

**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*  
Stephen H. Shaw

*Deputy Director*  
Deborah Smith

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Thomas J. Mastrangelo  
Tayfun Selen



*County Administrator*  
John Bonanni

*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, February 11, 2021, 5:15 pm Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Held via Webex Meetings**

A quorum was not established, and attendance was as follows:

**Members Present:**

Caroline Bailey, Morris County Prevention is Key  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair  
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative  
Margaret Devine-Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office  
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Marcy McMann, Esq. Citizen Representative  
Alton Robinson, Citizen Representative  
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office  
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff's Office

**Others in Attendance:**

Eileen Alexander, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Michelle Borden, NewBridge Service, Inc.  
Lynne Chandler, St. Clare's Hospital Behavioral Health  
Paul Dougherty, DERV Behavioral Health System, Inc.  
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

**Staff in Attendance:**

Amy Archer, Morris County Department of Human Services  
Kasey Errico, Director of 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**

Mr. Chris Chernick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Chernick welcomed all in attendance, and introductions were made.

**III. Approval of January 14, 2021 Minutes**

They tabled the approval of the January 14, 2021 meeting minutes until the next meeting since a quorum was not reached.

**IV. Orientation Packets – Amy Archer**

Ms. Archer explained that orientation packets would be going out via mail this year. They have been handed out at the in-person meeting in the past, but due to Covid, that is impossible. You will receive; County and Division Flow Charts, Statement of Confidentiality, 2021 Funding Streams, MHASAB 2021 Meeting Dates, Morris County Advisory Board Policy and Procedure, a list of agency's that participate on the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC), By-Laws, Member Contact Information Form, and MHASAB By-Laws. In the By-Laws, read the section on attendance and Subcommittees. Each MHASAB member is required to serve on at least one subcommittee. See the descriptions below:

**Funding**

The subcommittee will develop recommendations to take to the entire Board for all Morris County programs funded by the County Commissioners, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (as requested), and the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Use. Some examples may include, but not limited to:

- Yearly funding recommendations for GIA, Chapter 51, Municipal Alliance funding
- New initiatives such as innovations grant
- Review of state contracts

\*Please keep conflict of interest in mind

**Planning**

The subcommittee will develop and present to the Board mental health and substance use systems plans as required by the County Commissioners, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. It will also participate in other related planning activities within the Department of Human Services when requested. Some examples may include, but not limited to:

- Plan and organize presentations and other educational opportunities for MHASAB meetings
- The nominating committee will fall under the planning piece – plan for chair and vice-chair nominations for the following year
- Update By-Laws as needed

\*In the past, the planning committee assisted with Public Forum, but this event will not take place in 2021 due to COVID

**Legislative/Advocacy:**

This subcommittee will monitor State and Federal legislation that addresses mental health issues, substance use, or other behavioral matters. The subcommittees will perform cursory reviews of such proposed legislation and recommend to the Board such legislation that the Board, as a whole, will decide to address. Some examples may include, but not limited to:

- Legalization of Marijuana
- Greystone settlement
- Municipal Alliance support in funding cuts

\*This subcommittee will provide ideas and assist in writing letters of Advocacy that will be brought before MHASAB for final approval

**V. Chair Report – Chris Chernick**

Mr. Chernick stated Greystone Psychiatric Hospital held two virtual meetings to help consumers understand what this settlement will mean. Some benefits from this settlement are; a limit on the number of total patients, an increase in staff in areas, an upgrade in emergency medical equipment, increased staffing at the patient information centers, an increase in the number and type of programs and activities available, and a new ambulance that will be stationed at the hospital at all times.

**VI. State Liaison Report:**

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

1. DMHAS welcomes Sarianne Gruber to the Office of Planning, Research, Evaluation, Prevention, and Olmstead. Sarianne will be joining us as the Project Director for our Covid-19 Emergency Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Grant. She brings many years of experience in healthcare research and performance analytics to drive a more patient-centric and cost-sensitive healthcare system.
2. Statewide COVID Vaccine Call Center 855-568-0545 is now live. The call center is staffed daily 8 am-8 pm to schedule vaccine appointments and pre-registration on the state site.
3. CSS-DocuSign is permissible for electronic signature.
4. CSIS-A check box was added to ask if the consumer has a rental subsidy.
5. **UIR Procedure**
  - Send all Incident Reports to [dmhas.incidentrept@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:dmhas.incidentrept@dhs.nj.gov)
  - Incident Reporting  
Forms: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/forms/#11>
6. Governor Murphy Announces Extension of Affordable Care Act Enrollment Period for Uninsured In New Jersey In Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

*New Jersey Joins Biden Administration in Effort to Assist Residents Through Special Enrollment Period*

**TRENTON** – Following the Biden Administration's health care action, Governor Phil Murphy announced the State is extending the health insurance enrollment period for uninsured residents to sign up for coverage through Get Covered New Jersey, the State's official health insurance marketplace in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The State of New Jersey transitioned from using the federally-facilitated marketplace, healthcare.gov, to its marketplace last year, GetCovered.NJ.gov. The first Open Enrollment Period started November 1, 2020, and ends on January 31, 2021. New Jersey will extend the window for eligible uninsured residents to enroll in a health insurance plan through the marketplace or directly from carriers through a COVID-19 Special Enrollment Period through May 15, 2021.

