

2013 Mental Hygiene Executive Summary
Erie County Dept. of Mental Health
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The changes in the environment related to the Affordable Care Act and New York State's Medicaid reform will result in the move to a managed care environment for behavioral health in 2014. The Erie County Department of Mental Health vision for the Erie County is that providers will be working together using person centered practices in support of recovery, where optimally effective services are available in a timely manner to the emerging populations and where Behavioral Health and Physical Health are integrated. In this system of care, providers are focused on working interdependently to reduce imminent risk for out of community placement or bend the trajectory of risk and to ease transitions by removing barriers to care.

Changes are occurring rapidly and there is an urgent need to manage healthcare reform at the local level. There is a short-term opportunity for Erie County, providers, consumers and stakeholders to take advantage of the reform opportunity offered by Health Homes and Medicaid Reform initiatives to demonstrate the value of locally driven systems of care and optimize the positive impact of changes on our local community. A primary goal is to bring together government entities and service organizations to quickly and proactively adapt to changing requirements.

To address this locally Erie County will focus local health reform efforts on:

- **Priority Populations:** Priority participant lists will be developed to reflect those people who are at greatest risk of needing non communitybased services(hospital, jail, homelessness for example)
- **Efficacy of Practice:** The efficacy of clinical practice of the Erie County Behavioral Health system will be attained through practice to outcome models and fidelity to best practices.
- **Access to services:** The capacity of the system will be managed to improve access for the priority population to the right service at the right time for the right reason for the right length of stay.
- **Metrics that Matter:** Data informed practice and data informed structures will be the underpinning of this change initiative to identify high risk/high need populations, track clinical outcomes, and measure the overall performance of the adult system of care with a focus on critical measures as defined by the emerging environment.

Erie County is committed to a healthcare reform “risk reduction” approach that incorporates the provision of services and supports to the right person, right time, right service, for the right outcome, for the right length of time. Since needs related to behavioral health, physical health, arrests, homelessness, and substance abuse are the critical risk factors to be addressed in attaining overall wellness, a significant purpose of of the local system of care is reducing imminent risk or bending the trajectory of risk by removing barriers to care so that people can receive needed services and supports.