	<p>The committee discussed future Meetings and Outreaches. All agreed on two outreaches for 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth ACT<sup>6</sup> in Goshen, NY, early Spring 2025</li> <li>• Day Habilitation in Coxsackie, NY early Fall 2025.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Sanza requested subcommittees share their 2025 meeting schedules with committee participants. All agreed the quarterly schedule via WebEx is working and will remain the same for 2025.</p> <p>In closing, Dan Kurpiel suggested the topic of Autism in Adults. Ms. Litt agreed a presentation on this topic would be interesting and offered to reach out to the Jay and Carol Anthony Foundation for Autism Support, Inc., in Middletown, New York, to request availability for a presentation to the Family Advisory Community Committee.</p> <p>Discussion on 2025 Goals will take place at the next committee meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2025.</p>	
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>The Family Community Advisory Committee meeting adjourned on December 3, 2024, at 5:45 p.m.</p>	

12/4/24

Minutes Approved on 12/11/2024

  
 Thomas Buchanan, Board Chair

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<sup>6</sup> Assertive Community Treatment

# FAMILY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Access: Supports for Living Inc.  
and affiliate The Guidance Center of Westchester, Inc.,  
and affiliate Meaningful NY Initiatives for People with Disabilities, Inc.,  
and affiliate New York Families for Autistic Children, Inc.**

**Location: WebEx**

**Date/Time of Meeting: February 18, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Attended:** Cheryl Sanza, Committee Chair and Board Member

**Committee Members Excused:** Dan Kurpiel (Community Committee Member), Brian Smidga (Community Committee Member), Melissa Arenas-Dewitt (Board Member), and Cheryl Marsh (Board Member)

**Staff:** Katariina Hoaas, Chief Clinical Officer; Cathey Duryea, Director of Behavioral Health; Atif Deen, OPWDD Certified Self-Directed Services Broker—Meaningful NY; Monica Leiter, ESSHI Clinical Director; Evelyn Magdaleno, Director of IDD Operations—NYFAC; Teresa Maranzano, PROS Specialist; Kathryn Taggart, Executive Assistant; and Courtney Jones, Social Media & Administrative Coordinator

**Staff Excused:** Naim Korca, Chief Program Officer;

**Recorded By:** Tanya L. Polkowska, Administrative Assistant

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	Katariina Hoaas thanked everyone for attending. For those joining for the first time, there was a round of introductions.	
<b>Report Out on CCBHC<sup>1</sup>/CMHC<sup>2</sup></b>	Ms. Hoaas reported that the Mental and Substance Abuse Urgent Care Centers in Middletown, Newburgh, and Kingston have served 14,795 unique individuals since opening in May 2019.	

<sup>1</sup> Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

<sup>2</sup> Community Mental Health Clinic

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p><b>1. Report Out for Ulster and Greene County—Cathey Duryea</b></p> <p>Ms. Duryea reported that Chaya Ruben—Clinical Team Leader, OTNY, will be taking over as lead for the subcommittee in Ulster County.</p> <p>There have been no subcommittee meetings; however, with the new lead, meetings are expected to resume.</p> <p>Ms. Duryea explained that several years ago, the Ulster County government obtained ownership of the building that houses the Kingston clinic and urgent care.</p> <p>Ulster County has a plan to create a wellness center to support members of the community. Along with the Access Network programs, there is a substance use recovery organization and another group is currently building a crisis stabilization program on the first floor of the building. In addition, within the next six months, a clinic will move in to the third floor.</p> <p>Ms. Hoaas stated that seeing Ulster County’s vision come to fruition in serving every element of the members of the community has proven to be a very exciting one. Once all is up and running, the agencies and programs will be working fluently with one another towards integration of care.</p> <p><b>2. Report Out for Orange and Sullivan Counties—Monica Leiter</b></p> <p>Ms. Leiter reported that the subcommittee met and discussed the importance of Renters Insurance. Activities were also discussed, such as Valentine’s Day, Arts &amp; Crafts, BINGO, and Movie Nights. The individuals who live in the affordable housing programs hosted two of the activities, with positive outcomes/feedback.</p> <p>Ms. Leiter also reported that, of their monthly newsletters, one of the sites had a spotlight on clients called PAWS<sup>3</sup>, this entails a photo of the client and a description on how that pet has provided support to the individual.</p>	

