

Central New York Regional Interagency Technical Assistance Team

Mission: The CNY RITAT is a committed team, comprised of several regional state agency offices, which strives to ensure optimal regional communication and coordination of various New York State agency initiatives which are designed to address the health and well being of children and their families in the Central New York Region.

History: The CNY RITAT was originally formed in 1993/4, when the Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (CCSI) was launched, and its focus was strictly CCSI. Initial membership included SDSS, OASAS, DPCA, DFY, OMH and occasionally SED. Regional offices for the Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives have since been eliminated.

Membership: CNY RITAT mirrors that of the Commissioners' Committee in most respects and includes, Office of Mental Health (OMH), OMH Parent Advisors, Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), Department of Health (DOH), and Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). As our efforts to engage State Education Department (SED) over the years were unsuccessful, BOCES staff was invited to represent the education system.

Purpose: The Team serves as a liaison between the Commissioners' Committee and the CNY Region with regard to improving cross systems collaborations. The Team is committed to sharing information and delivering quality technical assistance and consultation to agencies and counties which will enable them to achieve better outcomes for children, youth and families.

Over the years, both the purpose and membership of the Team evolved well beyond the single focus of CCSI. As collaborative initiatives grew at the state level, it was evident that leadership and resources at both the state and county level were necessary. Collective and shared knowledge and expertise of the team are used to maximize efforts, avoid duplication and help support evidence-based programming.

Meeting Agenda: The standard agenda at monthly meetings includes updates from the Commissioners' Committee and its sub-committees followed by member updates about collaborative initiatives and/or agency-specific initiatives such as School Based Health Centers, Integrated County Planning (ICP), CCSI, ACT (Assets Coming Together) for Youth, Healthy Families, B2H, Obesity prevention, tobacco control, early intervention, cross systems training (OASAS/OMH, OMRDD/OMH, OCFS waiver) and others. County specific discussions follow and may include areas of concern and potential strategies to address technical assistance needs. Collaborative decision making and problem solving have proven to be the most effective and successful assets for the CNY Team.

Accomplishments: Recent accomplishments include a June, 2009 Regional Forum, held on behalf of the Commissioners Committee, which involved over one hundred participants from 12 counties. Leaders from six State agencies were involved. A CCSI Regional Forum on best practices held in Utica in November, 2008 involved over forty representatives from 13 counties. Seven state agencies participated, including several Commissioners, who shared information on the Commissioners Committee. The Team recently provided technical assistance and training to

3 counties to enable them to either reestablish or strengthen CCSI. For 8 years, with its annual allocation of training funds, the CNY RITAT has supported parent advocate training for 20 counties with a focus on skill development to help families navigate across systems for needed services.

Projects undertaken over the years include convening CCSI coordinators, coordinating and delivering CCSI training, convening ICP counties, reviewing RFPs as a team, promoting training (Youth Development, Communities That Care, Search Institute) and sponsoring training such as 3 regional *Bridges out of Poverty* training sessions. In addition, cross-agency efforts have been used to provide specific technical assistance, training and consultation to individual and/or groups of agencies or counties.

Team members continue to share valuable educational opportunities for providers, training resources, relevant legislative updates, policy changes and funding resources with each other and with counties.

Hudson River Region RTAT

Agreed upon core values and principles:

Strength-based, family-driven, unconditional care, culturally competent, individualized, needs/outcome driven, team supported, community-based, focused on transitions.

Primary Focus/Objectives:

1. **Act as a system's level conduit (Community- RTAT – Commissioner's Committee).**
Provide information, systems issues and needs between various structures
2. **Gather and formalize systems issues.**
When appropriate present systems issues to Children's Committee. RTAT will encourage County Tier II (or Systems of Care) to formulate systems issues including supporting data, needs and possible recommendations or strategies.
3. **Support and sustain cross systems initiative (PBIS, MH/JJ, etc)**
Assist in supporting new initiatives and integrating into system of care framework. This includes social marketing, training support and sustainability.
4. **Provide technical assistance for Statewide Children's System of Care.**
Provide training, guidance and support for county systems of care.
5. **Training, technical assistance and social marketing**
Promote System of Care practices and principles.
 - Identify regional training needs
 - Organize training and technical support for Hudson River Region.
 - Identify a "training consortium" for Hudson River Region
6. **Forum for children who require out of home placement or returning from placement and have "Complex Needs ("Hard to Serve")**
Create a process to review, support, and plan for children with complex needs that are "Hard to Serve".

RTAT Membership:

Hudson RTAT consists of New York State Tier III Representatives; State CCSI Director, Regional OFCS, OMRDD, MH, SED/VESID, OASIS and DOH representatives; CCSI Coordinators; and county Family Support organizations.

Long Island Regional Technical Assistance Team

The Long Island Regional Technical Assistance Team (RTAT) meets every 6 weeks in person and the LI DDSO office. **Our team** consists of members who represent regional offices of NYS Agencies, including but not limited to:

- OMH
- OMRDD
- OASAS
- NYSED
- CCFS

Representative from: Nassau County Department of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency, & Developmental Disabilities, Nassau County Family Support System of Care, Suffolk County Department Of Mental Hygiene Services, in addition Parent to Parent – Family Service League, SPOA, Long Island Families Together, Long Island Parent Center, North Shore Child and Family Guidance, Long Island Communities of Practice.

