

BROOME COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Annual Report 2019

Nancy J. Williams, LCSW-R
Commissioner

Jason T. Garnar
County Executive

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A Message from the Commissioner, Nancy J. Williams, LCSW-R

In 2019 Broome County Mental Health (BCMh) worked to ensure that a continuum of care was available for individuals of all ages who needed services. This was done by working with our existing local and state partners, as well as exploring new partnerships. We continued to advocate with New York State Office of Mental Health, New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports and the New York State Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities for the financial support to ensure that Broome County residents had sufficient licensed programs to meet their needs. In addition, BCMh ensured that the required services as mandated by New York State Mental Hygiene Law were provided and monitored.

Supporting the System of Care philosophy was a key initiative during 2019. BCMh continued to participate in a pilot initiative, *NYS Systems of Care (SOC)*, organized by the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene and the New York State Office of Mental Health. This initiative integrates the High-Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) model with NYS's Medicaid Health Homes Serving Children program for youth and young adults with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), ages 12 to 21 years, with high and complex needs including placement or risk of placement, and their families. This collaborative includes state and local child-serving agencies, family representatives, and youth partners involved with SOC efforts throughout the State.

In 2019, Broome County was one of 15 Counties selected to participate in a research project funded by The National Institute on Drug Addiction, NIDA. This federal grant, one of Columbia's largest ever, brings together Columbia's School of Social Work, the Department of Psychiatry, the Mailman School of Public Health, the Data Science Institute, as well as researchers from Albert Einstein School of Medicine/Montefiore Health System, City University of New York, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York University School of Medicine, University of Miami, and Yale School of Medicine. The goal of this initiative is to reduce Opioid Overdose deaths by 40%. As part of the second cohort in this study, Broome county was provided with planning funds to develop the program infrastructure. Future funding will be provided to contract with area agencies for direct programming.

BCMh, through its local Services Planning process, works collaboratively with community agencies and other stakeholders through our Community Services Board (CSB) to identify barriers to services. In 2019, the CSB was an active and very productive committee. We count on their expertise and support to guide BCMh toward a client focused system of care where consideration for the behavioral health needs of all Broome County residents is the priority.

BROOME COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Broome County Mental Health Department works with service providers at the Local and State level to develop community preventive, rehabilitative, and treatment services offering a continuum of care. The Department provides oversight to improve and expand existing services, and plan for the integration and coordination of care for consumers. The total community need is considered, reflecting the full range of individual need and circumstance, to ensure adequate access to service for the community, and specifically for those who otherwise would not have access to such services.

Mission

The mission of the Broome County Mental Health Department is to plan, organize and oversee a comprehensive continuum of care for consumers of public mental hygiene services in Broome County. The continuum of care will provide for the health and safety of Broome County citizens.

Vision

The vision of the Broome County Mental Health Department includes the following aspects:

Planning: The Department will engage in a participatory planning process to develop mental hygiene services in Broome County that includes government officials, providers, community representatives, and recipients or their families.

Accountability: The Department will ensure that state and/or local oversight mechanisms are in place and that services are delivered in a responsible, efficient manner.

Coordination: The Department will ensure that all mental hygiene service providers in Broome County will coordinate and collaborate for the delivery of services that are responsive to the needs of recipients, including culturally diverse populations.

County Operations: The Department's primary role is to facilitate and oversee the continuum of care for consumers of mental hygiene services in Broome County. The Department will only provide direct services as the provider of last resort.

Partnership with Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI)

The Department partners with Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI) for a full range of services and supports for successful performance/program management, financial management, technical assistance and administrative services.



Community Services Board

Broome County Community Services Board (CSB), a function of NYS Mental Hygiene Law, is comprised of individuals invested in the continuum of care for behavioral health services in Broome County. The Board makes recommendations and suggestions, relative to the operation of services and facilities in all community mental health programs within the purview of the Local Government Unit (LGU), to the Commissioner of Mental Health, County Executive, and/or the County Legislature.

