

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

Douglas R. Cabana

Kathryn A. DeFillippo

John Krickus

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)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 10, 2021, 5:15 pm via Webex Meeting

I. Call to order and Attendance

Ms. Cheryl Garodnick, the Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm. A quorum was established, and Attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Caroline Bailey, Morris County Prevention is Key

Susan Calantone, Citizen Representative

Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative

Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance

Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County, Vice-Chair

Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office

Marcy McMann, Esq., Citizen Representative

Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office

LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office

Erica Valvano, Morris County Sherriff's Office

Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sherriff's Office

Board Liaisons:

Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services

Carmine Deo, Community Hope

Angela Wairimu, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services

Others in Attendance:

Maria Magana, New Jersey City University

II. Approval of May 13, 2021 Minutes

Ms. Garodnick asked for a motion to approve the May 13 minutes distributed before the meeting. Ms. Rodriguez made the motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Valvano

seconded the motion. All were in favor, with one abstention and no apposition. Motion carried.

III. **Chair Report** – no report

IV. **State Liaison Report**

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – distributed before the meeting
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*

Opportunity for Peer Providers

Join the upcoming series of information sessions about cutting-edge training in CT-R, a transformative and evidence-based approach! Participating agencies will receive expert training and consultation services at no cost to develop new and innovative strategies to:

- Provide hope and build trust with clients
- Motivate persons to pursue *The Life They Want*
- Overcome challenges using a positive, “strengths-based” approach
- Help people get “unstuck” and take steps towards a self-directed life
- Improve your self-confidence, competency, and self-care

Who should attend: Peer providers, supervisors, and program administrators from the Northern region. With a focus on **PACT, CSS, ICMS, PATH, POST**, and partial programs. **Questions?** Contact Emilie Banz at banzer@shp.rutgers.edu, Amy Banko at amy.banko@rutgers.edu, or Nina Bertolami at ninab@beckinstitute.org

Community Support Services

Per an email sent to CSS providers on May 26, 2021. Please see the revised CSS termination form that has been posted at the link provided below.

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/initiatives/>

Request for Proposal-Award

Counseling and Wellness Services for Peer Recovery Specialists and Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Providers

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for the provision of professional counseling and wellness services for peer recovery specialists (peer specialists) and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment professionals working in opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment facilities and recovery centers.

The awardee will utilize licensed clinical professionals to provide tailored counseling and wellness services to address the needs of peer specialists and OUD treatment professionals. Services will include individual assessments, evidence-based and/or best

practice treatment modalities, acute and/or ongoing therapy, self-care plans, and wellness activities that support personal and professional growth. This RFP is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response Grant (SOR).

Total annualized funding for this RFP is approximately \$500,000, subject to federal appropriations. The contract award is through September 29, 2021. Funding may be available through September 29, 2022, depending on federal grants. DMHAS anticipates making two (2) awards of up to \$250,000 each. Through this initiative, the successful bidder will provide professional counseling and wellness services by licensed clinical professionals to a combined total of ***150 peer specialists and OUD treatment professionals employed within DMHAS-funded*** programs, recovery centers, and community peer initiatives.

Awards:

Agency	Address	Award
Care Plus NJ, Inc.	610 Valley Health Plaza, Paramus, NJ 07652	\$250,000
Family Connections, Inc.	7 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 101, East Orange, NJ 07017	\$250,000

Department of Human Services

Federal COVID Funding

Human Services Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced the Murphy Administration had secured another \$22.6 million in federal funds to expand and support mental health services, to address increased needs in the wake of COVID-19.

The funding will enhance diversionary efforts, crisis stabilization, community integration efforts to reduce visits to emergency departments and inpatient admissions, and improve outreach and treatment activities to increase access to community services. *DMHAS reports that most of the funds will be RFP’s, and others will be awarded to contracted agencies.*

Among the services to be funded are:

- Early Serious Mental Illness (ESMI) Programs: New Jersey will add three new programs to the existing three to serve individuals with first-episode psychosis: \$2.67 million.
- ESMI Community Integration Programs: DMHAS will be developing six ESMI Community Integration Programs that will provide treatment and supports to individuals after they complete the ESMI program: \$2.34 million.

- Crisis Receiving and Stabilization: DMHAS will create four Crisis Receiving and Stabilization programs in the community to provide 24/7 community access to crisis diversion, stabilization, and linkages to services and housing supports. The goal is to have at least one Crisis Receiving and Stabilization program per region: \$6.1 million.
- Emergency Room Diversion: DMHAS will create nine programs to serve individuals who frequent the emergency departments. This program will provide care management services, support and connect individuals to needed services to reduce the reliance on emergency services: \$4.94 million.
- Legal Assistance with Evictions and Housing due to COVID/Housing Stability. The DMHAS will use funds to support housing stability to avert homelessness through evictions. The resources will be used to enter into a contract with an agency staffed to provide landlord/tenant legal services to individuals diagnosed with a severe mental illness facing eviction; \$350,000.
- Outreach, including crisis response to underserved populations such as LGBTQI+ individuals and faith-based communities: \$1.8 million.
- Mental Health First Aid: DMHAS will expand Mental Health Awareness Training to provide mental health first aid: \$400,000.
- Peer Wellness Program: DMHAS plans to fund a wellness program to improve consumers' self-esteem and promote positive self-care using empirically proven interventions. The peer-run centers that provide support and recovery services to a diverse population of consumers around the state will receive training and supervision on Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy along with Peer Wellness Coaching: \$400,000.
- Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy training: Residential service providers in cognitive therapy for recovery will be trained to help to motivate and support consumers to make positive changes in their lives. This evidence-based approach will allow these providers to collaborate with and support their residents' individual recovery goals and help them engage in meaningful community activities. It will be offered statewide to all residential providers serving individuals with serious mental illness. Group homes and providers of supported housing services will be the primary participants in the training: \$500,000.
- Implementation of 9-8-8: DMHAS will roll out 9-8-8 to become the new three-digit dialing code for a mental health crisis to replace the current National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number by July 2022: \$500,000.
- Performance improvement training for providers in the acute care system that serve the seriously mentally ill population: \$400,000

Fair Market Rate

When Governor Murphy signs the FY22 budget, the FMR rates will increase to 2020 FMR. Currently, we exist under 2018 FMR.