The team is co-chaired by:

- **Maryann Braithwaite** – Associate Director of Children and Youth – NYS OMH
- **Helene Fallon** – Long Island Parent Center, funded through NYS SED/VESID and hosted by Just Kids Early Childhood Learning Center.

Our guiding principles are to stay solution focused, facilitate communication and collaboration across systems, agencies and organizations. Establish relationships between Tier I, II, and III (RTATs)

Our short term goals include:

- Identify challenging situations with “hard to serve”, “hard to place” and “disconnected youth” cases and brainstorm with the team to find solutions that will improve outcomes.
- Develop a cross-systems training that will include the protocol for accessing all services.
- Outreach to all agencies and organizations to distribute information and get feedback with regard to successes and best practice or challenges and barriers they may be encountering.
- Bridge all tier levels to assure regional participation from all child serving agencies.

Mission Statement – The LI-RTAT recognizes the challenges families face raising children with multiple needs. We foster collaboration across systems to ensure access to services that are family driven and outcome oriented.

Overview of NYC's Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (CCSI) Citywide Oversight Committee (COC)

Mission: The purpose of the COC is to provide a vehicle for cross-system collaboration between New York City and New York State child serving agencies, Borough Based Councils (BBCs), family members and youth for the purpose of improving the social and emotional well being of children and youth through implementation of the New York State Children's Plan within New York City's system of care. The COC works to advance the core values and principles of the system of care within NYC. Issues that cannot be resolved at the borough level are forwarded to the COC for discussion and resolution or referral to the appropriate agency or forum for further consideration. The COC may also refer issues to the BBCs for consideration and action.

Membership: The COC is comprised of representatives from the city and state child-serving agencies; family members or caregivers of children and youth with serious emotional or behavioral challenges who are currently being served or have been served by the System of Care; youth with emotional or behavioral challenges who are or have been served by the System of Care; co-chairs of the BBCs; and parent leadership representation and child advocacy organizations.

Leadership: The COC is lead by 5 co-chairs that include: one family member, one youth, one senior representative from the NYC DOHMH, one senior representative from the NYS OMH and one senior representative of either the Mayor's Office or other city or state agencies represented on the COC.

Accomplishments:

- **Cross-system collaboration** where COC members meet monthly to address identified system level issues and support the implementation of the System of Care core values and principles within their agency or organization.
- **Family and youth serve as full partners** to share the experiences and needs of families and youth served by the System of Care, and facilitate problem solving at the program and policy levels.
- **Training** provided by the Children's Coordinated Services Initiative on Family Network Model of Care Coordination and family engagement to clinicians, case managers, family advocates, supervisors and other staff from child serving systems in NYC including, mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice, and education.
- **Workgroups** developed to address annual priorities identified by the BBCs and the COC. In 2009 the mentoring workgroup released a report recommending actions to improve and increase accessibility of mentoring services for youth with mental health challenges. This resulted in working with a consultant to create a specialized mentoring curriculum to improve training for program supervisors and mentors to better meet the needs of youth with behavioral and mental health challenges.
- **Creation of workgroups as a result of a NYC Children's Plan Roundtable Discussion** where participants developed NYC specific cross-system action plans in alignment with the NYS Children's Plan focused on two priority populations, children 0-5 years old and transition age youth (TAY) 16-25 years old. As a result 5 workgroups

were identified to carry out the following goals by January 2011: determining skill set and support for youth to transition into adulthood; strengthening housing for TAY; improving access to information about TAY services; establishing a cross system youth voice; and addressing early childhood trauma.

Western Region RTAT

(June 17, 2010)

Invited: Family Support Programs, County and Program Youth Leaders, MH Directors, CSPOA, Three Children's Psychiatric Centers, OCFS Region I & II, DOH, State Ed, OASAS Region I & Region II, OMRDD Finger Lakes & Western Region, CCSI Coordinators, OMH Children & Family Team (4), Have invited all OMH programs in Western Region

Participants: Majority of Family Support Programs, Several Youth Leaders, Appearances by MH Directors, 2 Children's Psychiatric Center, Region I OASAS occasionally, OMRDD Finger Lakes & Western Region, CCSI Coordinators, OMH Children & Family Team

Meetings: Held 2x a year, but in 2009 only one was held. Meeting location has changes to accommodate the "farther" counties and programs.

RTAT Lead: Jean M. Sadowy, LMSW, C & F Field Coordinator of the Western Region FO

Focus of RTAT:

- Identify regional barriers and address creative solutions
- Albany representatives attend to address changes in OMH and update from council and CCSI
- Trainings form OMR, VESID, OCFS – would research trainings and provide free to attendees
- Networking and relationship building
- Cross-System Issues and Barriers
- Systems Education
- Technical Assistance for SPOA and CCSI