

**COUNTY OF MORRIS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
**DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**  
P.O. Box 900  
Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0900

Board of County Commissioners

*Director*  
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*Deputy Director*  
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*County Administrator*  
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*Department Director*  
Katharine A. Errico  
973.285.6863

*Deputy Director*  
Gary L. Denamen  
973326.7240

*Division Director*  
Amy Archer  
973-285-6852

**Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)**  
**Thursday, January 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Held via Webex Meetings**

A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

**Members Present:**

Susan Calantone, Citizen Representative  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative  
Linda, Csengento, Citizen Representative  
Carol DeGraw, United Way of Northern New Jersey  
Margaret Devine-Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office  
Heather Diamond, Center for Evaluation & Counseling  
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County  
David Griffith, Vantage Health System  
Marcy McMann, Esq., Citizen Representative - Chair  
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office  
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative  
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff's Office

**Others in Attendance:**

Eileen Alexander, NJ DHS Mental Health & Addiction Services  
Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services, Inc.  
Jennifer Carpinteri, Atlantic Health, Behavioral & Integrative Health Services  
Carmine Deo, Community Hope  
Paul Dougherty, SERV Behavioral Health System  
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Amy Archer, Morris County Department of Human Services  
Kasey Errico, Director Morris County Department of Human Services  
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Department of Human Services  
Stephen Nebesni, Morris County Juvenile Detention Center  
Rosalyn Suarez, Morris County Department of Human Services

#### **I. Call to Order and Approval of November 12, 2020 Minutes**

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm and asked for a motion to approve the November 12 meeting minutes. Ms. Linda Csengeto made the motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Barbara Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion Carried.

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

Ms. McMann welcomed all in attendance, and introductions were made.

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

Ms. McMann stated since our last meeting, the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris (MHA) held a public forum to update our community on the terms of the Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital lawsuit settlement. The committee should have already received a full copy of the settlement before tonight's meeting via email. The settlement includes addressing multiple staffing issues, legal protection for patient and staff whistleblowers, security protocols, the establishment of acute-care and long-term-care units, and other measures to ensure on-site medical equipment and medication access to medical treatments.

The Attorney General has issued a directive to all County Prosecutors to establish a Countywide working group to provide local tools and resources to law enforcement to utilize when interacting with people with mental health and special needs. The Mental Health Working Group is a new initiative. The goal is to improve relations and interactions between law enforcement and people in crisis. Ms. Meg Rodriquez announced this group would consist of law enforcement, behavioral and mental health professionals, substance abuse professionals, community advocates, and other professionals. They are creating and training law enforcement on the Mental Health toolbox to ensure that all services that are provided in our communities are available. More information to follow.

Ms. McMann stated this is her 18<sup>th</sup> year serving on the MHASAB and her 7<sup>th</sup> as Chair. Thank you for allowing me to serve on this board. I look forward to supporting and helping our new Chair and Vice-Chair in whatever capacity that I can.

#### **IV. Nominating Committee – Barbara Ward & Carol DeGraw - Slate of Office and Vote**

Ms. Barbara Ward announced with Ms. McMann stepping down; we appreciate you and your leadership and your guidance of the past years. You have made such a positive impact on our advisory board.

Ms. Carol DeGraw and I would like to thank everyone whose name was submitted and Ms. Amy Archer for your guidance and support in the selection process.

Mr. Chris Chernick, nominated for the position of Chair, is winding down his career as a Pension Actuary, Administrating Defined Benefit Pension Plan for major corporations. He is involved with his local food pantry and is active in a local support group for Depression and Bipolar Diseases for many years. Mr. Chernick has been on the MHASAB since 2014.

Ms. Cheryl Garodnick, nominated for Vice-Chair's position, has over fifteen years of experience in the mental health and substance abuse field, with the first decade overseeing nonprofit agencies in clinical and administrative roles. She currently owns Therapy Resources of Morris County, a private for-profit group practice established in 2012. She is actively involved in The Stigma-Free Committee and the Opiate Task Force. Ms. Garodnick has been on the MHASAB since 2014.

