

**2009 Mental Hygiene Executive Summary**  
Broome Co Community Mental Health Svcs  
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Broome County is located in South Central New York State. It is bordered by Tioga, Chenango, Delaware and Cortland Counties, and the State of Pennsylvania. The total land area for Broome County is 706 square miles. The County has a central urban/suburban core comprised of Binghamton, Johnson City, Endicott, and Vestal, surrounded by rural villages and towns.

Nearly all of the jobs, services, health care and educational facilities are located in the central urban/suburban area. Once a thriving Manufacturing and Defense Industry community, the last recession hit Broome County particularly hard. An estimated 12,000 well paying manufacturing and industrial jobs were lost in the past decade. Among the county's major employers are: Lockheed Martin Systems Integration, United Health Services, Binghamton University and Maine's Paper and Food Service. Broome County's current unemployment rate is 4.6%.

The total population of Broome County is just under 200,000, with a population density of 283 people per square mile. 2006 Census data reveals that 89.2% of the population is Caucasian, 4.3% African-American, 3.5% Asian, 2.4% Hispanic and .8% other. The County has served as a Refugee Resettlement site for over 3000 Asian, Middle Eastern, African, and Eastern European refugees since 1988.

Census data shows that 12.8% of the population has an income below the poverty level, compared to the statewide rate of 14.6%. The median income is \$35,347, which is below the state median income of \$41,994. Sixteen percent of Broome County's children age 0 – 17 live in poverty. Broome County's elderly population is higher than the State and National averages. According to Census data, persons aged 60 and older represent 20.7% of Broome County's population. The fastest growing population group is those age 85 and up. For those persons age 60 and over, 6.8% live in poverty. Among county residents who were at least 5 years old, 19 percent reported having a disability according to the 2005 US Census Bureau.

Broome County has two Article 28 hospitals, Our Lady of Lourdes and United Health Services, in addition to Broome Developmental Center operated by NYS OMRDD and Greater Binghamton Health Center operated by NYS OMH. The county enjoys two colleges, Binghamton University, and Broome Community College. There are also seven nursing homes within the County.

United Health Services Hospitals (UHS) operates three inpatient psychiatric units. Memorial 5 is a 17-bed locked unit for severely mentally ill patients who may be imminently dangerous to themselves or others. Krembs 5 is a 17-bed specialty unit for patients who have significant medical problems. Many geropsychiatric patients are served on this unit. This unit also has an ECT unit that provides approximately 2500 treatments annually. Krembs 3 is a 22-bed unit that is appropriate for patients who have been successfully stabilized. Although K3 is designed to accommodate less severe patients, it also has an observation room to hold dangerous individuals.

UHS also operates a Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP). CPEP is a mental health crisis service, but in 1998, it also admitted 36% of its clients seen to inpatient hospitals. CPEP has 4 extended observation beds that are used to observe people in crisis for no more than 72-hour stays. CPEP also provides mobile outreach services to people in the community in need of intervention or assessment.

The Greater Binghamton Health Center (GBHC) provides in-patient and comprehensive outpatient services for individuals who are seriously mentally ill. GBHC has six in-patient units: an admissions

unit, an intensive treatment unit, a geriatric infirmary, a geropsychiatric unit, and two extended treatment service units. GBHC maintains a twenty-bed community placement unit for transitional living and a six-bed adult situational crisis program for people who are experiencing a non-psychiatric emergency, but may be facing housing or financial difficulties.

Broome County has a demonstrated history of providing a comprehensive array of innovative services and supports for the citizens of our community with developmental disabilities. A solid partnership has been established among citizens with developmental disabilities, their families and advocates, provider agencies, county government and state government. Broome Developmental Center and the Broome Developmental Disabilities Services Office continue to serve children and adults with developmental disabilities in a six county area which includes Broome County. Many other individuals with developmental disabilities are receiving services and supports through the myriad of private non-profit agencies that operate in our community including the Southern Tier Independence Center (STIC), the ACHIEVE (formerly the Association for Retarded Citizens), Handicapped Children's Association (HCA), Community Options, Catholic Charities, the Sheltered Workshop for the Disabled, Inc. (SWS, Inc.) and others.

There are numerous committees and groups in our County that address the needs and issues effecting individuals with disabilities. Through these venues there is ongoing dialogue and planning surrounding identification of needs, assessment of existing services and the creation of innovative services and supports designed to maximize opportunities for rehabilitation and recovery.

The Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) sub-committee of the Broome County Community Services Board meets monthly, and provides a regularly scheduled forum to address MRDD service needs in Broome County. With the attendance and input of a wide variety of stakeholders including service recipients, families, advocates, service providers, county and state government, the MRDD subcommittee is an excellent example of the partnership planning process at work. Broome County's Local Government Unit also hosts Community Forums for Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Services. This venue provides yet another opportunity to bring stakeholders together to discuss the MRDD services that are being provided in Broome County, to identify service gaps and to brainstorm regarding what services and supports are still needed and desired by our citizens with developmental disabilities.

Planning for Mental Health, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services and MRDD issues in Broome County is a collaborative effort that is done on an ongoing basis through many different venues. The Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ASA) Subcommittee and Professional Advisory Group (PAG) meet on a monthly basis, where much of the planning takes place. The ASA and PAG often invite staff from the State or the community to attend their meetings to gather input or provide information that is relevant to the Chemical Dependency planning process. In addition, various community leaders attend meetings with the State agencies in Albany, and the Commissioner of Mental Health and Deputy Commissioner attend Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors meetings on a regular basis. The ASA Subcommittee reports to the Community Services Board (CSB), where planning and collaborating with the other Mental Hygiene disciplines occur. In particular, much collaboration occurs between the ASA, PAG, Management Council (MC), and the Mental Health Subcommittee. There is also collaboration with the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) Subcommittee and particularly recently, there has been a new focus on the population of consumers (especially children) who have co-occurring disorders in several human service disciplines.

The Providers of Chemical Dependency and Mental Health services have come together in the County's Dual Recovery Project, to work in a collaborative manner in offering much needed services to the Mentally Ill Chemical Abuser (MICA) clients in the County. Many community members also serve on the Homeless Coalition, which is important to consider in the Continuum of Care since many clients with CD, MH, MR and MICA issues often end up homeless. The Homeless

population of Broome County impacts all of the agencies that work together to affect planning for client care, thus the community agencies are committed to the Coalition and having a positive impact on the homeless population. The Client Advisory Board provides consumer input to all of these groups and advises the Commissioner of Mental Health on consumer issues.

The Adolescent Addiction Task Force is a group of providers consisting of members from all disciplines Mental Health DSS, BOCES, Lourdes Youth Services, Community members, Probation, and CD providers. Providers of services for adolescents have come together at the table to plan for and develop a seamless system utilizing existing recovery support resources. The group has written a formal MOU to assure appropriate linkages.

The Mental Health Department is also represented at: the Integrated County Planning; the Coordinated Children's Services Initiative; KYDS Coalition; Children and Youth Services Council; Criminal Justice planning; Road to Recovery, Drug Court and Family Drug Treatment Court planning groups; planning with the Department of Social Services and the Children's MH/MR Co-occurring Disorders Project, Family Violence Prevention Council and others.

All of the stakeholders in Broome County are committed to working together to meet consumer needs and ensure a comprehensive system of care that meets the needs of all of our citizens challenged by chemical dependency issues, mental health issues, and mental retardation and developmental disabilities.