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<sup>3</sup> Pets are Wonderful Supports

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p><b>3. Report Out for NYC—Evelyn Magdaleno</b></p> <p>Ms. Magdaleno stated that Atif Deen is the new co-chair for NYC subcommittee, and she reported they are working on the schedule for meetings to be held throughout 2025.</p> <p>Ms. Magdaleno also reported that NYFAC was contacted by the NYC Police Department and informed that NYFAC has again, been selected along with one other agency to be the recipients of this years’ Annual Walk for Autism donations. A save-the-date flyer will be forthcoming with registration information. Access staff participated in the 2024 event, which was an overwhelming success.</p> <p><b>4. Report Out for Duchess County PROS<sup>4</sup>—Teresa Maranzano</b></p> <p>Ms. Maranzano reported that in 2024 she traveled to most of the PROS programs for the report out to present to the Advisory Committee. There were challenges in coordinating with IDD<sup>5</sup> Services. This year, the aim is to have a more centralized meeting either in-person or virtually. In the event this proves to be difficult for the various programs, Ms. Maranzano will travel to the various PROS programs as performed in 2024.</p> <p>There was discussion about how positive the subcommittees have been for the clients and how pleased the individuals are to share concern and have their voices heard. This is especially true with PROS.</p> <p>Ms. Magdaleno shared how the subcommittees have heightened awareness of the people we support that and how it has sparked the NYFAC individuals to participate in the creation of the ‘Rights Video’ which also included groups from Orange County. The “Rights Video” from CQL<sup>6</sup> to be shared with the committee.</p>	

<sup>4</sup> Personalized Recovery Oriented Services

<sup>5</sup> Intellectual and Development Disabilities

<sup>6</sup> Council on Quality Leadership

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>2025 Goals Discussion</b>	Kathryn Taggart screen-shared the Goals of the Family Community Advisory Committee. There was a discussion and minor edits made to the goals. It was decided that the revised goals would be sent to the committee to review and recommendations made will be reviewed by the committee during the May 20 <sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting.	
<b>2025 Board Committee Meetings and Outreaches—Planning</b>	<p>The committee discussed future Meetings and Outreaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth ACT<sup>7</sup> in Goshen, NY Spring/Summer 2025</li> <li>• Day Habilitation in Coxsackie, NY Summer/Fall 2025.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Taggart announced the retirement of Valerie Litt. Prior to leaving Ms. Litt reached out to the Jay and Carol Anthony Foundation for Autism Support, Inc. in Middletown, New York, and the Foundation has agreed to a presentation to the Family Advisory Community Committee. The committee will plan for a Fall/Winter 2025 presentation.</p> <p>Ms. Sanza expressed an interest in Outreach to Millbrook PROS, as well as the Center for College and Careers in Westchester.</p> <p>Ms. Taggart suggested, in lieu of an outreach, an opportunity to attend one of the subcommittee meetings held in Orange and Sullivan Counties. Ms. Sanza concurred and recommended working with the committee members to schedule.</p>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The Family Community Advisory Committee meeting adjourned on February 18, 2025, at 5:40pm.	

4/30/25

Minutes Approved on 4/30/25

  
 Liz O'Halloran, Board Chair

<sup>7</sup> Assertive Community Treatment

# FAMILY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Access: Supports for Living Inc.  
and affiliate The Guidance Center of Westchester, Inc.,  
and affiliate Meaningful NY Initiatives for People with Disabilities, Inc.,  
and affiliate New York Families for Autistic Children, Inc.**

**Location: WebEx**

**Date/Time of Meeting: May 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Attended:** Dan Kurpiel (Community Committee Member)

**Committee Members Excused:** Cheryl Sanza, Board Member and Committee Chair; Brian Smidga (Community Committee Member), Melissa Arenas-Dewitt (Board Member) and Cheryl Marsh (Board Member)

