

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)

MEETING – March 12, 2020 – Conference Call

Members Present:

Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative
Ashley Craig, Morris County Sherriff's Office
Carol DeGraw, United Way of Northern New Jersey
Heather Diamond, Center for Evaluation & Counseling
Maria Fodali, MCDHS, OTA
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Marcy McMann, Esq., Citizen Representative
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, NJDHS Mental Health and Addiction Services
Lynne Chandler, Saint Clare's Hospital Behavioral Health
Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County Freeholder
Paul Dougherty, SERV
Ashley Read, Family Promise

Staff in Attendance:

Amy Archer, MCDHS
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS
Heather Rose, MCDHS
Rosalyn Suarez, MCDHS

- I. Call to Order and Approval February 13 Minutes**
Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. Ms. Cheryl Garodnick made a motion to approve the February 13 minutes. Ms. Barbara Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.
- II. Welcome and Introductions**
Ms. McMann welcomed everyone and introductions made.
- III. Chair Report – Ms. Marcy McMann** no report
- IV. Subcommittee Reports**
 - a. Funding – Moved to end of meeting**

b. Planning – Ms. Amy Archer

MHASAB Public Forum meeting was held on Feb. 28. The Forum will be held on June 16 at the Morris County Public Safety Training Facility in the gym. Ms. McMann asked why the location was moved. Ms. Archer stated the event has outgrown the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Discussion ensued. Our next Public Forum meeting is on Mar. 27 @ 2:30 p.m.

c. Legislative/Advocacy – Ms. Marcy McMann

Nothing new to report on Greystone.

**d. County Steering Alliance Subcommittee (CASS) – Ms. Heather Rose
No Report**

V. State Liaison Report – DMHAS – Ms. Eileen Alexander – Report Attached

Ms. Alexander stated that as of today all meetings and trainings mentioned in the attached report are cancelled due to COVID-19. Meetings will take place via conference call and trainings via webinar or rescheduled. All participants will be contacted with further information. DMHAS is still open and operational.

DMHAS has had several meetings today regarding COVID-19. There is a COOP Plan in place and each organization should be following their own COOP plan for how business operations will continue. DMHAS is directing you to contact your local health department or CDC for questions about COVID-19.

Ms. Barbara Ward stated that she received an email from Pro Bono Partnership. They provide free business and transactional legal services to nonprofits. On their website, <https://www.probonopartner.org/>, is a link for COVID-19 up-to-date provider resources.

VI. Staff Reports

a. Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Heather Rose

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) requested a log of all cancelled events during the COVID-19 time period.

b. Addictions Services Coordinator – Rosalyn Suarez

The Substance Use Subcommittee met in February to discuss the barriers and solutions for youth recovery. The action plan will focus on the needs assessment, Senate hearing for Daytop on March 16, and the County Comprehensive Plan.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. More information to follow.

The next Stigma Free Meeting will be March 17 at 2:00 p.m. via conference call. Ms. McMann asked if there was an update on the four towns in the county not signed up and Ms. Archer stated an update will be given at the next MHASAB meeting.

c. Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

At the Cross Systems Meeting on March 4th there was discussion that Saint Hubert's may be able to assist individuals unable to care for their pets while receiving inpatient treatment for mental health or substance use.

Youth Suicide, the Division taking a close look at this. There have been many discussions on this issue and will be engaging the Stigma Free Committee at their next meeting to come up with a county wide plan to address this issue. The Society of Prevention for Teen Suicide was invited to the Stigma Free Meeting on March.

Ms. Archer mentioned the information distributed on S.M.A.R.T. Recovery Self-Management and Recovery Training and New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse.

SMART Recovery uses an evidence-based tool developed inside and outside of the program to help people make their own choices, or better choices, than they have made in the past. www.smartrecovery.org

The New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse was started in 1981 as the first such statewide operation of its kind. They offer the following services; information on groups, advice on developing groups, training, and presentation on support groups. www.njgroups.org

VII. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Lynne Chandler

Rutgers Center of Excellence gave a presentation on the Opioid Epidemic at the last meeting. It was noted, overdose deaths have increased by 29.3% from 2016/2017. Emphasis placed on Opioid Use Disorder and Chronic Relapse Disorder are brain disorders. Also discussed, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). Some of the benefits of MAT are reduction in opioid use, increase in mental and physical health, and improved management of comorbid conditions. There are significant system issues not allowing MAT to expand throughout the state. Care fragmentation, low reimbursement rates, licensing issues, and the stigma of “Replacing one drug for another” are obstacles we are facing. The Center of Excellence was tasked with addressing those obstacles and collaborating with providers throughout the state.

