

# **Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)**

## **MEETING – March 14 – 1 Medical Dr., Morris Plains**

### **Members Present:**

Charlie Berman, Willow Tree Counseling/Citizen Representative  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative  
Ashley Craig, Morris County Sheriff's Office  
Linda Csengeto, MCOTA  
Carol DeGraw, United Way of NNJ/Citizen Representative  
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of MC  
Julian Hill, MCPO  
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative  
Vicky Mulligan, Rest, Stop & Rejuvenate/Citizen Representative  
Alton Robinson, Citizen Representative  
Heidi Schnapp, Citizen Representative  
LaJuan Tucker, MC Prosecutor's Office

### **Also Attending:**

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS  
Rose Brown, Mental Health Association of Essex & Morris Co.  
Lynne Chandler, St. Clare's – Co Chair PAC  
Marie Potter, Randolph Township Council  
John Robbins, CSPNJ  
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS  
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS

#### **I. Call to Order and Approval of January 10 minutes**

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m. Ms. Carol DeGraw made a motion to approve the February 14 minutes and Ms. LaJuan Tucker seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

#### **II. Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. McMann welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

#### **III. Chair Report – Ms. McMann**

Ms. McMann suggested that the board would not meet in April as there is much planning work happening and the MHASAB is required to meet only eight times per year. Motion made by Ms. LaJuan Tucker to cancel the April meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Carol DeGraw. There was no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

The Advisory Leadership group met on February 20. Ms. Becker and Ms. Jacobson attended. There was much accomplished in 2018. Discussion on HUD not wanting to fund transitional housing. If HUD doesn't fund this service area, where will that money come from to support these programs? This move away from transitional housing affects Homeless Solutions and their Safe Haven Program. The Mental Health Association subcontracts with Homeless Solutions to provide the case management for Safe Haven residents. This program has twenty beds for homeless people with serious mental illness. Homeless Solutions plans to transition the Safe Haven program model over a 2-year period to permanent housing with support services. The SH residents will then live in their own apartments with vouchers and receive staffing support through Community Support Services (formerly supportive housing services). This model aligns with HUD funding priorities with the hope that the needs of the clients served will be met. Ms. Alexander, DMHAS, said she would take the information on Safe Haven back to DMHAS.

Morris County is the last county to go on line with the JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative). Potentially there is additional money for service dollars to support alternative programs for juveniles at risk of being detained in the Detention Center.

#### **IV. Subcommittee Reports**

##### **Funding – Moved to End of Meeting**

##### **Planning – Ms. Becker**

There is a need for more people to sign up for each subcommittee. The signup sheet was passed around. Ms. Jacobson and Ms. Becker propose a planning meeting on April 16 or 17 to look at service priorities. Ms. Jacobson will bring an excerpt of her plan regarding priorities and email it to all.

##### **Legislative/Advocacy – Ms. Becker**

Ms. Becker stated that Mr. Bob Davison, Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, requested that the MHASAB advocate for legislators to review the Greystone Hospital situation in light of the pending lawsuit. It is a class action suit, dated December 17, 2018, against the State of New Jersey for what is described as inhumane conditions at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital.

Mr. Davison suggested the board put together a letter and send it to the legislators. The letter will address the need to improve the quality of life for thousands of residents impacted by Greystone Hospital. This hospital serves New Jersey residents statewide including approximately 20% that are Morris County residents.

Ms. Becker drafted a letter. A subcommittee will work with Ms. Becker to edit, complete and send out. Ms. Cheryl Garodnick made a motion to empower the subcommittee to send out the letter on behalf of the board. Mr. Alton Robinson seconded the motion. There was no opposition and two abstentions. Motion carried.

##### **County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS)**

Ms. Jacobson stated that a new Alliance Coordinator was hired and she will be at the next meeting.