The Board maintains three Subcommittees: Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and People with Developmental Disabilities, each tasked with the same function for the field of services for the individuals represented by the Subcommittee.

The Board and Subcommittees participate in planning for the provision and funding of all community mental health programs and services within the County within the purview of the LGU.

Chair: Donald Bergin

Members: *

Cara Fraser
Michael Hatch
Steve Houser
William Knecht
Rena Kovac
Karen Lawrence
Susan Metzgar
William Parsons
Abbey Pelot
April Ramsay
Robert Russell
Jason Shaw
Kim Taro
Meggan Taylor
Amanda Welch
Susan Wheeler
Jennifer Yaun

Subcommittees

Alcohol & Substance Abuse

CHAIR: Steve Houser

MEMBERS: *

Jill Alford-Hammitt
Donald Bergin
Rebekah Jamison
Elizabeth Jennings
Colleen O'Neil
Pearl Reed-Klein
Susan Wheeler
Jennifer Yuan

Mental Health

CHAIR: Kim Taro/ William

Parsons

MEMBERS: *

Emily Burns
Cara Fraser
Renee Gotthardt
Abbey Pelot
Robert Russell
Lisa Schuhle

People with

Developmental Disabilities

CHAIR: Karen Lawrence

MEMBERS: *

Nicole Cashman
Nicki French
Esther Frustino
Rena Kovac
Nancy Ranger
Meggan Taylor
Amanda Welch

**Individuals served on the Community Services Board or Subcommittee for at least a portion of 2019.*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU) FUNCTIONS

Broome County Mental Health Department, as a Local Government Unit (LGU), is legally required to carry out specific functions pursuant to NYS Mental Hygiene Law. The following section covers those programs and services.

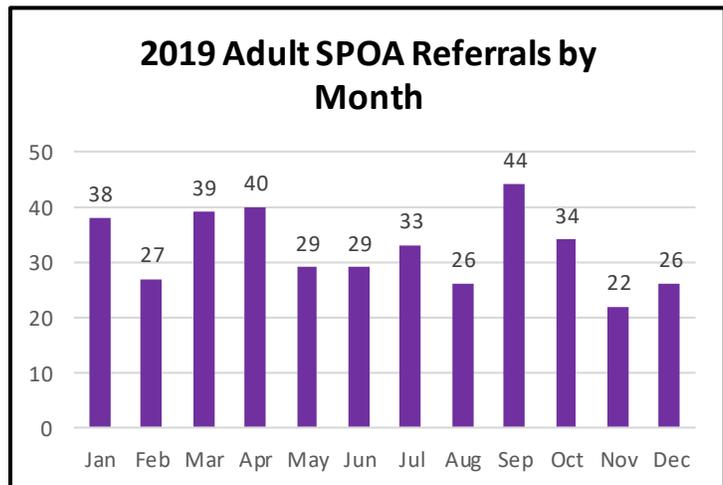
Adult Single Point of Access (A-SPOA)

The A-SPOA program connects adults with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) to the most appropriate care management, treatment, and residential services available in Broome County. The program affords a streamlined, uniform process to match consumer needs with community resources, thereby reducing duplication of services. The A-SPOA Team is responsible for triaging new referrals, tracking enrollment and meeting the immediate needs of clients. In 2019, A-SPOA integrated the Medication Grant Program (MGP) as well as the Forensic Outreach program services into the workflow.

2019 by the Numbers:

A-SPOA: 387 referrals were received and processed by the A-SPOA team. Sixty-six percent of individuals had Medicaid insurance, 17% had both Medicare and Medicaid, and 10% had Medicare only.

MGP: 147 individuals discharged from the jail, state prisons, or inpatient hospitals received immediate temporary Medicaid assistance for psychotropic medication.