**Staff:** Naim Korca, Chief Program Officer; Katariina Hoaas, Chief Clinical Officer; Monica Leiter, ESSHI Clinical Director; Evelyn Magdaleno, Director of IDD Operations—NYFAC; Ben Davis, Director of Integrated Services—TGCW; Kathryn Taggart, Executive Assistant; and Courtney Jones, Social Media & Administrative Coordinator

**Recorded By:** Tanya L. Polkowska, Administrative Assistant

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	Naim Korca thanked everyone for attending and called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.	
<b>Report Out on CCBHC<sup>1</sup></b>	Mr. Korca provided an update on the New York State Budget and the impact of Federal actions. He stated the NYS Budget FY <sup>2</sup> 2026 has been approved effective April 1, 2025, inclusive of a 2.6% targeted inflationary increase, not restricted. He spoke about the VAP <sup>3</sup> , which provides supports for people with substance abuse disorder. Although VAP was not included in the FY 2025 budget, it was able to	

<sup>1</sup> Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

<sup>2</sup> Fiscal Year

<sup>3</sup> Vocational Assistance Program

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>continue due to emergency funds secured by the governor's office. There is approximately \$81 million for the program that is restored into the budget.</p> <p>TGCW should receive funding after July 30, 2025. This is the deadline for existing monies secured in 2024. In Mr. Korca’s opinion, the biggest loss in the budget is the rejection of OMIG<sup>4</sup> reform. OMIG has a formula when reviewing a chart and finding it or a portion to be non-compliant, a percentage is extrapolated. This can result in large programs having to payback a huge amount of money to the state.</p> <p>Mr. Korca announced a change to some of the criteria regarding involuntary admission to the hospital for psychiatric clients; making it easier to admit someone against their will. However, Psychiatrists have always had the ability to admit someone in the inpatient unit, if deemed necessary. The Federal Government has set the goal of \$880 billion savings over 10 years in healthcare. This will be achieved by restrictions around Medicaid. There will be changes as to who qualifies for Medicaid and related requirements. For example, if one is able bodied, can the individual work, or if you do have Medicaid, you will need to work. In addition, recipients will have a co-pay of \$35. These changes will limit the number of people utilizing healthcare services.</p> <p><b>1. Report out for NYC—Evelyn Magdaleno</b></p> <p>The subcommittee met in early April where Atif Deen, Self-Direction Specialist conducted a presentation on Meaningful NY and Self-Directed Services. Ms. Magdaleno informed the committee that the meetings are set to move from 12 p.m. to later in the afternoon, allowing for other folks who attend the supplemental program the opportunity to participate. She stated that the meeting was interactive, with participants asking questions. The participants generated a list of topics that will be presented at future meetings. Participants are pleased with the provided services.</p>	

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<sup>4</sup> Office of Medicaid Inspector General

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Most participants are primarily enrolled in Day Habilitation programs who have access to Family Support Funds.</p> <p><b>2. Report out for Westchester County—Ben Davis</b></p> <p>The subcommittee meeting was held on 4/11/25. Mr. Davis provided updates, which included TGCW programs and participation in the NAMI<sup>5</sup> walk. Participants shared how they learned about TGCW services, and strategized how to inform the community about services. One participant in supported education, shared information on how their school (Mercy College) could do a better job informing students about support services available. Another participant shared their experience of feeling isolated moving to Westchester during COVID; the participant learned about TGCW from a flyer, connected to the CCC<sup>6</sup> program, and felt connected to others for the first time. Mr. Davis provided flyers during the subcommittee for distribution in the community.</p> <p><b>3. Report out for Orange and Sullivan Counties—Monica Leiter</b></p> <p>The subcommittee meeting included individuals from Bella Vista and Temple Hill affordable housing sites. During this meeting, a presentation was made on self-care and its importance to the mind, body, and soul. This is especially important as we move into the nice weather. There was a discussion on the considerable amount of activities; Temple Hill is planning a comedy night for their clients, with the clients’ participation. Deerfield had a poetry night, and Bella Vista had a similar activity. Clients have participated in walking clubs, as well as a numerous amounts of crafts and activities continue to be offered. Enterprise Day Habilitation has an upcoming basketball tournament. In closing, clients expressed their excitement in the participation of “Rally in the Valley” event, which took place at Boulders Stadium in Rockland County.</p>	

