

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

P.O. Box 900
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MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)
Thursday, February 10, 2022, 5:15 p.m. via Webex Meeting
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Attendance

Mr. Chris Chernick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Andrew Agliata, Citizen Representative
Caroline Bailey, Morris County Prevention is Key
Freddie Bicknese, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair
Linda Csengeto Citizen Representative
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County – Vice-Chair
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor’s Office
Robert Peluso, Citizen Representative
Meg Rodriquez, Morris County Prosecutor’s Office
Erica Valvano, Morris County Sherriff’s Office
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sherriff’s Office

Board Liaisons:

Carmine Deo, Community Hope

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Morris County Human Services
Kasey Errico, Morris County Director of Human Services
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Human Services
Stephen Nebesni, Morris County Juvenile Detention Center

Others in Attendance:

Rose Brown, Mental Health Association

II. Member Orientation

Ms. Archer gave a PowerPoint presentation. This PowerPoint will be posted on the County website in the near future <https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/Mental-Health-Addictions-Services-Advisory-Board>.

III. Approval of January 13, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the January 13th meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Mr. Hill made the motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

IV. State Liaison Report: Division of Mental Health and Addiction – report submitted before the meeting

Request for Proposals Updates:

- **Intensive Opioid Treatment and Substance Exposed Infants**
 - This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to provide a comprehensive array of services for opioid-dependent pregnant women, their infants, and family. The Integrated Opioid Treatment and Substance Exposed Infants (IOT-SEI) initiative will provide opioid use disorder treatment, prenatal and postpartum medical/obstetric services, care coordination, sober living arrangements, wraparound services, intensive case management, and recovery supports.
 - RFP Schedule
 - February 16, 2022, the deadline for receiving proposals – no later than 4:00 p.m.
 - March 11, 2022, preliminary award announcement
 - March 18, 2022, appeal deadline
 - March 25, 2022, final award
- **Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)**
 - The New Jersey DHS, DMHAS, issues this RFP to create EISS in the following ten counties: Passaic, Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Union, Salem, Gloucester, Burlington, Somerset, Cape May.
 - EISS programs provide rapid access to short-term, recovery-oriented crisis intervention services. EISS serves persons 18 years of age or older who are experiencing exacerbated symptoms of a mental illness. Services include assessment, psychiatric evaluation, pharmacological interventions, short-term counseling and psychotherapy, psychoeducation, time-limited case management, referral, and linkage. EISS has routine “after office” hours (i.e., weekends), accommodates “walk-ins,” and offers quick access to staff with psychiatric prescriber privileges when needed.

- Amount of funding available
 - Total annualized funding for each county is one (1) million from the \$10 million total funding amount available, subject to state appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to ten awards to the above-listed counties.
 - Mandatory Bidders Virtual Meeting was held on January 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.
 - Submission due no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 18, 2022
 - Award date is March 28, 2022
- The DMHAS is pleased to announce a reimbursement opportunity, made available with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), for eligible COVID-19 related expenses.
 - The objective of this program is to provide non-profit, contracted Mental Health (MH) providers reimbursement for costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, DMHAS will reimburse providers for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), specific Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure costs, COVID testing, and related expenses; designed to help meet challenges related to providing direct service due to the public health emergency. Eligible expenditures must have an invoice/purchase date between October 15, 2021, and February 1, 2023. At this time, providers are limited to an overall maximum reimbursement of \$20,000 for each program “bucket,” i.e., PPE, IT infrastructure, and test kits (including costs required to attain the CLIA waiver noted above and other related expenses).

General Notifications:

- The Department of Health is offering vaccination support for mental health programs in two primary ways
 - Scheduling and hosting a vaccination pop-up event (vaccines and administrators are provided). The points of contact are [Dana Johnson](#) and [Rebecca Werbel](#)
 - If a specific site already has administrators, vaccines can be provided
 - The DOH can provide educational resources (e.g., hosting webinars, providing educational infographics to be disseminated, etc.)
 - Please feel free to contact Dr. Fisher for all educational resources at 732-963-7297
 - Presentations are available for county mental health boards, committees, and individual agencies
- COVID Connect Helpline contract has been extended and continues to provide phone support and referrals to ongoing support and treatment for anyone who has been affected by the pandemic. Please call 833-223-0011 Monday to Friday between 9 am to 5 pm to access this resource

