

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

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John Krickus
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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)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 13, 2021, 5:15 pm via Webex Meeting

I. Call to Order and Attendance

Mr. Chris Chernick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Caroline Bailey, Morris County Prevention is Key
Gregg, Benson, Citizen Representative
Susan Calantone, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County – Vice Chair
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Marcy McMann, Esq., Citizen Representative
Alton Robinson, Citizen Representative
Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Erica Valvano, Morris County Hope One
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Hope One

Board Liaisons:

Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services
Lynne Chandler, Saint Clare's Hospital Behavioral Health

Others in Attendance:

Regina Jessup, Probation Services of Morris County
Nekema Wilfong, Morris County Office of Temporary Services

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
Steve Nebesni, Morris County Department of Human Services
Rosalyn Suarez, Morris County Department of Human Services

II. Approval of April 8, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Chernick asked for a motion to approve the April 8 minutes distributed before the meeting. Mr. Hill made the motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor, with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion Carried.

III. Chair Report – Mr. Chernick

Mr. Chernick announced the Subcommittees held their first meetings this week. The Funding Subcommittee met on Monday, May 10. Planning met on Tuesday, May 11, and Legislative/Advocacy met on Wednesday, May 12. It was decided to ask for a Subcommittee Reporter instead of a Chair/Vice-Chair to report back to the MHASAB at the monthly meetings. Mr. Alton Robinson will be the reporter for the Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee.

Ms. Linda Csengeto will be the Liaison between the MHASAB and Human Services Advisory Committee (HSAC).

IV. State Liaison Report:

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – report submitted before the meeting

DMHAS Contracting

Contract renewal letters went out to providers on April 16, 2021. Due to DMHAS on May 17, 2021, the County Contract Reviews are due by June 1, 2021.

COVID-19 Coordinating Entity (CCE)- is the call center at UBHC that serves as the initial point of entry for individuals seeking mental health and substance use services as a result of COVID-19 related issues. The CCE is a telehealth resource for anyone struggling emotionally during this pandemic. It is a counseling linkage program that will provide counseling services to staff, medical professionals, SPMI, MI, and family members. *COVID CONNECT helpline at (833) 223-0011*

Request for Proposals

DDD RFP funding opportunity for DD/MI Stabilization Homes.

Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce funding availability through a new Request for Proposals, [RFP: Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#). The funding will be awarded to a single entity to develop three four-bedroom behavioral health stabilization homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). (Smaller variations may be proposed so long as the total number of

beds provided is twelve.) Please see additional details in the RFP itself posted on the DHS [Requests for Proposals/Information](#) and [Notices of Funds Available](#) webpages.

Request for letters of Interest

New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Promoting Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care

New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) was awarded a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) *for \$2 million per year from March 30, 2020, to March 31, 2025, to implement a Promoting Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care (PIPBHC) initiative.* Two awards were made in 2020 to implement this initiative.

The DMHAS is re-issuing this Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) to increase the number of patients served through this project. This initiative implemented from these awards will address barriers to medical services and related care for People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) who are at risk for HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV) by developing an integrated system of care between participating Opioid Treatment Providers (OTPs) and primary care providers; to ensure that the initiative reaches those PWIDs at the highest risk for HIV/HCV; these entities shall arrange to receive referrals from Harm Reduction Centers (HRCs) in their counties. DMHAS is interested in developing and comparing two different service models; one model collaborates between an OTP and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), with a single provider with a co-located OTP and FQHC or other primary care clinics. If no vendor has a co-located primary care model and OTP, DMHAS reserves the right to select another collaborative proposal.

Total funding available through this RLI is \$583,550 per year for five years, contingent on the availability of federal funding. The total number of people served should be 259. The number of awards made will be determined by the number of people served. The annual per-client cost for services should not exceed \$2,250 for each partner dyad consisting of one OTP and one Primary Care Provider. Applicants must include the numbers to be served and the amount requested in their response. Contracts will be annual, contingent upon continued federal funding, and begin in June 2021. FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

DHS resources

Additional SNAP funding

The 462,000 households in New Jersey that receive food assistance through NJ SNAP, the State's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, will receive a total of \$79.9 million in extra benefits in May.

When those extra payments are included, the state Department of Human Services will have distributed \$694.1 million in supplemental monthly SNAP payments to households since the coronavirus pandemic began in March 2020. As with regular SNAP benefits, the extra funds will be directly uploaded onto recipients' "Families First" EBT (electronic benefits transfer) cards early next month; the amount will be based on household size.

NJ SNAP provides food assistance to low-income families to help them buy groceries through a benefits card accepted in most food retail stores and farmer's markets. Families can also use their cards online through Amazon and participating Aldi, ShopRite, The Fresh Grocer, and Walmart.

Other resources

CARES Act Funding

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provides supplemental funding for programs and a vast array of resources to assist people with disabilities to continue living independently in their communities across the U.S.

Centers for Independent Living received funds to assist individuals with disabilities in overcoming barriers encountered due to the pandemic.

Warren, Sussex, and Morris CARES Act funding available through Dawn Center for Independent Living needs have to be related to or a result of the pandemic.

Phone: (973) 625-1940

Toll-Free: (888) 383-DAWN

V. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni

The final report to close out the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 was sent to the Morris County Finance Office and the FY2021 Q1 and Q2 reports should be submitted to the State by the end of next week. The funding formula for FY2022 was used to determine the municipal allocations. For FY2022 each Alliance will receive an increase in funding. The increase is between \$400 and \$5,000 depending on the funding formula variables.