<sup>5</sup> National Alliance on Mental Illness


<sup>6</sup> Center for College & Careers

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p><b>4. Report out for CCBHC—Katariina Hoaas</b></p> <p>Ms. Hoaas shared a message received by a Veteran seeking service. The message was as follows:</p> <p><i>“You have placed me in the best possible situation with the best possible people for me. George, who is a veteran engagement specialist, is amazing, and so is everyone at the program in Middletown. For the first time, I feel hopeful for the future, and as a dad. Thank you so much.”</i></p> <p>The Behavioral Health Leadership team have been working on the accreditation of the CCBHC in preparation of the New York State demonstration designation, which is expected to go on effect on July 1st. Earlier today, staff from the Office of Mental Health visited Kingston and spent over six hours interviewing staff, reviewing services, and agreed with a start date of July 1, 2025. In addition, the release of the \$267,000 of startup money is expected to be released within the next few weeks.</p> <p>In closing, Mr. Korca stressed the importance of the Sub-Committees, ensuring that leaders include as many individuals, as possible. Feedback is key to improving the quality and services.</p>	
<b>2025 Goals Discussion</b>	<p>As per meeting held in February, all committee members/participants received a copy of the goals electronically. The goals had tracked changes, which were discussed during that meeting. All committee members agreed to the changes, but agreed further work on the Charter needed to be done. As a result, a meeting has been scheduled in June with Mr. Korca and Ms. Magdaleno where they will review and provide suggestions for the next meeting scheduled on September 16, 2025.</p>	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>2025 Board Committee Meetings and Outreaches—Planning</b>	The committee reviewed the remaining meeting dates for 2025 and potential Outreaches. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth ACT<sup>7</sup> in Goshen, June/July, Summer 2025</li> <li>• Future Presentation—Anthony Family Foundation for Autism Support - Fall 2025</li> </ul>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The Family Community Advisory Committee meeting adjourned on May 20, 2025, at 5:43 p.m.	

6/23/25

Minutes Approved on 7/30/25

  
 Liz O'Halloran, Board Chair

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<sup>7</sup> Assertive Community Treatment

# FAMILY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Access: Supports for Living Inc.  
and affiliate Envision Coordinated Supports Inc.  
and affiliate The Guidance Center of Westchester, Inc.,  
and affiliate Meaningful NY Initiatives for People with Disabilities, Inc.,  
and affiliate New York Families for Autistic Children, Inc.**

**Location: WebEx**

**Date/Time of Meeting: September 16, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Attended:** Cheryl Sanza, Board Member and Committee Chair; Brian Smidga (Community Committee Member), and Dan Kurpiel (Community Committee Member)

**Committee Members Excused:** Melissa Arenas-Dewitt (Board Member) and Cheryl Marsh (Board Member)

**Staff:** Naim Korca, Chief Program Officer; Katariina Hoaas, Chief Clinical Officer; Evelyn Magdaleno, Director of IDD Operations—NYFAC; Ben Davis, Director of Integrated Services TGCW; Andrew Thomas, ESSHI Supported Housing Coordinator; Bella Rehberg, IDD Quality Outcome Coordinator; and Kathryn Taggart, Executive Assistant

**Recorded By:** Tanya L. Polkowska, Administrative Assistant

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	Naim Korca brought the meeting to order at 5:00pm. He asked for a round of introductions. Bella Rehberg, IDD Quality Outcome Coordinator introduced herself and will be attending this committee meeting regularly.	
<b>Report Out on CCBHC<sup>1</sup></b>	Mr. Korca briefly discussed NYS budget concerns and a possible Government shut down may take place on October 1, 2025.  He also reviewed the location areas of Access: Network by presenting a geographic map. The catchment areas range from just below Albany to the tip of Long Island. The locations were further broken down by services, which included Behavioral	