The coverage effective dates will be as follows:

- Enroll by February 28, coverage effective March 1;
- Enroll by March 31, coverage effective April 1;
- Enroll by April 30, coverage effective May 1;
- Enroll by May 15, coverage effective June 1.

Residents shopping for health insurance through GetCovered.NJ.gov have access to a new state subsidy — called New Jersey Health Plan Savings – on top of premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions available to lower their cost of health insurance. All plans available through Get Covered New Jersey meet the Affordable Care Act's stringent standards and offer free preventive care, free telehealth during the COVID-19 public health emergency and 90 days after that, and coverage for emergency services, mental health, and substance use services, and more. All plans available through PI Get Covered New Jersey are also required to cover COVID-19 diagnostic testing and COVID-19 vaccinations without out-of-pocket costs.

After January 31, New Jerseyans can update health plans or enroll in a new health plan for other reasons, including birth or adoption of a child and pregnancy. More information on Special Enrollment Periods will be available on GetCovered.NJ.gov, where residents can also shop and compare plans and see if they qualify for financial help.

The deadline for New Jersey's COVID-19 Special Enrollment Period aligns with the enrollment window opened by the federal government under the Biden Administration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All New Jerseyans seeking health insurance are encouraged to sign up by January 31 to have coverage in effect on February 1, providing the maximum benefit of health coverage for 2021. To get free help choosing a plan from a trained, certified assister, go to [Find Local Assistance](#) on the Get Covered New Jersey website.

7. **The National Lifeline Program and the 9-8-8 rollout:** The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal or emotional distress 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We're committed to improving crisis services and advancing suicide prevention by empowering individuals, advancing professional best practices, and building awareness.
- The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act is now law. 9-8-8, the new three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, is to be completed by July 2022. A national three-digit phone number will improve access to vital crisis services, improve the efficacy of suicide prevention efforts, reduce the stigma about mental health, and getting help. Most importantly, 988 will help to save lives every day.
- For now, 1-800-273-TALK (8255) is the phone number for callers to connect to Lifeline services (nationwide). 988 is NOT CURRENTLY ACTIVE and should not be promoted until the national Lifeline program has completed the rollout in the summer of 2022.**

The 5 Lifeline Centers in NJ are listed below.

Organization	Website	Counties
CONTACT of Burlington	<a href="http://www.contactburlco.org">www.contactburlco.org</a>	Burlington
Contact of Mercer	<a href="http://www.contactofmercer.org">www.contactofmercer.org</a>	Mercer, Ocean. Back up Monmouth
Caring Contact	<a href="http://caringcontact.org/">http://caringcontact.org/</a>	Union, Essex, Morris, Middlesex, Somerset; Back up statewide
MHANJ	<a href="http://www.njmentalhealthcares.org">www.njmentalhealthcares.org</a>	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Hudson, Hunterdon, Ocean, Sussex, Warren
Rutgers - UBHC	<a href="http://www.ubhc.rutgers.edu">www.ubhc.rutgers.edu</a>	Atlantic, Bergen, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Passaic, Salem, Sussex, Warren. Back up for other Counties.

## 8. Hope and Healing Helpline

[https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/information/provider/Provider\\_Meetings/2020/HH.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/information/provider/Provider_Meetings/2020/HH.pdf)

The HEAL NJ Healthcare Workers Covid Hope & Health Helpline can be reached at 1-833-416-8773. It offers live support for doctors, nurses, hospital staff, and all other health care personnel by trained crisis counselors and health care peers from 8 am to 8 pm daily, with emergency support available 24/7. The helpline can also connect other resources, including telehealth crisis counseling, virtual support groups, and wellness webinars. To learn more and register for online webinars and support groups, please visit [www.healhealthcareworkers.com](http://www.healhealthcareworkers.com).

The RISE: NJ First Responders Covid Hope & Health Helpline for law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS professionals, and others can be reached at 1-833-237-4325. It offers live support from specialists and peers daily from 8 am to 8 pm, with emergency support available 24/7. Available support also includes crisis counseling, virtual support groups, and resiliency and wellness webinars. To learn more about RISE and register for online support groups and webinars, please visit [www.risefirstresponders.com](http://www.risefirstresponders.com).