- Please note that the rule relaxations and modifications have been updated to align with the telehealth law signed by Governor Murphy extending telehealth through 12/31/23. Updated guidance has been posted online dated January 25, 2022:
 - <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/library/slides/Certificate%20of%20Modification%20of%20Rules%20Pertaining%20to%20Community%20Support%20Services%20for%20Adults%20with%20Serious%20Mental%20Illness.pdf>
 - <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/library/slides/Certificate%20of%20Modification%20of%20Rules%20Pertaining%20to%20Licensed%20Community%20Residences%20for%20Adults%20with%20Mental%20Illness.pdf>
- Governor Phil Murph signed Executive Order No. 283 on January 19, 2022, requiring covered workers at health care facilities and high-risk congregate settings to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations, including having received a booster dose. All covered workers will be required to be vaccinated by the dates outlined in the Order and will no longer be permitted to submit to testing as an alternative to vaccination, except to provide accommodation for individuals exempt from vaccination as outlined in the covered settings vaccination policy. This requirement aims to strengthen protections against the spread of COVID-19 and the highly transmissible Omicron variant to vulnerable populations across the state. Healthcare facilities' covered workers subject to the Biden Administration's vaccine mandate for health care settings will have until January 27, 2022, to obtain their first dose of the primary series of a COVID-19 vaccination and submit proof that they are up to date with their vaccination by February 28, 2022, which includes having completed their primary series and any booster shots for which they are eligible. This timeline is consistent with the Biden Administration's federal vaccine mandate for health care settings.

Health Care facilities' covered workers not subject to the Biden Administration's vaccine mandate for health care settings and high-risk congregate care covered workers will have until February 28, and March 30 deadlines will be required to submit proof of their booster shot within three weeks of becoming eligible. Executive Order No. 283 also requires that covered workers currently subject to testing under Executive Order No 252 must continue once to twice weekly testing until they provide adequate proof that they are up to date with their vaccinations based on the respective February 28 and March 30 deadlines. Additionally, the Order requires covered settings to have a disciplinary process for noncompliance, including and up to termination of employment. This Order will not impact a setting's ability to impose more stringent vaccination or testing requirements on workers, including requiring more frequent testing.

- DCA created a website submitting a formal inquiry regarding licensing delays: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=99VnNtLmGE21B1q6WgSkzHIDBHsHJZJuIDac9KYlgFUM1JFTzYzV1VHTIZFUUdHQzlaSVdKU0hWTy4u>

Community Support Services

- It was announced that Supportive Housing Connection could no longer continue the payment of rent for consumers who did not submit their recertification packet. Effective 3/1/22, if a consumer working with a provider agency has not submitted their recertification packet or renewal lease, DMHAS will stop making rental payments for that consumer.
- Upcoming Training
 - CSS Training Series (Spring 2022)
 - Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. from 02.01.2022 – 03.29.2022
 - Wednesdays 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. from 02.02.2022 – 03.30.2022
 - Thursdays 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. from 02.03.2022 – 03.31.2022
 - Registration closes on Tuesday 01.25.2022
 - Uncertainty: Reintegrating into the Community Post-Pandemic
 - Friday, 01.14.2022 at 9:30 a.m.
 - [*Let's Talk About Sexuality, Sexual Health, & Mental Health*](#) will be held on Friday, 2/11 @ at 9:30 am. Shelley Buchbinder will facilitate it
 - Supervisory Learning Community
 - Monthly Meeting next Friday, 01.22.2022 at 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 - Topic: Recognizing and addressing provider stress, workplace fatigue, moral distress, and injury in yourself and coworkers
 - Please contact [Earle Leitch](#) with questions
 - Technical Assistance
 - The CSS at Rutgers Initiative offers Technical Support to CSS agencies
 - Includes support for documentation, including IRPs
 - Find out more and identify your team contact on [CSS @ Rutgers](#) site

Staffing Updates

- Renee Burawski has been appointed as the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for DMHAS
- Dave Helfand is now the Assistant Division Director for the Office of Community Services
- Governor Murphy announced his intention to nominate Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman as the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services
- Stefanie Mozgai is the new Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Certificate of Need and Licensing at the NJ DOH

V. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Municipal Alliance Funding Recommendations moved to the end of the meeting – Closed Session

Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Amy Archer

Work has begun on the County Comprehensive 4 Year Plan (2024 – 2027). We will be putting together focus groups and conducting key informant interviews to see the

addiction needs in Morris County. We will be reaching out to the MHASAB and asking the planning committee to help. This will be an ongoing project throughout the year.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

We have welcomed a new team member to Navigation Hope, Ms. Cynthia Castro.

At the Mental Health Administrators meeting, the Statewide staffing issues experience by MH providers were discussed. Not only are providers struggling to employ staff, but the new vaccine mandate is also hindering employment.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

Funding – nothing to report

Planning – Ms. Linda Csengeto

We are looking to hold the Forum in 2023.

Legislative/Advocacy – nothing to report

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – Mr. Steve Nebesni

We met on February 3, 2022, and approved the funding recommendations for FY 2023.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 7, 2022.

VII. Joint PAC Report – Mr. Carmine Deo

Our last meeting was held on February 4, 2022, and Ms. Michelle Borden and I were elected Co-Chairs for 2022.

Mr. Thomas Rosamilia was named interim CEO of Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital on February 3, 2022, while the state Health Department searches for a permanent CEO. Mr. Rosamilia is known to many Morris County Providers since he has been employed at Bergen Regional Medical Center since 2009 and was manager of Behavioral Health Services at Morristown Medical Center and administrator for Behavioral Health at Newton Medical Center.

The Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP) reported the Morris East office had 77 referrals and the Morris West office had 111 referrals for January. Of which, ten were child welfare, 101 were prevention, and 32 were substance abuse related. All DCPP employees have returned to full-time office work.

