

Albany County Mental Health Board Strategic Plan

Vision

The Albany County Mental Health Board seeks to coordinate efforts with partners in the county to promote a broad range of effective, data driven, evidence informed services within the community representing a continuum of care designed to promote the healthy mental development, as well as increasing the access to mental health programs, for all individuals of Albany County.

Mission

The mission of the Albany County Mental Health Board is to provide guidance and expertise to criminal justice professionals, as well as other community partners that may have interactions with those with mental health concerns, with the goal of effectively serving and protecting those individuals with mental health issues, their families, and the Albany County community.

Core Values

The core values that guide the Albany County Mental Health Board in their endeavors are such that we believe in:

- Promoting cost effective, as well as data-driven supported services/treatments for mental health within the community.
- Promoting the healthy mental development of individuals in our community, which requires a continuum of care that includes prevention, intervention, and treatment.
- Promoting evaluation, continuous improvement, and careful monitoring of the effectiveness of mental health services.
- Promoting individualized interventions that utilize the least restrictive method, while protecting public safety, including alternatives to the criminal justice system.
- Promoting a system in which all stakeholders and partners should have the opportunity to collaborate and provide input to develop creative and innovative approaches.
- Promoting a system that allows for timely access to services for all in need.
- Promoting collaboration to identify the best solution for individuals in the community, while recognizing the rights of individuals.

Goals

1. Services and Programming
 - a. Examine the reinstatement of the CIT model in the community (September 1, 2018).
 - b. Explore the feasibility of a Mental Health Court (November 1, 2018).
2. Continuum of Care
 - a. Identify and address the gaps in the Continuum of Care as it relates to Mental Health Services in Albany County.

- i. Complete a needs assessments that identifies assets/needs related to mental health and how the community plans on addressing those gaps in services (December 31, 2018).
 - ii. Identify and develop an effective services inventory to address the needs of mentally ill individuals.
 - 1. Identify best practices in terms of all levels of care (June 1, 2019).
 - iii. Develop effective services to address gaps in continuum of care and continue to monitor for effectiveness (October 1, 2019).
 - 1. Identify funding streams to support additional services and/or evaluation.
 - 2. Locate expertise from other parts of the state or country on effective services.
 - 3. Identify priorities in terms of services and what is available both in the county and regionally.
 - 4. Evaluate the feasibility of expanding partnerships to include regional services.
 - b. Analyze program capacity, prioritize programs within the continuum of care, and create contingency plans (including alternate programs, implement waiting lists, and restricting referral qualifications) if existing programs reach capacity or experience reduced capacity due to funding reductions (September 1, 2019).
- 3. Processing
 - a. Develop strategies to increase participation and communication among stakeholders (November 1, 2018).
 - b. Identify and develop a plan, including protocols and process, regarding the flow of mental health services in Albany County (December 1, 2018).
 - i. Develop Objective Criteria as it relates to Mental Health services in the County.
 - ii. Examine the feasibility of shared case management/single point of entry for cases involving mental health issues.
 - c. Develop a plan, including protocols and process, regarding coordinating acute care for mentally ill individuals coming into contact with the criminal justice system at any level (September 1, 2018).
- 4. Education and Training
 - a. Provide education and training to stakeholders, including criminal justice professionals and the community on mental health issues and effective ways of handling interactions with mentally ill individuals (begin November 2018 and then on-going).
 - b. Solicit feedback to outline interests and needs for future trainings (on-going).
 - c. Provide information to members of mental health board of training opportunities (on-going).
 - d. Continue to explore different avenues for public relations opportunities regarding board activities (Identify at least one activity quarterly).
 - e. Provide bi-annual training to those criminal justice personnel new to the county (June and December).

5. Legislative/System Changes
 - a. Identify possible changes to state statute regarding Title 25 as it relates to involuntary commitments and Title 7 (September 1, 2018).
 - b. Examine alternatives to the criminal justice system for the mentally ill, including possible diversion options (January 31, 2019).
6. Data
 - a. Utilize data to identify effectiveness of those programs being utilized by the county for individuals that enter the criminal justice system (begin in January 2019 and then on-going).
 - b. Outline data elements necessary to identify program effectiveness, as well as flow of information (March 1, 2019).
 - i. Develop protocols, data element definitions, and measures of effectiveness.
 - ii. Determine procedures and practices for data access.
 - iii. Establish time frame, nature of, and responsible party for data reports.
7. Sustainability
 - a. Create a sustainability plan for various mental health services utilized in the county (December 31, 2019).
 - b. Identify strategies/program elements that can feed resources back into programming (December 31, 2019).
 - c. Identify applicable grant opportunities (on-going).