Nourish NJ is offering free mental health counselling at 36 South St., Morristown. In addition, there are Farmers Markets open five days a week in different locations.

Ms. McMann asked, “Has there been any impact to those seeking mental health or addiction services, due to the COVID-19?” Ms. Chandler stated it is business as usual.

VIII. HSAC Report – Ms. Jane Shivas

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) charged county Human Services Advisory Councils (HSACs) with the task of completing local assessments to determine service needs, trends over time, key barriers to service delivery and considerations for action. Late Friday afternoon Morris County data specific to the Needs

Assessment was received. Over the next two weeks, the information will be reviewed to assist in determining best practice for the Planning Subcommittee to get started.

Governor Murphy has allocated \$2 million for Code Blue. The Governor is looking into allocating money for LGBTQ Homelessness.

Reminder that the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is available and underutilized. Free Tax preparation is available through The United Way of Northern New Jersey along with NORWESCAP or at myfreetax.com for households earning \$50,000 or less. Many clients use tax refunds to pay bills, add to their savings accounts, purchase homes, and make home or auto repairs.

Child Care Subsidy Rate increase effective January 5, 2020:

New Monthly Base Rates:

Infants: \$994.42

Toddlers: \$829.99

Preschool: \$690.11

School Age: \$634.27

Co-payment Reduction

Applicant co-payments are now calculated as 3% of the household income instead of 7%. Resulting in at least a 50% reduction for applicants.

The New Jersey Department of Education requires grantees to complete a comprehensive need assessment related to career and technical education prior to the release of allocations. The WDB is working with the local community colleges, vocational schools and school districts to complete the assessment. One of the objectives of the assessment is to align CTE programs with the local labor market.

MAPS software system, Ecolane, transition been successful in the short time it has been operating, since Dec. 19, 2019. Ridership is up at least 20 clients per day. We are including serving more rural riders. In addition to our main priorities medical, non-competitive employment, adult day care, we are looking to add grocery-shopping trips in the spring 2020.

IX. Old Business – No Comment

X. New Business

Ms. Carol DeGraw announced that as of today United Way staff is working remotely.

Ms. Cheryl Garodnick stated Therapy Resources is also looking at server services to work remotely. DOXYME is a free server and is HIPPA compliant.

Ms. Amy Archer announced that Bob Parker's proclamation from the County was postponed.

Ms. Rosalyn Suarez stated that all Chapter 51 subgrant packages were mailed out this week.

Funding Closed Session (moved to the end of the meeting) CASS – Ms. Heather Rose

Ms. Marcy McMann asked that anyone in conflict with Municipal Alliance Funding and anyone from the public must leave the call. Ms. Eileen Alexander, Ms. Lynne Chandler, Ms. Ashley Craig, Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo, Ms. Heather Diamond, Mr. Paul Dougherty, Ms. Maria Fodali, Mr. Julian Hill Esq., Ms. Jane Shivas, Ms. Ashley Reid left the call. Motion made by Ms. Barbara Ward and seconded by Ms. Carol DeGraw 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 pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 5:56 p.m.

Return to Meeting

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

Actions Resulting from Closed Session

Ms. McMann stated the CASS met, reviewed and approved all the funding applications. This is for FY 2021 (from July 2020 to June 2021). Let the record reflect that in closed session the board voted to approve the FY 2021 Alliance funding. We need a motion in open session of the same.

Ms. Cheryl Garodnick made a motion to approve the FY 2021 Alliance funding recommendations as discussed in closed session. Ms. Barbara Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

XI. Open to the Public – No Comment

XII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. LaJuan Tucker, Esq. Ms. Carol DeGraw seconded the motion. All were in favor meeting adjourned.