**V. State Liaison Report – Ms. Eileen Alexander (written report provided)**

**Community Support Services (CSS)**

- With the recent decision to keep Community Support Services (letter sent out Feb. 14, 2019) in cost-based contract, DMHAS has rescinded the following RFP's that were posted on the DHS/DMHAS website:
  - DD/MI RFP
  - MESH
  - FORENSIC

\*Please note CSS contract providers must continue to fulfill contracting requirements such as program and fiscal reporting requirements and continue to appropriately bill Medicaid for CSS-billable services.

**EISS**

*Due to the increase in statewide volume in EISS in recent years:*

- Contract Minimum Requirements: the following minimums became effective Jan. 1, 2019
  - 1100 episodes of care
  - 900 admissions (enrollments)
  - 90 target caseloads

\*Please note, these minimums have already been incorporated into the CY 19 contract renewals

- Termination/Length of Stay (LOS): providers were instructed to submit the following figures in their email with their monthly reports for the next 3 reporting periods
  - Total persons terminated from EISS in that reporting period
  - Number of those terminations that had LOS with EISS for 30 days or longer

**DRCC TRAININGS**

Warren County is looking for volunteers to become a certified Disaster Response Crisis Counselor (DRCC). For more information, please visit their website:

<http://www.njdisasterresponsecrisiscounselor.org/index.php>. Please note: Even if you are not a Warren County resident, you can still take advantage of these free classes. When you become fully certified you can choose to be added to whichever county you prefer to serve.

**NEW STAFFING**

- Please help us in welcoming Peri Nearon as the new Division of Disability Services Director and Elizabeth Hill as the new Director of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

**VI. Staff Reports**

**Municipal Alliance Coordinator** – Beth Jacobson announced that the new Coordinator should be coming on by the end of the month. The County Alliance Plan will be submitted tomorrow. There is a GCADA quarterly meeting on March 28 where they will be talking about the upcoming planning cycle. Ms. Jacobson will attend with the new coordinator if she is on board at that time.

**Addictions Service Administrator – Ms. Jacobson**

Ms. Jacobson attended the DMHAS Quarterly Provider Meeting today:

- Spoke about increased outpatient rates for psychiatric evaluation and comprehensive intake, effective 4/1/19. Psych evaluations are increasing from \$325 to \$438.17, and the comprehensive intake evaluation is increasing from \$157 to \$167.21. Fee For Service (FFS) rates are 90% of Medicaid rates. Lynne Chandler advised that these rates affect free standing agencies, not hospitals.
- DMHAS will be embarking on a study of CSS that will include stakeholders, DMHAS staff, DHS staff, and the Center for Healthcare Strategies. They are expecting the first meeting to take place in mid to end of April.
- FFS oversight board – members appointed by Governor to look at FFS transition process and viability of rates and make recommendation to Division and Dept. First meeting on 2/22 – will continue to meet and will communicate results through DMHAS.

The law enforcement training and launch for the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative will take place on April 3 at the Public Safety Training Academy, followed by a press conference at 1:00 p.m.

**Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Becker**

There will be Disaster Response Crisis Counselor (DRCC) training on April 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Office of Emergency Management. This training is specific to Morris County. The training will include Psychological First Aid and supports. This is non-clinical training for counselors so they can help when there is an overwhelming disaster or emergency. There is a team of 60 Disaster Response Crisis Counselors. They have not had to mobilize in a while. Ms. Beth Jacobson and Ms. Carol DeGraw are both DRCCs.

The Consumer and Family Forum will be held on June 18. The title is “Many Faces of Recovery – Building Bridge to Employment.” The forum is from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Haggarty Center, Morris County Arboretum, Morris Township. There will be a panel discussion. The panel will include four panelists including St. Clare’s, N.J. Wins, someone working with lived experience and an employer.

Ms. Cathy Moser will bring some song and music to the evening. Ms. Vicky Mulligan will help organize this portion of the program. The Planning committee is looking for nominations for the Terry Belske award. This award recognizes a person with lived experience of a mental illness. The awardee will be announced at the forum. Any nominations due to Ms. Becker by May 25 at [becker@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:becker@co.morris.nj.us). The next Planning committee meeting will be on April 2.

