

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 900
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Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 11, 2021, 5:15 pm via Webex Meeting

I. Call to Order and Attendance

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

Members Present:

Caroline Bailey, Morris County Prevention is Key
Gregg Benson, Morris County Heroin/Opiate Task Force
Susan Calantone, Citizen Representative
Chris, Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair
Margaret Devine-Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Heather Diamond, Center for Evaluation & Counseling
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Marcy McMann, Esq., Citizen Representative
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sherriff's Office

Others in Attendance:

Eileen Alexander, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services, Inc.
Jennifer Carpinteri, Atlantic Health, Behavioral & Integrative Health Services
Carmine Deo, Community Hope

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

II. Approval of January 14, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Chernick asked for a motion to approve the January 14 meeting minutes. Ms. Meg Rodriguez made the motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Gregg Benson seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

Approval of February 11, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Chernick asked for a motion to approve the February 11 meeting minutes. Mr. Julian Hill made the motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Caroline Bailey seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

III. Orientation Packets

Ms. Amy Archer stated the packets would go out in the mail by the end of March. If you have any question or concerns, you contact me at aarcher@co.morris.nj.us or 973.285.6852, or we can discuss at our next meeting in April.

IV. Chair Report – Mr. Chris Chernick

It is mandatory as a Board Member to participate in one subcommittee. Six members have not signed up yet. Please go to the Doodle website or follow the link https://doodle.com/poll/zqtqf4wazsa3c3k9?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link to sign up.

There was a meeting for the New Jersey Mental Health Funding Contracts. The committee was asked for a motion to empower the MHASAB Funding Subcommittee to draft a letter of support and questions to go back to the State was made by Mr. Benson and seconded by Ms. McMann. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

V. State Liaison Reports:

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) – Ms. Eileen Alexander

DMHAS Staffing:

Please welcome John Verney as the new Northern Regional Coordinator for DMHAS. Mr. Verney has served as the Acute Care Coordinator since 2009 and will be stepping out of this role over the next few months as he transitions to his new position. Theresa Wilson will continue her role as Assistant Regional Coordinator for the Northern Region.

Eviction Moratorium:

Link to the most recent Executive Order extending the public health crisis by 30 days

<https://www.nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-222.pdf>

This means the eviction moratorium protected in Exec. Order 106 is extended to May 18, 2021.

Meetings:

Residential Provider Meeting

Save the Date- Tuesday, March 23, 10 am-12 pm

Mary Jean Weston is hoping to have agencies participate on a panel discussing their success in maintaining or adding staff during the pandemic. If interested in being a part of the panel, please contact Mary Jean.

HUD Shelter Tool:

HUD recently released a Find Shelter Tool, which provides information about housing, shelter, health care, and clothing resources in communities across the country to help those in need. This tool will provide mapping and contact information for those community resources and printable posters and palm cards that can be displayed to direct people to the tool. You can access the tool by visiting hud.gov/find-shelter or scanning the QR code in the attached FAQ flier.

Trainings and Webinars:

- 12-week Virtual Group Class for Anger Management
- Every Monday from 6 pm-7 pm (Free for Sussex County Residents), please see the flyer for more information.
- Behavioral Health providers: Knowledge is Power- Intellectual wellness
March 18th, 1pm-2pm. Please see the flyer for more information.
- FREE Virtual Training
*Building a Better Suicide Risk Assessment: The Nuts and Bolts of the Columbia Protocol
- Protocol
March 4, 10:30am-12pm. Please see the flyer for more information.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT):

NJ DHS to expand the availability of Medication that Supports Recovery from addiction. DMHAS has notified treatment providers that it will award five regional contracts not to exceed \$800,000 to expand the life-saving medicines throughout the State. This is a part of a \$4-million-dollar grant program.

Quarterly Provider Meeting:

DMHAS held a Quarterly Provider Meeting on 3/11/21 with presentations regarding Incident Reporting, the NJ Evidence-Based Practices Initiative, and the State Tobacco Control Community of Practice partnership between DOH and DMHAS.

- Incident Reports-reviewed when reports should be initiated; shared that training is available for agencies upon request.
- NJ EBPI-consultation is available to agencies to ensure agencies fully incorporate EBP into the full infrastructure and effectively train all staff. Four

agencies have completed the Initiative. The program will be continuing for Phase 2, and Phase 3 and another RLI will be issued to choose additional providers for this opportunity.

- DMHAS and DOH partner for the State Tobacco Control Community of Practice to address smoking amongst mental health consumers.

