

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)

MEETING – May 9 – 1 Medical Dr., Morris Plains

Members Present:

Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, MCOTA
Carol DeGraw, United Way of NNJ/Citizen Representative
Aura Dunn, Citizen Representative
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of MC
Margaret Himsl, NJ Friendship House
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative
Vicky Mulligan, Rest, Stop & Rejuvenate/Citizen Representative
Heidi Schnapp, Citizen Representative
Barb Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Jocelyn Ackerman, The Counseling Center
Eileen Alexander, DMHAS
Lisa Bouckenooghe, Esq.
Tomika Carter, CEO, Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital
Chris Dorian, Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital
Tracey Skop, MC Probation
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS
Heather Rose, MCDHS

- I. Call to Order and Approval of May 9 minutes**

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m. Ms. Vicky Mulligan made a motion to approve the March 14 minutes and Mr. Chris Chernick 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 – No Report**
- IV. Presentation/Update on Greystone – Ms. Tomika Carter, CEO/Mr. Chris Dorian**

Ms. Tomika Carter and Mr. Chris Dorian gave an update on Greystone Psychiatric Hospital. See the Department of Health's website for information on Greystone's Dec. 2018 annual public meeting. Their focus has been on improvements. There has been a decline in census and increase in discharges. The census in Sept. 2017 was 541, and in 2018 was 429. Today

the census is at 382. Ms. Carter said that they start the patient's discharge planning at admission. They hold intensive case reviews every Friday. Staff have ongoing conversation with the patients and give them the opportunity to leave the hospital campus during their stay. Staff have one on one meetings with patients. They work with individuals to encourage increased independence.

The patients are in active treatment and attend many social events. Staffing has greatly increased with 25 psychiatrists (26 including the Medical Director.) now working at the hospital. The goal is to have 24 day-time psychiatrists. There are currently 16 + 3 APN for a total of 20. They have almost reached their target goal for staffing.

V. Subcommittee Reports – Funding – Ms. Beth Jacobson

The Invitation to Submit Applications for 2020 CY funding will be going out on Wednesday, May 29. Letters will go out in the mail and all information and the RFA application package can be accessed on line at <https://hs.morriscountynj.gov>. This package contains detailed information regarding the application process, including funding priority summaries and instructions for completing the Request for Funding Application (RFA). In order to be considered for funding, an RFA must be submitted.

There will be a 2020 Community-Based Funding Information Session on June 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Auditorium of at the Morris County Public Safety Academy. While the session is not mandatory, potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend to gain more knowledge of the application requirements, programs and service priorities.

Planning – Ms. Jacobson

Ms. Jacobson reported that she received the results of the Morris CCP review from DMHAS yesterday. It contained a lot of feedback and suggestions for revisions. The identities of the individuals who reviewed the plan “will remain sealed to maintain the integrity of the review process”, and the county alcohol and drug directors will not be able to contact them or ask questions. All concerns or questions must go through Jason Bell, the program manager. Ms. Jacobson will be working on updating the plan, as it is critical that the plan be approved to move forward with the funding process.

Legislative/Advocacy – Ms. Laurie Becker

The annual Consumer & Family Forum, The Many Faces of Recovery – Building Bridges to Employment will be on Tuesday, June 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It will be at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum – Haggerty Center at 353 East Hanover Ave. in Morristown. Please join consumers and family members, public officials, providers and advocates for an interactive evening. See the flier for further details or call Ms. Becker at (973) 285-6852. The Forum will be in place of the regular June board meeting.

There will be Breaking Stigma – Building a Strong Healthy Community event on June 22 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Morristown Green, 10 N. Park Place, Morristown. Admission is

free and all ages are welcome. There will be open microphone performances, resource tables, art exhibit, interactive art drumming, mask making and more. See the flier for details.

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – Ms. Heather Rose

The CASS is looking to recruit members.

VI. State Liaison Report – Ms. Eileen (written report provided)

VII. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Heather Rose

Next week the GCADA will approve the 2020 FY Alliance Plan and learn about the next grant cycle. They will roll out with 5-6 webinars. Town alliances will be required to watch the webinars in order to get funding.

Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Beth Jacobson

Ms. Jacobson announced that the NJPRA will be hosting a conference “UP IN SMOKE? Legalized Marijuana's Impact on Mental Health, Social Justice & Substance Use Recovery” on May 23rd at the Forsgate Country Club. She can forward the email to the group.