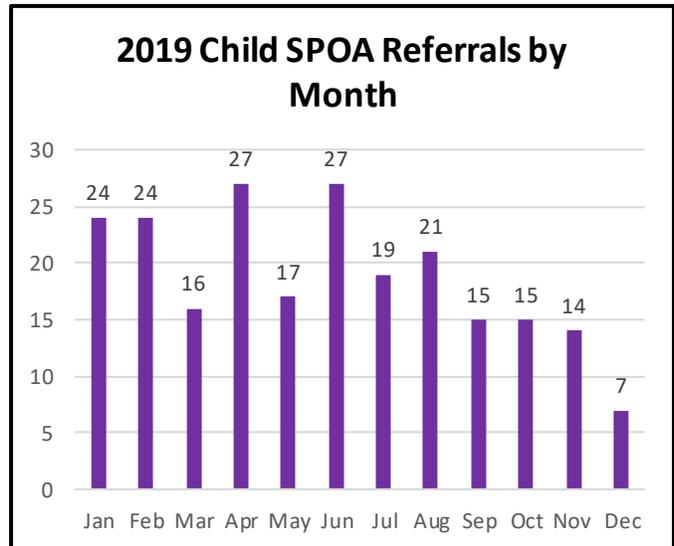
Forensic Outreach Program: 63 individuals with SMI released from NYS Prison to Broome County were assisted to obtain mental health and substance treatment services.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), or Kendra's Law, is a statutory framework to ensure individuals with mental illness and a history of hospitalizations or violence participate in community-based services appropriate to their needs. An individual may be placed on an AOT only if, after a hearing, the court finds the individual has been specific eligibility criteria and the proposed treatment is the least restrictive alternative which will allow the individual to live safely in the community. Additional information can be found [here](#). In 2019, the Department monitored twenty-six individuals under AOT order in Broome County.

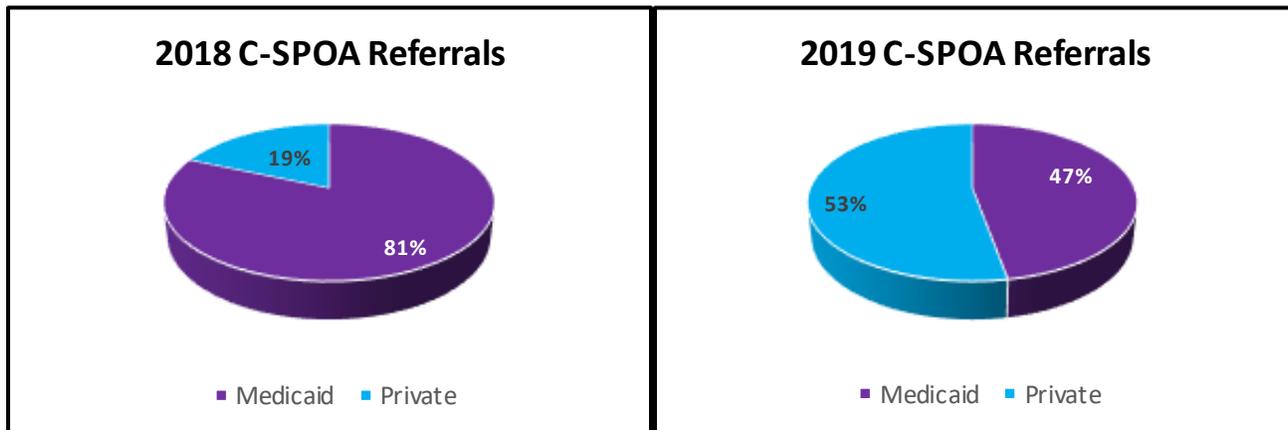
Child Single Point of Access (C-SPOA)

Child Single Point of Access (C-SPOA) is a centralized intake process for referrals for high-intensity mental health services for children aged 5-21, living in Broome County, who have been diagnosed or are willing to seek a diagnosis of a Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). C-SPOA is designed to improve access to services while monitoring and coordinating utilization of these services through a single point.