The next QPM will meet on July 8, 2021, to allow the budget to be finalized before the meeting. As of now, the proposed budget will include increased funding for:

- Increase of fair market rates for DMHAS subsidies to increase current rates (currently, they are at 2018 rates).
- Pathway for psychiatric residencies (10 residencies in total) in community-based mental health and SUD programs
- Increased state aid for County Psychiatric Hospitals as their costs have increased over time.
- Additional DMHAS subsidies for CSS are allocated for those coming out of the State Psychiatric Hospitals (180 proposed).
- Additional DMHAS subsidies for CSS are allocated for the homeless, at risk of homelessness, or at-risk of hospitalization (20 proposed).
- \$2.2 million for a pilot program with the Administrative Office of the Courts for consumers with mental illness interacting with the criminal justice system

VI. Staff Reports:

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni

There are two 2021 applications that need to be retyped and resubmitted.

We are waiting on the 2022 allocation amounts to be announced from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA.)

Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez

- The next Stigma-Free meeting is March 16th at 2:00 pm.
- At the last State meeting, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) discussed the Jail Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) Initiative
 - Partner with the Department of Correction, NJ Department of Health, Warden's Association, and PEW Charitable Trust Partner with John Hopkins
 - Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) services to assist inmates who are going through pretrial or jail
 - State and Federal resources are used to help the prisons to establish new MAT programs or enhance existing MAT services
- Legalization of Marijuana: Governor Murphy signed the legislation for recreational use on February 22nd. NJ is the 13th State to allow recreational marijuana
 - To legalize adult-use cannabis

- An individual 21 and over can have up to 6oz of marijuana without facing any penalty
- Limit the use of previous marijuana convictions
- State-licensed dispensaries, though it could be well over a year before sales begin
- No selling or growing is allowed in NJ
- The Recovery Network offers outpatient services available to individuals statewide for the deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing loss who are experiencing SUD through telehealth. All services are provided by staff that are fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) The telephone number is 1-877.922.2377. Email: access@centerffs.org.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding, Mental Health Association (MHA) was awarded a contract to continue with the Suicide Prevention Program throughout 2021. MHA will continue to travel on Navigating Hope once a week to provide information to the community.

The Human Service Advisory Committee (HSAC) Needs Assessment was submitted to the State. The State has provided feedback that will be published but has not provided a publication date. As the information becomes available, it will be provided to the Board.

The Division of Aging, Disabilities, & Community Programming will be holding a COVID-19 Wellness Event for adults age 60 or older, and adults with Disabilities at the County Library on April 12th from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Home Bound senior or Adults with Disabilities that are unable to attend and would like to receive a kit (touchless tool kits, hand sanitizer, and reuseable masks) can call 973.285.6848 for assistance.

Senior-specific (age 75 and older) NJ COVID call center hotline - from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm to register, schedule, and reschedule appointments - 856.249.7007.

Ms. Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff's Office, reported on a new initiative called the Hope Hub. Hope Hub, a comprehensive program that combines the expertise and resources of multiple public service agencies to help vulnerable and at-risk people find the assistance they need, from homeless solutions and addiction treatment to mental health counseling or a combination of services. Hope Hub is an expansion of the Hope One outreach program, a mobile substance use recovery and mental health initiative by which a team of specialists drives into Morris County communities to find and assist people in need of addiction counseling and mental health services. Hope Hub will expand on that formula by bringing a team approach, tapping the services of many different agencies and nonprofits to focus on vulnerable individuals' cases brought to their attention by various public service agencies or individuals. Spearheaded by Hope Hub Coordinator Officer Ms. Chelsea Whiting, Hope Hub will be a multidisciplinary panel made up of law enforcement members, social services, mental health services, healthcare providers, treatment providers, and recovery specialists. Individuals and

families struggling with problems referred to the Hope Hub panel will be connected to life-changing services. The multidisciplinary panel will determine what public services would best help an individual bring to their attention. The board will work together to determine if a situation requires a welfare visit or an intervention.

VII. Subcommittee Report:

Funding – no report

Planning – no report

Legislative/Advocacy – no report

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

This subcommittee meets every other month. Our next meeting will be on April 1.

VIII. Joint PAC Report – Mr. Carmine Deo

The committee met on March 5 via video meeting. The usual County and State reports were given and Deirdre's House, Prevention is Key, NewBridge, EDGE NJ, and Morris Wellness Center provided updates and announcements.

IX. HSAC Report – no report

X. Old Business – no comment

XI. New Business – no comment

XII. Open to the Public – no comment

XIII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Benson. Ms. Diamond seconded the motion. All were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II