Ms. Becker stated that some went on a tour at St. Clare's in Newtown of their new walk in center. This is a place where people who need help can go while waiting for detox. It is a comfortable and welcoming setting where they can get food and drinks. It is open from Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It fills a gap-giving people somewhere to go.

The budget information came out from Governor Murphy. There is a new Office of Homelessness. This is good and think that the Executive Committee will want to learn more about how this office can help.

Ms. Mulligan stated that Doctors are often stigmatizing and not dealing with dual diagnosis properly. There is of great concern. Ms. Becker suggested that Ms. Mulligan call her to discuss the situation. She can connect with the provider and have people look into the situation.

Ms. Chandler said that St. Clare's has a no wrong door policy. She feels confident her team is helpful but at times things happen. She encourages anyone to voice their concerns to her or to Ms. Becker and they will work things out.

#### **VII. Joint PAC Report –**

Ms. Becker reported on Morris Stigma Free (SF) activities. At the next meeting on Tuesday, March 19, the Stigma Free essay winners from Montville/Boonton UMC will be attending the meeting to talk about their essays. They are young persons that have projects and want ideas on how to implement them. The creation of new SF publicity is well underway; soon there will be new posters and postcards to display around the county and that other partners can tailor to their town or agency. On April 24 at the Freeholder work session, we hope to unveil the Stigma Free post cards and do some recognition of stigma free work.

Ms. Mulligan said she got sponsorship on a video and mini festival. There will be six young people sharing their stories. Their stories are about addiction, dual diagnosis and mental health.

#### **VIII. HSAC Report**

The CoC Executive Committee had their retreat on Jan. 31. The facilitator worked well and the day was a success. The committee came up with 2019 goals and tasks. It was a teambuilding experience.

The CoC 2018 award was received. It increased from \$1,773,495 in 2017 to \$1,939,213 for 2018. There was one bonus award received. It has been a good year with a few increases in funding overall. CoC funding is geared toward permanently housing homeless individuals and families through coordinated entry process managed by NJ 2-1-1.

There is a childcare reimbursement rate increase taking effect Jan. 2019. The rate is tied to Grow NJ Kids ratings. There are three grant opportunities for childcare centers through the Division of Family Development as well as CDA Scholarships for teachers that work at childcare centers accepting subsidy/child care assistance.

Ms. Mico, New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency, reported on their annual qualitative review held in March. It is a five-day process where six cases are reviewed and findings discussed. On the fifth day of each cycle, Performance Improvement Plans are developed.

The 2019 Emergency Solutions grant applications were received and agency presentations were made. The full board recommended \$159,260 in funding for all five applicants that applied. The money will be used for emergency shelter and homeless prevention services for homeless, at-risk individuals and families and foster youth transitioning to independent living.

**IX. Old Business - None**

**X. New Business –**

**Funding Closed Session (moved to the end of the meeting) CASS - Ms. Jacobson**

Ms. Jacobson asked that anyone in conflict with Municipal Alliance Funding or any public leave the room. Ms. Eileen Alexander, DMHAS, Ms. Rose Brown, Ms. Lynne Chandler, Mr. John Robbins, Ms. Jane Shivas and Councilwoman Marie Potter left the room. Motion made by Ms. LaJuan Tucker and seconded by Ms. Carol DeGraw to begin the closed session of the meeting. There were two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 6:15 p.m.

**Return to Meeting**

The meeting reopened at 6:45 p.m. No one reentered the room.

**Actions Resulting from Closed Session**

Ms. McMann stated the CASS met, reviewed and approved all the funding applications. This is for FY 2020 (from July 2019 to June 2020). Let the record reflect that in closed session the board voted to approve the FY 2020 Alliance funding. We need a motion in open session of the same.

Mr. LaJuan Tucker made a motion to approve the FY 2020 Alliance funding recommendations as discussed in closed session. Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

**XI. Open to the Public – No Comment**

**XII. Adjourn –**

Motion made by Ms. LaJuan Tucker to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Julian Hill. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.