2019 by the Numbers:

C-SPOA processed and presented 226 referrals in 2019 which includes new cases as well as requests for additional services or increased lengths of stay. This represents a 25% decrease from 2018, largely due to new Medicaid reimbursable services becoming available to children and families which are accessible outside of the C-SPOA process. The two pie charts below demonstrate the decrease in children who have Medicaid served by C-SPOA in 2019.



Court Ordered Evaluations

The Department provides court-ordered diagnostic evaluations, prior to case disposition, for individuals involved with the Justice system designated by Family, Civil and Criminal courts.

2019 by the Numbers:

Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) §730 – Fitness to Proceed (aka: Competency Examinations) =36 ordered by judges and justices within the Broome County Court system.

Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) §390 – Pre-sentence Investigation - and Family Court Mental Health Evaluation =24 ordered.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Broome County Suicide Awareness for Everyone (BC SAFE)

BC SAFE, a community coalition, is dedicated to the prevention of suicide and suicide attempts throughout Broome County by coordinating suicide awareness and prevention efforts. Members represent various sectors



BC SAFE

of the community including: Community-Based and Faith-Based Organizations, County Departments, Loss Survivors, Mental Health/Substance Use agencies, Schools/Universities, Veteran-serving agencies, Healthcare and Law Enforcement. Using current local and state data to drive the strategic plan, the coalition focused on the following major initiatives:

Training and Education

- Through coalition participation and support, trainings are offered to school districts, faith-based organizations and the community.
- The *BC SAFE* Facebook page and quarterly newsletters offer education, awareness, hope and inspiration.
- Fifteen Educational Training and Presentations across many sectors including Department of Social Services, Binghamton University, School Resources Officers, School Districts and Community Agencies were offered on: *Talk Saves Lives (AFSP)*, *Suicide Safety for Teachers and Staff (SPCNY)* and *Youth Mental Health First Aid (NCBH)*.

Awareness

- Six-hundred *Suicide Hotline* drink coasters were distributed to nine (9) local establishments; and 650 packs of golf tees, containing prevention/hotline information, were provided to six (6) local golf tournaments.
- Promoting awareness, tabling events occurred with over 15 separate entities in the community, at schools and local agencies.



World Suicide Prevention Day

- This annual event, held for the community each September, highlights suicide as a public health concern, providing education and resources from the community to those who attend.



BroomeINCLUDES

BroomeINCLUDES is a county-wide initiative with a goal to promote inclusion of community members who experience behavioral health challenges, with a focus on serving community members with intellectual, developmental, physical, mental health, or substance use challenges.



The mission of *BroomeINCLUDES* is to: promote inclusion of all residents of all abilities; promote access to services in a timely manner; provide education and connection to our area's many resources and agencies; encourage and endorse community access and inclusion initiatives; connect opportunity to residents' needs using community resources; help individuals find their way by assisting individuals with navigating Broome County's System of Care; partner with community organizations to promote understanding and acceptance; respond to connect individuals and community members with available resources that fit their needs; and encourage the support of community efforts to increase accessibility and inclusion.

Highlights for 2019:

- *BroomeINCLUDES Hockey Tournament* – organized by American Special Hockey Association (ASHA) with support from Broome County. The tournament welcomed nine (9) Special Hockey teams and over 262 players to Broome County for the tournament held at the Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena January 18-21, 2019.
- *Cupid Chase* – an annual 5K race held at the Vestal Coal House Rail Trail, Vestal, NY to benefit Community Options.
- *Inclusive and Integrated Employment* - worked closely with the Broome County Executive's office and New York State Industries for the Disabled Inc. (NYSID) to expand employment options offering more opportunities to the disabled in Broome County.
 - Toured *Conduent* - an inclusive-business in Endicott, NY - proud of their workforce where 75% of their employees have a disability.
- Influence New Perspective –visited and learned from the *ThinkDifferently* Team in Dutchess County (Hyde Park, NY).
- Education and Outreach: presented to numerous agencies and groups throughout Broome County including: Southern Tier Veterans Support Group, Lourdes Community Nurse Navigators, and UHS Wellness Coordinators.
- Provided navigation and linkages to 82 consumers.