There will be a Breaking Stigma: Building a Strong Community event on the Morristown Green on Saturday, June 22nd.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Becker

We are in the second phase of the Stigma Free marketing campaign with updated posters and postcards identifying prevalent mental health and addictions conditions along with referral information. Stigma Free partners are invited to use the templates of these documents and add their agency, school, town logos. Christine Anderson, formerly of Atlantic Health, has been our consultant on this project.

The board received two FY 2020 state contracts from the Mental Health Association and Saint Clare's. The MHASAB should review and provide recommendations to DMHAS on these contract. Ms. Becker will schedule a meeting of the MHASAB program review subcommittee.

VIII. Joint PAC Report –

Ms. Jacobson stated that there was an announcement that the grant for the Substance Use Navigators is being phased out as of December 2019. This led to discussion about the needs of substance abuse treatment for youth. There are many young adults with substance use disorder, and given the opioid epidemic, earlier intervention is needed.

Ms. Barbara Kauffman (Morris Co. Prevention is Key) and Mr. Dave Johnston (Deidra's House) agreed to set up a roundtable to discuss this, and this will be an agenda item at the Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC). Ms. Becker stated that Human Services

Directors are upset at this news and were not asked for their feedback. They will meet and write a letter.

IX. HSAC Report – (Written report provided)

- Ms. Donna Buchanan, Workforce Development Board, provided an organizational overview of Morris/Sussex/Warren Employment and Training Services (ETS) and the populations supported by this MC DHS Division. In addition to training and employment support provided to dislocated, low income and youth residents, ETS also provides case management and employment services support to Morris County residents receiving public assistance (GA, TANF and SNAP) through New Jersey's welfare reform program, Work First New Jersey (WFNJ). All individuals deemed employable by OTA are referred to ETS and assigned to WFNJ work activities.

The goal of the WFNJ program is to assist individuals and couples in getting off public assistance, secure employment and become self-sufficient through job training, education and state required work activities. Those activities include; 1) a 30-day work readiness training facilitated by ETS covering resume development, interviewing techniques, job search practices; 2) assignment to the Community Work Experience Program (CWEP), a non-paid work experience at a not-for-profit or governmental agency. This assignment exposes participants to work environments to enrich their time management, communication and networking skills. Lastly, work-ready clients may be approved for occupational or vocational training with an ETS approved training vendor.

Ms. Buchanan also reported that ETS is sponsoring free English as a Second Language (ESL) training at 1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains location. Call (973) 829-8115 for an appointment and further information.

- Presentation by Wes Gaynor, Homeless Solutions, Inc. Nadine Venezia and Danielle Pera of the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, Inc. (MHAEM) on the Safe Haven Program. Since 1995, Homeless Solutions has partnered with the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, to address long-term housing and service needs of county residents who are chronically homeless and mentally ill. The Safe Haven Program is staffed 24-hours a day, 7 days a week and provides emergency shelter to 20 homeless individuals in a safe and secure environment. All guests receive dual case management and have a program length stay of up to 18 months. Homeless Solutions and MHAEM actively collaborate with guests to expedite their transition into housing.

Federal funding sources under Continuum of Care funding are migrating to permanent supportive housing programs. This migration has resulted in a loss of hundreds of thousands for Safe Haven Programs. The last of which, remained in Morris County. This has forced Homeless Solutions and MHAEM to adjust service provisions and effective July 2019, the Safe Haven Model will be transitioning to a permanent supportive housing model. The transition will occur in two phases. Ten people, prioritized by their chronic homelessness, will be provided permanent supportive housing vouchers. Eventually, the plan is for the remaining ten to transition.

Ms. Jane Shivas reported that the HSAC planning committee reviewed the funding priorities and made minor changes. They talked about how the HSAC is coordinating with other advisory groups and working with the Advisory Leadership group. Ms. McMann stated that the leadership group had discussion on Safe Haven and upcoming changes and the challenges that this will bring.

Ms. Carter said the HSAC must do a needs assessment in Morris County. This is good but will be a lot of work.

X. New Business –

There will be a “Forum for Concerned Families of Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital” on May 22 at 6:00 p.m. Registration is required. See flier for further information or call (973) 579-4399.

Ms. Becker announced her retirement as of July 1.

XI. Adjourn -

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Meeting adjourned.