

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northern Rivers Launches New Mental Health Program for Warren and Washington Counties

QUEENSBURY, NY — Northern Rivers Family of Services has announced the launch of their new Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program to serve Warren and Washington counties. Owen Allie has joined the organization to serve as ACT team leader.

ACT is an intensive community-based, client-centered program developed to serve adults age 18 and older who experience a serious and persistent mental illness that makes functioning in the community difficult for them. Clients are referred by the Office of Community Services for Warren and Washington Counties. The program works with hospitals, mental health facilities, and local law enforcement to help clients work toward successful independence.

Services include outreach, mental health treatment, physical health care, housing and vocational supports, recovery services, money management, family education, and community linkages. The ACT team is on call 24/7/365 to help clients navigate crises.

“Increasing access to a broad spectrum of mental health services, from outpatient mental health counseling to intensive programs like ACT, is vitally important for our communities. Through programs like ACT, recovery is possible, and we look forward to helping clients achieve their goals,” said Audrey LaFrenier, President and Chief Operating Officer at Northern Rivers.

Allie leads a team including Family Specialist Laura Walters, Substance Abuse Specialist Steve Borden, RN Gordon Hadsell, Psychiatrist Dr. Julita Jastrzab, Employment Specialist Cynthia Varney, Peer Specialist Evelyn Stephenson, and Program Assistant Melissa Diffie.

Allie joins the organization from North Spring Behavioral Health Care in Leesburg, Va., where he worked as Assistant Director of Outpatient Services, therapist, and substance abuse counselor. He also worked as Assessment Manager and primary substance abuse counselor at Phoenix House of the Mid-Atlantic in Arlington, Va.

He earned a master’s degree in Community Counseling from Argosy University (Atlanta), a master’s degree in psychology from the University of Phoenix, and his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Castleton (Vt.) State College.

About Northern Rivers Family of Services:

Founded where the Mohawk and Hudson meet, like the rivers that shaped our region, Northern Rivers Family of Services helps change lives by shaping the future of those we serve throughout the Capital Region and beyond. Comprised of parent company Northern Rivers and member agencies Northeast Parent & Child Society and Parsons Child & Family Center, we are a family of human services agencies who work together and are committed to helping children, adults, and families. Our quality of care, depth of programs, combined size, and passion for the mission make us a leading human services provider. Informed by our 188-year heritage, our 1,400-strong workforce provides services for 16,000 children, adults, and families throughout 35 counties in New York state. For more information, call 518.426.2600 or visit northernrivers.org.

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