To request assistance, visit the *BroomeINCLUDES* website: <https://broomeincludes.org/>.

Drug Free Communities

Drug Free Communities (DFC) is a federal grant program funded through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is a subgroup of the Broome Opioid Awareness Council (BOAC). The purpose of the initiative is to target youth and families with effective strategies to reduce overall substance use within the community. This is done through coalition building, collaboration with local prevention providers and community partners, educating the community about substance use and addiction, and to increase protective factors by providing alternative activities throughout the community that are void of substances. The DFC coalition, the *Prevention Coalition of Broome County* (PCBC), is comprised of 12 sectors of the community, each bringing a unique perspective of the community's prevention needs. Using SAMHSA's *Strategic Prevention Framework* model, the coalition focuses on planning, implementing, and evaluating prevention practices and programs. DFC efforts are guided with data collected from Broome County's biannual *Prevention Needs Assessment* (PNA), which surveys students in grades 7-12 in participating Broome County schools.



2019 Highlights:

As part of its community collaboration efforts, DFC worked with many community organizations. Informational events were held at local schools to reach both students and parents and provide education about substance use and answer questions about current drug trends. With the help of six local school districts and other volunteers, nearly 3000 students were reached at these events. DFC sponsored the *Underage Drinking Prevention Poster* contest for local high school students. This annual contest creates a forum for students to raise awareness about the dangers of underage drinking. The winner was awarded a cash prize and recognized at *Prevention Night with the Binghamton Rumble Ponies* and the winning poster was displayed at Mirabito stores throughout the county during prom and graduation season, when there is historically an uptick in underage drinking, to further raise awareness within the community.

To increase protective factors, DFC hosted three *Family Fun Nights* at local parks in August 2019. Volunteers from community-based organizations helped make these nights successful by providing fun and interactive activities and information for those in attendance. Over 1500 community members attended these free events that encourage families to have fun and socialize without substance use as a focus.



Broome County's 2018 *PNA* survey results were presented to many groups and organizations throughout the county. School districts and other community-based organizations that work with students and families use this information to assess and decide what prevention strategies are needed within their districts and the populations they serve. The data provides specific substance use information, examines risk and protective factors as well as antisocial behaviors.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

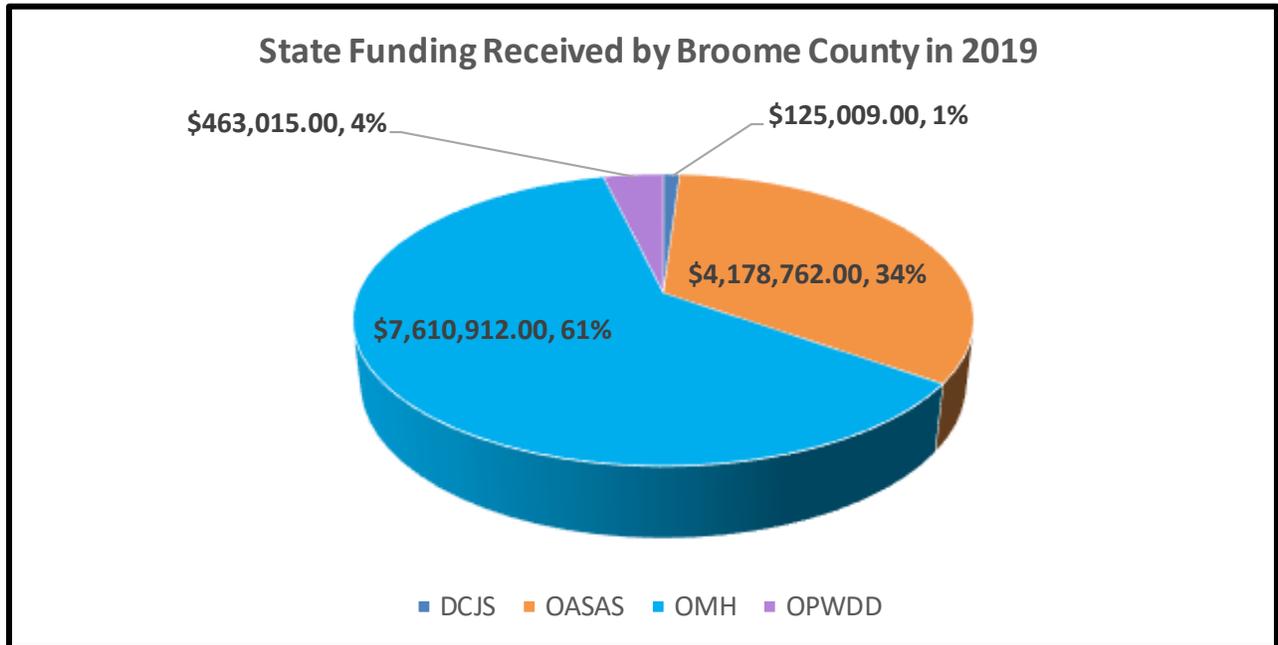
Broome County Mental Health Department (BCMHD) received funding from four New York State Agencies: Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), Office of Mental Health (OMH), and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) in 2019. Funding is distributed to not-for-profit community agencies that provide services through a contracting process. BCMHD maintains both a Performance and Contract Management and Financial Division to facilitate this process.