Ms. Ward made the motion to approve Mr. Chernick as Chair and Ms. Garodnick as Vice-Chair. Ms. McMann seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

**The meeting was turned over to Mr. Chernick as Chair.**

**V. Subcommittee Reports:**

**a. Funding – Rosalyn Suarez**

Ms. Rosalyn Suarez reported receipt of the executed Chapter 51 contract from the State. The resolution will go through at the next Commissioners Meeting on January 27. Providers should receive a PDF copy of the contracts and boilerplate to review prior to signing.

**b. Planning – no report**

**c. Legislative/Advocacy – no report**

**d. County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS)**

Mr. Steve Nebesni stated the next meeting is Wednesday, February 4, 2021, and will be held virtually.

**VI. State Liaison Report:**

**Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Eileen Alexander**

S-Cope offered a coffee talk zoom topic on "Sexuality in Long Term Care." The presenter was Nicole Brown. It was provided on **Monday, January 4, 2021, and Wednesday, January 6, 2021**. Time slot from: 12:00 noon - 12:30pm. (30-Minute Sessions). Please keep your eye out for upcoming S-Cope training.

There will be a series of PATH training starting on January 14; please see the attached flyer.

The CSS meetings for January and February will be monthly. A meeting invite will be sent out shortly. We will revisit meeting bi-weekly again starting in March.

Commissioner Carole Johnson will be leaving us to join the Biden-Harris transition team for the White House COVID response team. Her last day at the Department will be January 15 to take on this new role with President-elect Biden.

Regarding the COVID Vaccine, the vaccine phases are primarily determined by the federal government. Group homes will not be included with LTCFs (in phase 1a), but adult group homes will be included in either 1b or 1c. The CDC issued new guidance yesterday, 12/20/20. The Department of Health will review the new direction so that updated information will be forthcoming. Please refer to the CDC for more detailed information on this subject

Kim Worthington, responsible for the SUD contract funding schedule, will also become the point person for the Contract Information Management System (CIMS) and ensure contact information, e.g., budgets and other technical CIMS requirements, are uploaded timely and accurately. Her CIMS-related duties will revolve around improving the communications and tracking of contract documentation within the CIMS database.

STCF COVID Learning Community training, please see the attached PowerPoint and register at the link <https://dmhas.dhs.state.nj.us/CME/Register>

The Division's Information Technology staff will be providing webinar-based training on the BEDS System, which will allow you to access information on Short Term Care Facility bed availability. You may recall, before the State of emergency, we provided a brief update on the recent

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA), Transformative Transfer Initiative (TTI) grant award. These trainings will be offered on:

**January 11, 2021 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

<https://njdhs.webex.com/njdhs/onstage/g.php?MTID=ecb65cb39ede7bb9a981d935a91b0a2b7>

**January 14, 2021, 10:00 AM to Noon**

<https://njdhs.webex.com/njdhs/onstage/g.php?MTID=e583e356bdec8c1841561a50b7feceec>

SJH has six involuntary beds on Regan 2.

To access these beds, please call the Passaic County Screening Center at 973-754-2230.

## **VII. Staff Reports:**

### **a. Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Steve Nebesni**

The Fiscal Year 2021 Letters of Agreement will go out next week. The State has approved the applications sent in—still working with a few Municipalities on their applications.

The Fiscal Year 2019 State Site Visit is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2021, virtually.

Funding for the Fiscal Year 2022 has not been determined—more information to follow.

**b. Addictions Services Coordinator – Rosalyn Suarez**

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey and CARES have not received any referrals through the Innovation Grant at this time. Clients are going through pretrial but have not disclosed a substance use disorder therefore, they do not fit the criteria for this grant. To give you a little background on this grant:

- Legal Services of Northwest Jersey provides legal representation to Morris County residents involved with the Morris County Pre-Trial. This program is designed to assist individuals who are struggling with or maintaining recovery from substance abuse
- CARES will assess and serve the needs of Morris County residents during pretrial services to individuals struggling with/or maintaining recovery from substance abuse involved in Morris County pretrial services.

This seems to be a trend and other counties are having similar situations. Counties are having a difficult time spending their grant due to COVID so this will be brought up at a State meeting to see how we can move forward.

