



## OSWEGO COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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**TO:** Leg. Tim Stahl, Vice Chair; Leg. Tom Drumm; Leg. Nathan Emmons;  
Leg. Daniel Farfaglia; Leg. James Karasek; Leg. Bradley Trudell

**FROM:** Leg. Roy Reehil, Chair

**SUBJ:** **SPECIAL Human Services Committee Meeting**

**DATE:** March 9, 2018

**Thursday, March 15, 2018**  
**1:40 p.m.**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room "E"**  
**County Office Building**

### **SPECIAL MEETING - AGENDA**

(Tentative)

1. Resolution authorizing the execution of a memorandum of understanding with Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. (OCO) Runaway and Homeless Youth

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

March 15, 2018

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH OSWEGO COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES, INC. (OCO) RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH**

By Legislator Roy Reehil:

WHEREAS, OCO is applying for a U.S. Department of Health & Human Services grant to continue to fund and provide transitional living and other services for homeless young adults within Oswego County whom are between ages 16-22 years old; and

WHEREAS, OCO has operated transitional living for homeless young adults since 1990 through its Program to Assist the Teenage Homeless (PATH) and the partnerships with the County of Oswego's departments have contributed to the program's success; and

WHEREAS, the minimum HHS grant award is \$100,000 and the maximum annual award is \$283,322 and the deadline is April 5, 2018; and

WHEREAS, there is no county fiscal contribution by the county for this grant but departments have committed through the annexed Memorandum of Understanding to continue to support the PATH program through existing services to allow OCO to be eligible for this funding stream;

WHEREAS, a resolution is both necessary and desirable,

NOW, THEREFORE, upon the recommendation of the Human Services Committee of this body; it is hereby

RESOLVED, that this body supports OCO's efforts in providing services for runaway and homeless youth; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the participating county departments be and are hereby authorized to execute the annexed Memorandum of Understanding.

ROLL CALL

YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between **Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.** (hereinafter referred to as *OCO*) and its collaborative partners (hereinafter referred to as *Partners*) who agree to collaborate and work together to enhance and support effective strategies for successful transition to sustainable living for runaway and homeless youth ages 16 to under 22 in Oswego County.

**WHEREAS**, OCO is a nonprofit agency providing runaway and homeless youth services to youth and families in Oswego County since 1991; AND

**WHEREAS**, OCO specifically provides transitional living services to runaway and homeless youth through **OCO Program to Assist the Teenage Homeless (PATH)**; AND

**WHEREAS**, OCO and Partners have a long history of working together to address the needs of runaway and homeless youth that began in the late 1980's when the first Runaway & Homeless Youth (RHY) Taskforce was developed; AND

**WHEREAS**, the Partners listed in this MOU continue to be members of the RHY Taskforce and/or have a keen interest in assuring the delivery of quality, appropriate services to runaway and homeless youth; AND

**WHEREAS**, the established connections amongst Partner agencies is strong and has been recognized by State and Federal program monitors as well as local government; AND

**WHEREAS**, the Partners listed herein recognize the high needs related to runaway and homeless youth in Oswego County; AND

**WHEREAS**, the Partners have a history of successfully working with OCO to refer and coordinate services to runaway and homeless youth; AND

**WHEREAS**, Partners support working with **PATH** to increase young people's safety, wellbeing, and self-sufficiency; AND

**WHEREAS**, OCO and Partners desire to enter into this MOU outlining the role of each collaborative Partner in supporting services to runaway and homeless youth.

### **NOW THEREFORE, OCO AND PARTNER AGENCIES AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING ROLES FOR EACH PARTNER AGENCY:**

- **Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.** facilitates the county's RHY Taskforce and is a member of the Oswego County Safe Harbour Taskforce. OCO is a collaborative partner in the Onondaga / Oswego / Cayuga Continuum of Care (CoC 505). *Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. (OCO)* will serve as the lead agency for the purpose of this application and agrees to administer and maintain direct oversight of all fiscal responsibility of grant funds for the grant period. OCO will be responsible for monitoring contracts, including activities, under the grant in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, OMB circulars and guidelines and the OVW Financial Grants Management Guide. OCO will be responsible for oversight of spending and monitoring specific performance measures and outcomes attributable to the use of HHS funds.