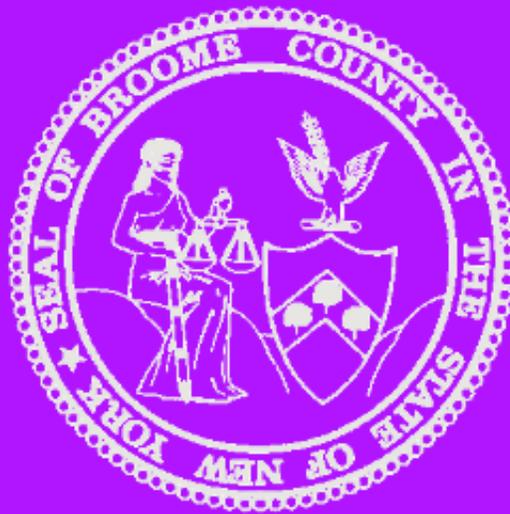
In 2019, the Department contracted with 16 agencies to provide 68 services in 2019. The table below illustrates the individual agencies and level(s) of funding received.

Table 1: Broome County Distribution of Funding by State Agency and Local Agency for 2019

Agency	State Aid				County Support
	DCJS	OASAS	OMH	OPWDD	
ACHIEVE	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 437,641.00	\$ 94,198.00
Addiction Center of Broome County	\$ 0.00	\$ 349,428.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 61,847.00
Binghamton University Community Schools	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 148,986.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Broome- Tioga BOCES	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 177,590.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Broome County Mental Health Department	\$ 0.00	\$ 28,445.00	\$ 863,838.00	\$ 25,374.00	\$ 79,272.00
Catholic Charities of Broome County	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$2,980,044.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Children's Home of Wyoming Conference	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 56,065.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Clear Path for Veterans	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 185,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Community Options	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 69,916.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Coordinated Care Services, Inc.	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 139,384.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Fairview Recovery Services	\$ 0.00	\$1,723,886.00	\$ 71,201.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Family & Children's Society, Inc.	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 356,258.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Helio Health	\$ 0.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital	\$ 0.00	\$ 377,003.00	\$ 47,084.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$1,521,279.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Southern Tier AIDS Program, Inc.	\$ 125,009.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
United Health Services Hospitals, Inc.	\$ 0.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 994,267.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTALS	\$ 125,009.00	\$4,178,762.00	\$7,610,912.00	\$ 463,015.00	\$ 156,045.00

The funding received by Broome County by State Agency is depicted in the pie chart below.





Broome County Mental Health Department

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