Mr. Nebesni has an in-person meeting with Chatham on Tuesday, April 13, to complete their FY2021 application. Once this last application is complete, the municipalities can start receiving reimbursement.

Addictions Services Coordinator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez

At the last Alcohol and Drug Meeting, there was a discussion about Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in homeless shelters. The State is looking to have a prescribing team with either a peer specialist or case manager to provide medications with wraparound services, allowing individuals to maintain medications while receiving treatment in the shelter. The State will only fund the use of Buprenorphine and Suboxone, not Methadone. Mr. Hill asked, "Will the Narcan Kits be distributed to the homeless shelters also?" Ms. Suarez stated she would find out for our next MHASAB meeting.

The Rotary District 7475 is hosting a "**Stomp Out Stigma**" Stigma Free Awareness Walk on Tuesday, May 22, 2021, in two locations:

- a. Ambulance Corp. Parking Lot, 29 Prospect Street, Madison, NJ 9:00 am – 11:00 am
- b. Gardner Field, 2 Savage Road, Denville, NJ 07834 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

Ms. Archer announced the Emergency Rental Assistance program is still accepting applications. Morris County partnered with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) to administer the program. Morris County is earmarked to receive \$14 million for residents in need. Applications are available online at <https://njdca.onlinepha.com/> or call 609.490.4550.

The Office of Community Development put out a Request for Application (RFA) for community programming under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in early 2021. They received nine applications and will convene a review committee on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. The applications will be reviewed by the Community Development Revenue Sharing (CDRS) Committee and members of the Human Services Advisory Committee (HSAC).

There are a couple of State contracts that will need to be reviewed by the MHASAB Funding subcommittee. An email will be sent to the subcommittee and anyone interested in participating in the review. The subcommittee will join in the virtual presentations from the providers, review the applications, and send their recommendation to the State to make the determination.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

Funding – Mr. Chernick

On Monday, May 10, we met and requested a volunteer to report back to the MHASAB. We reviewed the funding priorities for Mental Health Substance Abuse and Chapter 51. Both documents were distributed before tonight's meeting (see attachments 1 & 2).

Planning – Mr. Chernick

On Tuesday, May 11, we met and requested a volunteer to report back to the MHASAB. We discussed May as Mental Health Awareness Month. The group decided to create a 30 Days of Self Care Plan. Behavioral health providers will be asked for ideas and self-care tips and listed with the contributing provider's contact information.

Legislative/Advocacy – Mr. Alton Robinson

On Wednesday, May 12, we met and discussed the recent death at Greystone. We are waiting to see if there are next steps needed by MHASAB.

- https://patch.com/new-jersey/morris/unsupervised-greystone-patient-choked-death-public-defender?utm_term=article-slot-1&utm_source=newsletter-daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter
- <https://www.dailyrecord.com/story/news/morris/2021/04/25/greystone-park-patients-death-disputed-advocates/7376476002/>

Saint Clare's will be applying to the State to shift eight voluntary beds to involuntary beds. A letter of support has not been requested at this time.

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – Mr. Nebesni

The CASS has not met since the last MHASAB meeting. The next meeting is on June 3, 2021.

There is supplemental funding for the calendar year 2021 for the Alliances. This funding is County dollars. We usually get about seventeen applications for review.

VII. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Lynne Chandler

There was a representative from Greystone, and as of May 4, the total census was 350 with 73 Morris County residents.

There was a change in policy with the Department of Children and Family. The policy allowed 16 and 17-year-olds to live in a supervised transitional program. It was determined that this age group would be better served living with families. The procedure was changed to State; only 18 to 21-year-olds can live in supervised transitional housing.

VIII. HSAC Report – submitted before the meeting

Vaccinations for homebound people have been delayed because Johnson & Johnson stopped the production of its vaccine.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) reported some day programs are reopening – capacity is different for each and people do not have to be vaccinated to return.

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) reported a significant drop in the unemployment rate, although it is not back to pre-COVID rates. Metrix offers online classes and networking. Topics include project management, Excel, online courses for building skills, etc. For TANF and GA clients, the work requirement is still not in place since COVID started. They have no idea when it will go back in place.

CoC's focus on the Housing First Model and an emphasis on Permanent Housing and Rapid Re-housing. There will be no new funding for transitional housing and services-only programs. This will impact Homeless Solutions, JBWS, and Mental Health Association. Some agencies have already applied for other funding.

IX. Old Business – no comment

X. New Business – no comment

XI. Closed Session – Mental Health Substance Abuse & Chapter 51 funding priorities

Motion made by Mr. Gregg Benson and seconded by Ms. Barbara Ward to close the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting was closed.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act and per the board's resolution language. The closed session began at 5:45 p.m. All those non-voting guests or voting members in conflict with funding were asked to leave the meeting. Ms. Michelle Borden, Ms. Lynne Chandler, Ms. Regina Jessup and Ms. Nekema Wilfong left the meeting.

RETURN TO MEETING

Mr. Gregg Benson made a motion to reopen the meeting and seconded by Ms. Marcy McMann. The meeting was reopened at 5:54 p.m. No one reentered the room.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Chernick stated that the funding subcommittee met earlier today, reviewed GIA Mental Health/Substance Use and Chapter 51 funding priorities. The subcommittee recommends the changes as discussed in closed session. A motion made by Mr. Benson seconded by Ms. McMann, to accept the funding priority recommendations are approved. There were two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

XII. Adjourn

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II