Mental Health Association, NewBridge Services, and Community Hope gave updates on new services, including a Veteran Family Unification Program, Veteran Peer Support Group, Gambling Treatment Program, and an Addiction Diversion Program.

Workforce Work Group Subcommittee Update

The PAC has formed a Workforce Work Group Subcommittee. The group met on February 4th with Workforce Development Board (WDB). WDB provided information

on recruiting, hiring incentives, and on-the-job training for employees. As Ms. Archer mentioned earlier, our provider organizations are having difficulty maintaining current employees and attracting new employees to their organizations. The group also discussed the impact of the latest vaccine mandate for the congregate settings on agency operations. Some employees of the organizations have expressed frustration over the additional expectations that the mandate brought. Some employees are vaccinated, some resigned, and others are waiting to see what will happen as the vaccine deadline approaches in the next couple of weeks.

The next PAC and Workforce Work Group Subcommittee meetings will be held on Friday, March 4, 2022.

VIII. Human Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) – Ms. Linda Csengeto

We met on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. Ms. Rebecca Sherrod was voted Chair, and Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk was voted Vice-Chair of the committee for 2022.

The NJ Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) discussed the importance of the Needs Assessments results for funding priorities. Also, it stated that NJ DHS employees would be returning to the office next week.

Morris County Department of Human Services (MC DHS) reported:

- the State will launch an Emergency Rescue Mortgage Program for people affected by COVID-19. Receiving up to \$35,000 if they are NJ residents, it is their primary residence, if they earn 50% of median income, and if they apply by February 8, 2022
- This year's Point-In-Time Count is taking place tonight. The Federal Government mandates this
- Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) applications have been received, and agencies will give presentations on February 18th. A memo will go out for HSAC members to sign up for the review committee.
- Orientation will be held at the February Meeting
- 22 childcare centers in Morris County have permanently closed since March 2020

Morris Sussex Warren HIV Advisory Committee meetings are held online on the 4th Monday at 1:00 p.m. every other month.

- There are four HIV Providers in Morris County
 - Catholic Charities – Hope House
 - Family Health Center of MMC
 - EDGE NJ
 - Zufall Health Center in Dover

Youth Service Advisory Committee reported that families are having difficulty finding inpatient beds. Clients are waiting days for a bed since St. Clare's has been essentially full for the last two years.

Continuum of Care (CoC) reported they are working on homelessness prevention since the courts are reopening, assisting residents with additional financial assistance, and working to dismiss tenancy complaints.

IX. Old Business – no comment

X. New Business

Ms. Archer announced the retirement of Ms. Shelia Carter. Her last day will be Monday, February 28, 2022.

Ms. Rodriguez announced **The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)** program is an innovative international model of police-based crisis intervention training with community mental health care and advocacy partnerships. Why is it a “team”? Police officers, mental health professionals, and advocates receive intensive training as a group to respond to citizens experiencing a behavioral crisis and learn how to work together to achieve the best outcome for the individual. The emphasis in training is to provide knowledge about the wide variety of mental health issues and address them, crisis resolution skills, and access to community-based services.

The CIT Training for Morris County will be held at the Morris County Public Safety Academy located at 500 West Hanover Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054, from 8:00 am-4:30 pm on the following dates in 2022:

APRIL 25- APRIL 29, 2022
JUNE 20 – JUNE 24, 2022
SEPTEMBER 12 – SEPTEMBER 16, 2022
DECEMBER 5 – DECEMBER 9, 2022

This is an intensive 40-hour, hands-on training, and attendance is expected for all classes within the week. All registration forms will be reviewed to ensure that all participants benefit from the training. There are a limited number of slots available in training. You will be notified if you are chosen to participate in this session. If you are not selected for this class, you will be considered for the next available CIT Class. All applicants who are selected will be notified promptly.

If you have any questions, please contact Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Meg Rodriguez at (973) 445-1611 or via e-mail: mrodriguez@co.morris.nj.us.

XI. Open to the Public – no comment

XII. Municipal Alliance Coordinator (moved to the end of the meeting) Closed Session – The Fiscal Year 2023 Municipal Alliance Funding Recommendations – Mr. Steve Nebesni

Mr. Chernick asked that anyone in conflict with Municipal Alliance Funding and anyone from the public leave the call. Ms. Rose Brown and Mr. Carmine Deo left the call. Motion made by Ms. Csengeto and seconded by Mr. Hill to begin the closed session of the meeting. There were no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting under P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 6:17 p.m.

Return to Meeting

The meeting reopened at 6:21 p.m. No one reentered the call.

Actions Resulting from Closed Session

Mr. Chernick stated the Municipal Alliance met, reviewed, and provided funding recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2023. Let the record reflect that the board voted to approve the funding as presented in the closed session. We need a motion in an open session of the same.

As discussed in the closed session, Ms. Garodnick made a motion to approve the FY 2023 Municipal Alliance Funding. Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

XIII. Adjourn

Ms. Csengeto made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II