- **PATH** is the sole provider of transitional housing services for RHY in Oswego County. PATH builds relationships with homeless youth to assist them in moving off the streets and adjusting to safe and appropriate living arrangements where they can become self-sufficient, contributing members of their community and eventual transition to safe, stable housing. PATH will continue to work with these partners to develop and implement cooperative efforts to identify and provide services for RHY
- **Youth Emergency Services (YES!)** provides crisis intervention, outreach, emergency shelter, advocacy, case management, connection to resources, and aftercare. YES! provides 24-hour access to RHY programming through a crisis hotline (877-342-7618). YES! will continue to provide RHY services in Oswego County as described and facilitate the county's RHY Taskforce and attend the Safe Harbour Taskforce meetings to develop and implement a coordinated response to exploited and/or trafficked RHY in Oswego County
- **Health Education** provides info, referral and direct services concerning STD and HIV education and testing; pregnancy prevention activities; peer counseling; and connection to health insurance enrollment navigators and reproductive health centers
- **Services to Aid Families** provides trauma-informed supportive counseling for those who have experienced sexual assault or domestic violence; residential services for victims; offers education, outreach and advocacy to both youth and staff on topics such as bullying and harassment; sexual exploitation; safety planning; physical and sexual assault issues; healthy relationships; safety planning. Services result in increased protective factors for primary and secondary victims
- **Youth Clubhouse**, a NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) funded project targeting at risk youth ages 12-21, provides a safe, inviting space that is inclusive for young people to develop pro-social skills that promote long-term health wellness, recovery and a drug free lifestyle, while connecting youth to community supports, increasing youth-adult partnerships and reducing the stigma people in recovery face. Clubhouse operates scheduled drop-in type sessions 5 days weekly, offering a variety of activities and supports for youth and families
- **Farnham Family Services** provides drug abuse intervention and prevention services to prevent or reduce the illicit use of drugs and improve individual's physical and mental health; information and training related to the illicit use of drugs by RHY for the program staff; and activities that improve the availability of local drug abuse prevention services to RHY promoting their safety and wellbeing
- **Fulton and Oswego City Police Departments** provide peace and security for City of Fulton and City of Oswego respectively through law enforcement, criminal investigations, and emergency response. These law enforcement agencies support juvenile justice, safety and wellbeing for all community residents including RHY
- **Fulton and Oswego City School Districts** are the two largest districts in the county and highest referral sources of RHY. Both districts provide education (including GED Prep, secondary, post-secondary, and vocational education). Also, both districts have a formal partnership with OCO for the provision of homeless services which ensures compliance with McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (as amended)
- **Northern Oswego County Health Services, Inc. (NOCHSI)** is a patient-centered network of health care practices providing a variety of comprehensive health care and related services. NOCHSI operates health centers in Fulton and Oswego plus 4 additional locations in

Oswego County as well as 6 school-based health centers. NOCHSI will continue to provide youth with a variety of comprehensive health/dental care and related services and agrees to accept and make referrals for services, and provide direct support to RHY when applicable and appropriate

- **Oswego City-County Youth Bureau** coordinates and administers youth programs throughout Oswego County. The Youth Bureau Director is the designated RHY Coordinator for Oswego County by NYS Office of Children and Family Services to assist in the coordination of service planning and grant oversight for NYS RHY funding. The Youth Bureau will continue to serve as the RHY Coordinator for Oswego County and participate in coordination of services for RHY and continue to identify and assess the needs and intervention strategies of RHY
- **Oswego County Department of Social Services** provides Public Assistance, Food Stamps and other entitlement programs including programs under the Personal Responsibility & Work Opportunity Act of 1996 that will assist youth in obtaining basic need so they can achieve their full potential and be self-sufficient; also administers Child Protective Services (CPS), the local child welfare services. The DSS Mental Hygiene Division oversees connection to and delivery of mental health services which alleviate the problems that contribute to a youth who may runaway or become homeless; resolves intra-family problems; reunites youth with their families when appropriate; and helps them decide upon a future course of action
- **Oswego County Probation Department** supports juvenile justice through probation and pre-trial supervision; supports and assists with youth goals in conjunction with terms of probation promoting safety and wellbeing; approves appropriate youth to participate in programming
- **Oswego County Workforce NY** provides job training through WIOA programming that assists in the development and implementation of a job readiness plan, including education and assistance with getting & keeping a job, resume writing, interviewing skills and appropriate work attire, promoting self-sufficiency. Allows access to the One Stop Career Center for self-guided learning

**AND, OCO and Partners further agree to:**

- Work together to integrate and coordinate services for homeless youth participating in **PATH**; AND
- Accept referrals to provide applicable and appropriate services for runaway and homeless youth involved in OCO's PATH;
- Share information necessary to adequately communicate about cases for proper coordination of services with appropriate releases of information in place signed by PATH participants.

This agreement executed to be in effect from May 1, 2018 – September 29, 2021, upon successful funding of the grant application, with the undersigned having read and agree to this MOU.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Cooper-Currier, Executive Director  
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.  
Representing the following programs:  
➤ Program to Assist Teenage Homeless  
➤ Youth Emergency Services (YES!)  
➤ Services to Aid Families (SAF)  
➤ Health Education ➤ Youth Clubhouse

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Geoff Baer, MS  
Counseling & Healing Arts of Oswego  
County, Inc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Bresee, Executive Director  
Farnham Family Services, Inc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Orlo Green, Chief  
Fulton City Police Department

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Tory DeCaire, Chief  
Oswego City Police Department

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Pulvino, Superintendent  
Fulton City School District

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Dean Goewey, Superintendent  
Oswego City School District

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Dey, Executive Director, Northern  
Oswego County Health Services, Inc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Chetney, Director  
Oswego City-County Youth Bureau

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Stacy Alvord, Commissioner  
Oswego County Dept of Social Services

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Kolmsee, Director of Community  
Services, Oswego County Mental Hygiene

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Meyer, Director  
Oswego County Probation Department

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Weaver, Employment  
Coordinator, Oswego Co. Workforce NY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_