<sup>1</sup> Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Health, Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, Access: Business Solutions, and Community-based programs.</p> <p><b>1. Report out for NYC—Evelyn Magdaleno</b></p> <p>A meeting was held on September 16<sup>th</sup> between Ms. Magdaleno and Atif Deen to discuss agenda items for the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Subcommittee Meeting. Ms. Magdaleno stated the agenda will include outreach efforts, how to recruit additional people, stress reduction, mental health, and self-care. The last quarterly Subcommittee for 2025 will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> and will include discussion on strategies and achievements over the course of the year.</p> <p>Chery Sanza asked Evelyn what outreach efforts they have made to enlist more members for the NYC Subcommittee. Ms. Magdaleno stated the subcommittee have sent out flyers to family and community members. In addition, the subcommittee has reached out to Board of Education, District 75 schools. In closing, Ms. Magdaleno informed all that the subcommittee meeting time has changed to 3:00 pm in order to allow Day Habilitations members to attend.</p> <p><b>2. Report out for Westchester County—Ben Davis</b></p> <p>A meeting was held in mid-July. The participating members were from various programs throughout TGCW<sup>2</sup>. Mr. Davis stated there was a lot of positive feedback on peer support and their experiences with the Peer Specialists. Members who attend PROS<sup>3</sup> were delighted that the program hired a female therapist. In addition, there was a discussion on hiring challenges, and finding relatable support. Mr. Korca asked Mr. Davis if the subcommittee member would like to present at an event, which is taking place at the Mount Vernon location on October 10<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>3. Report out for Orange County—Andrew Thomas</b></p>	

<sup>2</sup> The Guidance Center of Westchester, Inc.


<sup>3</sup> Personalized Recovery Oriented Services

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Deerfield held their Subcommittee meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments were served, which helped make the meeting environment more inviting to participants. The agenda included a discussion on improving customer experience. Members expressed how they would like interactions with staff to be in the future. This included staff visits to their homes.</p> <p>There was a discussion on notification of client deaths; clients informed of privacy issues, how it effects the sharing of information. Subcommittee discussed creating a video chronicling various events and experiences through the years to include those that have passed away.</p> <p>Mr. Thomas reported that various events were held at the affordable housing sites, since the committee last met. These included flower and vegetable planting, movie nights and, during hot days, flavored ices were shared with the community. The Subcommittee is taking steps to include the community on various events, and asking for their input on future occasions.</p> <p>Ms. Sanza asks if clients are offered the opportunity to attend the services of the clients that have passed. Mr. Thomas responded by stating the cases where the family is willing to share with the community, clients are informed of the death, and details of service location, etc. is provided. In cases where there are no services, programs will organize a type of memorial service, which may include the planting of a tree, or something meaningful for the individuals, like a celebration of life.</p>	
<p><b>Review 2025 Goals and Charter</b></p>	<p>Mr. Korca provided a brief summary of the Goals and Charter. He asked committee members and participants if there were any further suggestions. All agreed of the tracked changes. Mr. Korca stated the changes would be accepted and finalized.</p>	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>2025 Board Committee Meetings and Outreaches—Planning</b>	<p>The committee discussed the Outreach to Youth ACT<sup>4</sup> in Goshen on July 15, 2025. All agreed the program space gave a sense of warmth and togetherness. A few children and staff attended. They enjoyed refreshments together.</p> <p>The committee discussed the below Presentations and Outreaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 2, 2025—Bella Rehberg provide a brief overview of POMS (Personal Outcome Measure).</li> <li>• Future Outreach for 2026—Youth REACH</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Business</b>	Ms. Sanza reminded all about the annual Picnic in the Park, which will be held on Saturday, October 4 <sup>th</sup> at Heritage Park. Mr. Korca informed all that transportation would be arranged for those that wish to attend.	
<b>Preparation for Reporting to Boards</b>	There are no agenda items to report to the Boards.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The Family Community Advisory Committee meeting adjourned on September 16, 2025, at 6:05pm.	

