

Grant Outcomes Report

Establishing a Satellite Child Advocacy Center in Allegany County

The Problem:

Under an earlier grant from the New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth), Southern Tier Health Care System opened the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center (STCAC) on September 25, 2007.¹

Located in Cattaraugus County, the STCAC helps children who have experienced physical and sexual abuse from both Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. Soon after services were under way, the STCAC discovered that a majority of abuse cases from Allegany County (80 %) were not brought to the STCAC because of the distance. Travel time from some parts of Allegany County to the STCAC can be 60 to 90 minutes, depending on the weather.

Grant Activities & Outcomes:

The STCAC quickly adopted the goal of better serving children who experience abuse in Allegany County by establishing a satellite STCAC for the County, which would be approved by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and accredited by the National Children's Alliance. The Southern Tier Health Care System received a second grant from NYSHealth to support this initiative.

Under the grant, the Southern Tier Health Care System:

- established a location for the STCAC of Allegany County;
- outfitted the new location with furniture and equipment similar to that located at the STCAC in Cattaraugus County to create a child-friendly atmosphere;
- opened the Center on October 2, 2009 and immediately began offering services;

¹ Southern Tier Healthcare System: Dignity Under Duress - Improving Medical and Social Services for Rape/Sexual Assault & Child Abuse Survivors in Cattaraugus and Allegany County. Available at: <http://www.nyshealthfoundation.org/content/grantoutcome/detail/12242>

KEY INFORMATION:

GRANTEE

Southern Tier Health Care System, Inc.

GRANT TITLE

Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center of Allegany County

DATES

January 1, 2009–October 4, 2010

GRANT AMOUNT

\$116,446

FUNDING

2008 Special Opportunity Grant

- hired and trained a family case coordinator/victim advocate to manage the STCAC of Allegany County and act as liaison between the victim and their non-offending caregivers and multidisciplinary team members; and
- launched a marketing and public relations campaign to announce the opening of the STCAC and to educate local stakeholders about its services.



Despite a slow start during the first three months of operations, the STCAC's Allegany County satellite not only met, but exceeded its expected outcomes with respect to service provisions. Prior to opening the satellite, the STCAC in Cattaraugus County handled approximately 20% of indicated child abuse cases from Allegany County. It expected to increase that number to 50% of all indicated cases in Allegany County. In fact, the STCAC's Allegany County satellite has investigated 75 cases of child physical and sexual abuse since January of 2010. Based on a review of child physical and sexual abuse cases reported to the Allegany County Department of Social Services, the STCAC of Allegany County has handled 78% of all indicated child abuse cases in Allegany County since January 2010.

The Future:

Subsequent to receiving a grant from NYSHealth to start the STCAC's Allegany County satellite, the Southern Tier Health Care System CEO and STCAC Director made several presentations to the Allegany County Legislature regarding the project. In response to those presentations, the Legislature voted to add a \$12,000 line item to the District Attorney's budget for the STCAC of Allegany County. In addition, the STCAC's Allegany County satellite applied for and received a National Child Advocacy (NCA) grant to purchase medical equipment and to train two Allegany County medical providers to provide services at the STCAC.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

Southern Tier Health Care System, Inc. is a three-county rural health care network serving Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties whose mission is to “improve the health and wellness of our rural communities.” It is one of 35 rural health care networks in New York State. Southern Tier Health Care System was established in 1994 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. The organization is member-driven, with a membership that includes hospitals, physician groups, and county departments of health, home care providers, and ambulatory medical care providers. Southern Tier Health Care System performs extensive community outreach and education programs on various general health-related issues, and on specific issues, such as asthma, diabetes, dental health, nutrition and physical activity, tobacco cessation, and developmental disabilities. It is also the lead agency in Cattaraugus County for the State’s Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus insurance programs. As the lead agency, Southern Tier Health Care System has developed a referral system with area hospitals, the Department of Social Services, and other agencies throughout its catchment area to ensure outreach to as many residents as possible.

GRANTEE CONTACT

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NYSHEALTH CONTACT

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GRANT ID

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