If providers did not submit vouchers for GIA or Chapter 51 for Q4, please submit via email for processing.

At the last Association meeting, information was given on the COVID vaccine for anyone providing direct services to the community. This information will be emailed after the meeting.

**c. Mental Health Administrator – Amy Archer**

The Morris County Commissioners, in collaboration with Mental Health Association, provided Suicide Prevention training that was offered to all Morris County School Districts in December 2020. Four dates were provided, and nineteen school districts participated. We will be reaching out to those who could not participate. A parent presentation of this program was offered to the community. There were 100 people registered and 65 participants the day of the presentation.

Human Services Advisory Council conducted a Needs Assessment to identify the gaps in service and barriers our county faces. This report, once submitted and approved by the State, will be distributed to all advisory boards.

There are Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act money available through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) that will be going out for Request For Application (RFA).

At the last State Mental Health Administrators Meeting, a discussion ensued about the Disaster Response Crisis Counselor's (DRCC) role during COVID. Some Counties chose to use their DRCCs for their Mental Health Phone Lines; Morris County chose not to use DRCCs.

Anna Marie Hess will be sending out an email asking for participation in the State Chapter 51 funding application review.

#### **VIII. Joint PAC Report – Carmine Deo**

Ms. Lynne Chandler and Mr. Deo will be Co-Chairs of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) this year.

Ms. Rose Brown from Mental Health Association will be providing updates on Greystone.

A discussion ensued about TeleHealth and keeping this as an option in the future.

The next Joint PAC meeting will be Friday, February 5, 2021.

#### **IX. Human Service Advisory Council (HSAC) Report – Jane Shivas**

- Interfaith Food Pantry Network Presentation – Ms. Carolyn Lake

The Interfaith Food Pantry Network (IFPN) is the largest and most relied-upon resource for emergency and supplemental food among Morris County residents in need. IFPN employs innovative approaches to hunger and food insecurity that improve individuals and families' health and well-being by providing access to food, education, and related resources.

Allowing families to choose which foods they want in quantities based on family size eliminates waste and restores dignity to the process of receiving food. During COVID, IFPN pre-packed bags but still offered some choices. Their goal is to return to selection in 2021 by revamping pantry distribution.

Their Mobile Network assists 28 locations across Morris County, including community-based food pantries, senior housing sites, and food access sites operated by the County of Morris, including OTA and Midday Friendship

Centers. Their goal is to address health's social detriments by expanding access to nutritious food without duplicating efforts.

In 2019 there were 16,775 household visits, 3,669 mobile pantry visits, 54,183 residents served, and 876,481 pounds of food distributed. The numbers increased significantly in 2020; 20,707 household visits, 6,106 mobile pantry visits, 66,884 residents helped, and 1,172,444 pounds of food distributed. Though Morris County is consistently ranked as one of the nation's wealthiest, food insecurity affects more the 25,000 people.

Volunteers donated over 24,000 hours of service to IFPN in 2018. The value of their time is around \$634,000 annually, or the equivalent cost of about thirteen full-time staff people.

To learn more about Interfaith Food Pantry Network and how you can help, contact (973)538-8049 or visit their website [www.mcifp.org](http://www.mcifp.org).

- Ms. Carter reported New Jersey awarded Morris County \$95,000 of the \$2.5 million for Code Blue warming centers directed toward municipalities with at least 10-unsheltered homeless according to the current Point-In-Time count.
- Ms. Carter announced free one-on-one phone and Zoom appointments scheduled for those in need of health insurance. New Jersey Citizen Action provides this service, and information can be found at <https://njcitizenaction.org/> or (973)429-7303.
- Needs Assessment – Ms. Rebekka Zydell stated that 98% of the focus groups are complete, six Key Informant Interviews are being scheduled for December, and then a report can be compiled.

**X. Old Business – no comment**

**XI. New Business**

Ms. Carol DeGraw announced that she is transitioning to part time on March 1. Tonight will be her last meeting.

**XII. Open to the Public – no comment**

**XIII. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Ward. Ms. McMann seconded the motion. All were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II