10/21/25

Minutes Approved on 10/29/25

  
 Liz O'Halloran, Board Chair

<sup>4</sup> Assertive Community Treatment

# FAMILY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Access: Supports for Living Inc.  
and affiliate Envision Coordinated Supports Inc.  
and affiliate The Guidance Center of Westchester, Inc.,  
and affiliate Meaningful NY Initiatives for People with Disabilities, Inc.,  
and affiliate New York Families for Autistic Children, Inc.**

**Location: WebEx**

**Date/Time of Meeting: December 2, 2025 at 6:15 p.m.**

**Committee Participants Attended:** Melissa Arenas-Dewitt (Board Member & Committee Member), Frank Hariton (Board Member), and Dr. Dean Scher (Board Member)

**Committee Members Excused:** Cheryl Sanza, Board Member and Committee Chair; Brian Smidga (Community Committee Member), Dan Kurpiel (Community Committee Member), Cheryl Marsh (Board Member), and

**Staff:** Katariina Hoas, Chief Clinical Officer; Angela Woods, Chief Administration Officer; Ron Colavito, Chief Executive Officer; Thomas Schacor, IDD Program Director, Site-Based Services—NYFAC; Ben Davis, Director of Integrated Services—TGCW; Andrew Thomas, ESSHI Supported Housing Coordinator; Atif Deen, OPWDD Certified Self-Directed Services Broker—Meaningful NY; Monica Leiter, ESSHI Clinical Director; Bella Rehberg, IDD Quality Outcome Coordinator; Allison Horan, Sr. Vice President of Staff & Communications; and Kathryn Taggart, Executive Assistant

**Staff Excused:** Naim Korca, Chief Program Officer

**Recorded By:** Tanya L. Polkowska, Administrative Assistant

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	Katariina Hoas brought the meeting to order and asked for a round of introductions. All welcomed Board Members who participate in the Program/HR Committee along with Thomas Schacor, IDD Program Director, Site-Based Services—NYFAC.	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Report Out from Subcommittees<sup>1</sup></b></p>	<p><b>1. Report out for Orange and Sullivan Counties—Monica Leiter and Andrew Thomas</b></p> <p>In October, Jessica Perk-Alvarez provided a presentation on QPR<sup>2</sup> Suicide Prevention, which was well received by the members. There was also continued discussion on invisible disabilities, which has been a focus of the subcommittee for the last six months, which has included a training. The trainings have proven to be most helpful to the members in dealing with the loss of a friend, loved one, etc.</p> <p>Mr. Thomas reported that a community member has offered to conduct a workshop series on “Budgeting Matters” for upcoming committee meeting, possibly in January/February 2026. Some other items discussed, the program will be installing a suggestion box so that the people we serve can share their thoughts. In addition, there was discussion around having a “COOK OFF”, which would include comfort and healthy foods. As the Holiday Season approaches, participants are going to do holiday crafts like wreaths, stocking decoration, and ornamental design.</p> <p>Ms. Leiter shared that a donation of books received has allowed for the creation of a library. Ms. Hoaas offered to donate books and magazines.</p> <p><b>2. Report out for Westchester County—Ben Davis</b></p> <p>The last subcommittee meeting was held on October 17<sup>th</sup> and attended by an individual from one of the housing programs. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive regarding experiences with TGCW, since being released from incarceration and placed in a housing program in Westchester.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