## 9. VIRTUAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING

With the stress and uncertainty in the world right now, learn how to identify the emotional needs and assist those in your community, family, or organization. QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention training and Pandemic Fatigue & Strategies for Resiliency COVID-19 Strategies will be offered virtually at no cost. Please register in advance through the link below each date.

- **Pandemic Fatigue and Strategies for Resiliency (2 Hours)**  
February 8th @ 10:00 AM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvd-uspz4qE9eaakqHqg3vF4P1bnOc9--2>
- **Question, Persuade, Refer (2 Hours)**  
February 10th @ 4:00 PM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrf-yprTMtG9wflmMQw9JIm91LmLfAAqQK>
- **Question, Persuade, Refer (2 Hours)**  
February 16th @ 10:00 AM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdu2opjkqEtNIByVB6tusOZB3iJ-F-k7a>

- **Pandemic Fatigue and Strategies for Resiliency (2 Hours)**  
February 17th @ 4:00 PM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZl0f-qrgDguHNlps-oVdcULYUrLgVsXzpXY>
- **Question, Persuade, Refer (2 Hours)**  
February 23rd @ 1:00 PM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsf-CppjovGtzdr0-NIsjycA4WjV9JiQLG>
- **Pandemic Fatigue and Strategies for Resiliency (2 Hours)**  
February 26th @ 1:00 PM  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkcucrqTMiGNO5PAiN1F1EOZ2-wD1Wwq\\_i](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkcucrqTMiGNO5PAiN1F1EOZ2-wD1Wwq_i)

## VII. Staff Reports

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

The Fiscal Year, 2019 site visit with Governor's Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse (GCADA) scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, was rescheduled for Tuesday, March 2.

### **Addiction Services Coordinator – Rosalyn Suarez**

Center for Addiction Recovery Education and Success (CARES) has received three referrals from the Innovation Grant, one female, and two males; all have been sentenced to drug court within the past thirty days. At this time, no referrals have been received for Legal Services.

Please submit outstanding vouchers for 2020 as soon as possible for processing.

Camden County will host a workshop on "Weeding Out the Facts" on March 25 at 6:00 pm to discuss the Marijuana Legislation and Community Impact. The workshop is free and will be held via ZOOM.

### **Mental Health Administrator – Amy Archer**

2021 Funding Review for Mental Health Services administered through the State will be held on Friday, February 26, and an email will be sent soon. This meeting will be virtual, and MHASAB voting members are encouraged to participate.

Any suggestions or a topic for presentations from agencies and the funding programs through MHASAB should be sent to Mr. Chernick, Ms. Garodnick, Ms. Suarez, or myself.

## VIII. Subcommittee Reports

### **Funding**

Ms. Suarez stated Chapter 51 signed subgrants were due back today.

Ms. Archer reported there was approximately \$14 million awarded to the County for Emergency Rental Assistance. At this time, the County is formulating how the program will work and the funds to be disbursed.

Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the County received money from the Emergency Assistance Grant (ESG) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The needs of the community are ever-changing, and this is a continuous process. As information becomes available, it will be presented to the committee.

### **Planning**

Ms. Csengeto asked about the Public Forum. Ms. Archer stated that due to Covid, the Public Forum would not be held this year.

### **Legislative/Advocacy – no report**

#### **County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – Steve Nebesni**

The CASS met on February 4. Beginning to close out the fiscal year 2020. Finishing up the fiscal year 2021 applications. There are about ten more to retype. Still waiting for notification as to the fiscal year 2022 funding amounts. CASS's next meeting will be on April 1.

### **IX. Joint PAC Report – Lynn Chandler**

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. Discussion ensued about which agencies are already a part of the working group and what others have programs they would like to bring in.

### **X. HSAC Report – Jane Shivas**

Ms. Rebekka Zydel and Ms. Joann McEniry were nominated and voted in as the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Workforce Development Board announced there is funding available to companies and non-profits to help with the costs of training and onboarding of new employees.

Advisory Committee on Women wasn't very active during 2020. They will be focusing on the Ruth Davis Drive project, providing housing for single women that are homeless. During the pandemic, the houses were used to provide isolation for those in shelters that tested positive for Covid-19.

The Needs Assessment is complete and in State Review. Additional information when available.



**XI. Old Business**

Ms. Suarez stated that Governor Murphy was expected to sign the legislation bill for Marijuana. Below is the information on the marijuana bill for recreational use;  
<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-jersey/articles/2021-02-08/deadline-for-murphy-to-act-on-marijuana-bill-pushed-back>

**XII. New Business**

**XIII. Open to the Public**

**XIV. Adjourn**

Mr. Chernick adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II