

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)
MEETING: April 9, 2020 via ZOOM

Members Present:

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Carol DeGraw, United Way of Northern New Jersey
Carmine Deo, Community Hope
Heather Diamond, Center for Evaluation & Counseling
Marcy McMann, Esq., Citizen Representative
Alton Robinson, Citizen Representative
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, NJDHA Mental Health and Addiction Services
Paul Dougherty, SERV

Staff in Attendance:

Amy Archer, MCDHS
Maria Fidali, MCOTA
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS
Heather Rose, MCDHS
Rosalyn Suarez, MCDHS

- I. Call to Order and Approval of March 12 Minutes**
Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. Ms. Carol DeGraw made a motion to approve the March 12 minutes. Ms. Barbara Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with no 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**

Funding

Ms. Amy Archer reported she sent out an e-mail to providers regarding GIA Modifications. MHASAB will be notified of the modifications received, and approvals will be sent to the providers next week.

Ms. Archer stated Emergent Shelter Grant (ESG) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) would receive funding from the CARES Act. Now, Ms. Archer is waiting on HUD for local guidance.

Discussion ensued.

Planning

Ms. Archer stated the 2020 Public Forum is canceled.

Legislative/Advocacy no report

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) no report

V. State Liaison Reports

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

Please see attached report.

VI. Staff Reports:

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Heather Rose

Ms. Rose stated the State has ceased, as of March 23, all Municipal Alliance funding to aide COVID-19 resources. The current FY funding cycle ends on June 30, 2020, and not sure if the next funding cycle will be pushed back or funded at all. This is for two reasons, the future need for COVID-19 resources and the fact that DWI funding is down.

Addictions Services Coordinator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez

Ms. Suarez reported that, considering COVID-19, the State has notified providers that they have eliminated Fee for Service (FFS) billing beginning March 1 and ending June 30, 2020. It was asked how the State was paying instead and Mr. Carmine Deo stated, the State is averging costs - took the FFS funds that would typically be billed, divided by four, and will pay a lump sum monthly.

Chapter 51 is allowing Telehealth services.

During COVID19, individuals in an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) can take home medication depending on how many days in treatment and stability. If an individual is new to therapy or less stable, they can take home medication daily or on a staggered basis while in treatment.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

Ms. Archer reported the following County Human Services updates:

- Community and Behavioral Health Services are fully operational and working remotely when appropriate. The department is still processing vouchers. During this time can accept voucher via e-mail (do not have to be mailed in). Some staff is assisting the Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) with phone calls.
- OTA's main office and Dover office are closed to the public. They are taking applications online, over the phone, and by mail. Mail can be dropped off at the main office through a dropbox.
- Nutrition is delivering frozen meals twice a week, Monday and Thursday. New referrals may take seven to ten days to process.
- Aging & APS is fully operational and working remotely when appropriate.
- MAPS is providing life-sustaining rides and checking if the individual has a ride with a family member or friend first.
- Navigating Hope all trips suspended until further notice. Chris Linne (driver) is assisting Nutrition with meal deliveries and OTA with motel deliveries.

Morris County COVID-19 testing site is for Morris County residents. They do need a prescription from a doctor, an appointment, and have a completed consent form. Please check the Morris County website at <https://morriscountynj.gov/> for details and location.

Morris County will not be deploying the DRCCs at this time. The Division will follow up with a PowerPoint and e-mail next week once the DRCC list is updated.

Joint PAC Report – Mr. Carmine Deo

Mr. Deo stated that an abbreviated PAC meeting was held via conference call. The County and State reports heard this evening were also reported at the abbreviated PAC meeting. There was discussion on the challenges providers are having with Telehealth, Telework, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and staffing.

The homes on Ruth Davis Drive are currently being used by some providers during COVID19 to self-isolate, create social distancing, etc.

HSAC Report – Ms. Jane Shivas

Homeless Solutions Warming Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Guests are not asked to leave in the morning.

As of March 24, 2020, about 95% of licensed childcare centers and 65% of childcare providers are closed. Individual municipalities required some of the centers to close.

The United Way of Northern New Jersey opened an ALICE recovery fund. The Jets donated \$1 million to three different United Ways.

Nourish NJ is providing takeout food packages. Deliveries are skyrocketing for homebound seniors.

Old Business

Ms. Archer reported the Division is waiting for guidance from the State about the Needs Assessment and if this project will be delayed. More information will follow.

Ms. Suarez reported she did not have a status on the 4 remaining towns that did not join Stigma Free. Once an update is received she will report to the Board.

New Business

Ms. Carol DeGraw reported United Way of Northern New Jersey started an ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Recovery Fund in partnership with United Way of Hunterdon County to address the emerging needs of households and those in poverty in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the initial phase of this Fund, emergency financial assistance will be provided directly to those individuals who meet the following residency and income guidelines:

- Applicants must be residents of Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Suburban Essex, Sussex, and Warren counties. (Suburban Essex includes the Caldwells, Cedar Grove, Essex Fells, Fairfield, Glen Ridge, Livingston, Millburn-Short Hills, Montclair, Roseland, and Verona)

- Before the pandemic, single adults must have had an annual income below \$35,560 without dependents or no more than \$88,128 with two or more dependents.
- Before the pandemic, two adult households must have had an annual income below \$52,444 without dependents or no more than \$103,836 with two or more dependents.
- Applicants will need to provide documentation showing loss of income due to the pandemic, beginning February 1, 2020.

Open to the Public – no comment

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Barbara Ward. Mr. Chris Chernick seconded the motion. All were in favor of meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfull submitted,

Anna Marie Hess