<sup>2</sup> Question, Persuade, Refer

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>The individual was provided with information for TGCW services. In addition, they discussed strategies to get the word out about TGCW’s newer early childhood mental health services.</p> <p><b>3. Report out for NYC—Thomas Schacor</b></p> <p>Member Atif Deen now co-leads the Sub-Committee with Evelyn Magdaleno, and Thomas Schacor.</p> <p>Subcommittee met quarterly for 2025, with open forums held for members to discuss topics of interest, which were identified, and included how they can highlight their accomplishments and how to cope with changes/managing stress.</p> <p>With that feedback, an achievement wall was launched where individuals received a certificate of achievement highlighting their accomplishments. There will be an update to this Wall every three months.</p> <p>In one of the subcommittee meetings, there was a review recognizing stress and discussion around different types of stress management techniques that members were able to share with one another.</p> <p>In 2025, the subcommittee updated afterschool flyer and shared it internally with all NYFAC families (approximately 100) and externally with schools - transition coordinators in 25 different schools in Queens.</p> <p>Subcommittee attended the following fairs in 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brooklyn Family Support Fair— June 2025</li> <li>• JFK High School Transition Fair— November 2025</li> </ul>	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held an open house at NYFAC in November 2025 where families, transition coordinators, Care Managers all attended (15-20 families who have loved ones graduating from DOE<sup>3</sup> next June looking for DH WOW<sup>4</sup> program)</li> </ul> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent workshop at I.S 281- April 2025- Introducing person-centered language, characteristics of the population, and shared tips and strategies on topics such as how to facilitate language, empower people to make informed decisions, and how to be proactive vs. reactive. From this workshop, met a family member- Victoria Kaminsky who works as a “Borough Instructional Specialist” for Brooklyn’s Transition &amp; College Access Centers and in May 2025, 75 - 100 middle and high school special education teachers, guidance counselors and/or school administrators (Brooklyn-based). Topics included- HCBS Waiver Services NYFAC offers and obtaining eligibility.</li> <li>• Parent workshop at New Utrecht High School- October 2025 (same topics as presentation at I.S. 281)</li> <li>• Presentation at Midwood High School in November 2025 on overview of IDD services, OPWDD Eligibility and Self-Direction.</li> </ul> <p>Community Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 2025—Walk for Autism with NYPD (over 100 participants of the community, 10 internal families present)</li> <li>• October 2025—NYFAC Field Day huge hit, fun day filled with different types of physical games/activities, 10-15 families present</li> </ul>	

<sup>3</sup> Department of Education

<sup>4</sup> Day Hab Without Walls

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Other updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to our ongoing community outreach, they successfully added another Pre-Vocational site Meals on Wheels—every Friday they are distributing meals to community members in need throughout Queens.</li> <li>• The NYFAC foundation has chosen one NYFAC’s Day Habilitation member to be the Grand Marshall for the Salvation Army Toy Run.</li> <li>• We are set for our last subcommittee meeting of 2025- December 9<sup>th</sup> with one major item in the agenda being seeking feedback of the achievement wall, anything that the subcommittee feels should be updated.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>POMs<sup>5</sup> Presentation by Bella Rehberg, IDD Quality Outcome Coordinator</b></p>	<p>Presentation covered various aspects to provide a description of POMs and CQL<sup>6</sup>.</p> <p>CQL collaborates with human service organizations to provide tools to define, measure, and improve quality of life and quality of support for people with intellectual, developmental, and psychiatric disabilities.</p> <p>POMs is a person-centered assessment tool used to determine and improve the quality of life and services for individuals with IDD by understanding their personal goals, hopes, and dreams. The five factors of POMs are Community, Human Security, Relationships, Choices, and goals.</p> <p>CQL utilizes the Personal Outcome Measures as a tool that assists individuals to talk and share what matters most in their lives.</p> <p>Overall, the presentation provided details of how these two key tools work in tandem.</p>	

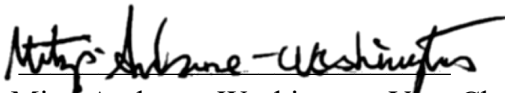
<sup>5</sup> Personal Outcome Measures

<sup>6</sup> Council on Quality and Leadership

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>Board Committee Meetings and Outreaches—Planning</b>	This item will be discussed during the next Family Community Advisory Committee Meeting, which is scheduled on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.	
<b>Other Business</b>	There was no other business discussed.	
<b>Preparation to Reporting to Boards</b>	There were not items to report to the Boards.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The Family Community Advisory Committee meeting adjourned on December 2, 2025, at 7:06 pm.	

12/9/25

Minutes Approved on 12/10/25

  
 Mitzi Ambrose-Washington, Vice-Chair