DHS SNAP benefits

Human Services Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman today announced the 430,000 New Jersey households who receive food assistance through the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP) would receive \$75.2 million in total extra benefits in June. Human Services has been providing NJ SNAP households with maximum benefits since March 2020, when the pandemic began. However, under a change implemented in April by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), New Jersey households that had already been receiving that maximum available SNAP benefit are also now eligible for the temporary extra assistance.

A 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits also remains in effect through September. With the upcoming June extra payments included, Human Services will have distributed \$769.3 million in supplemental monthly SNAP payments to households since March 2020.

Other resources

Vaccine Transportation Information

- Constituents can call 211 to arrange free transportation to get vaccinated
- Medicaid will cover transportation for constituents to get vaccinated
 - LogistiCare is now known as ModivCare. Consumers will still have access to the same care as previous; the name is the only change.

S-COPE Training

S-cope provides regional training as part of their mission to provide resources and improve individuals' overall emotional, mental and physical health in our communities of adults 55+ who reside in Nursing Facilities.

The topics will be on Suicidality in Long Term Care, Mental Illness in Long Term Care, and Managing Resistant and Aggressive Behaviors. Please, review the flyers and registration form. All training will be held on Thursdays, and training will begin at 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Professional Contact Hours (CEU's): (3.0) Content for this program has been approved for professional license contact hours. (*Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers, Screeners, Psychologists, Certified Counselors*).

Topic: Suicidality in LTC: June 17, July 22, and September 30

Topic: Mental Illness in LTC: July 1, August 12, and November 18

Topic: Managing Resistant and Aggressive Behaviors: July 8, September 23, and November 4.

V. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni

Fiscal Year 2022, the announcement letters were sent out at the end of May. The letters to the Mayors were sent out on June 1, 2021.

The calendar year 2021 Supplemental Funding recommendations will be presented to the board and voted on at the next MHASAB meeting.

Addictions Services Coordinator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez

All Site Monitorings will be held virtually this year. A Doodle schedule and monitoring forms will be sent to all agencies next week. In addition, the Monitoring team will schedule a second round of in-person site monitoring for Chapter 51 later this year.

We should receive the Letter of Intent for the Chapter 51 funding between July 15 and the end of August.

The next Opioid Task Force meeting will be held virtual on July 13 at 10:00 am.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

We received a response from Greystone to the questions MHASAB submitted after the settlement announcement:

- When complaints are filed, they are investigated, a report must be generated, and the Oversight Committee and Greystone are notified. Are those reports made public?
 - There is not a requirement to make the reports public and no mechanism to do so. However, the identifying information can be redacted, and a summary of the report can be circulated.
- Are the Oversight Committee meetings open to the public or are notes made public?
 - No, everyone on the committee must sign a confidentiality agreement to speak freely about all individuals involved in the complaint.
- As part of the Greystone settlement, a minimum of fifteen hours per week of programs and services will be offered to individuals. Will staff support these individuals and help and encourage them to sign up for activities or attend? Or will it be the individual's responsibility to do this on their own?
 - There will be an increase in staffing, particularly social workers, psychologists, and behavioral health aides. These staff members will work with patients to decide which activities would be most beneficial for them.
 - Greystone does have a pool on-site and provides activities and programs for residents that choose to sign up and participate.
- An ambulance has been on site for the past three weeks.

As part of the Attorney General's Directive for the Prosecutor's office, a Mental Health Administrator should be present at the Statewide mental Health Working Group meetings. At the New Jersey Association of County Mental Health Administrators

(NJACMHA) meeting, this was discussed, and an appointment will be made. Also discussed, 9-8-8 Committee meetings occur monthly until September for program planning and implementation recommendations.

Mr. Tim Tansey, Community Development Director, will be retiring at the end of the month. I am happy to announce Ms. Jennifer VanNatta will be stepping into this role. Ms. VanNatta comes to us from the Office of Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming. She has extensive experience in the fiscal piece of grant management. Throughout the past four years, Ms. VanNatta has managed the fiscal portion of the Area Plan (federal funding), and her responsibilities include, but are not limited to, audits, voucher processing, expenditure reports, federal reporting, etc. Her official start date is August 16. I will fill Mr. Tansey's role from July 1 until August 16 when Ms. VanNatta will assume the role.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

Funding – Ms. Amy Archer

We are still looking for a committee reporter to bring the information back to the MHASAB. Please get in touch with Ms. Archer at aarcher@co.morris.nj.us if interested.

The county has posted the 2022 Grand In Aid (GIA), Social Services for the Homeless (SSH), Child Abuse Prevention (CAP), Chapter 51, Juvenile Justice (JJ), and Navigating Hope Request for Application (RFA) on the website

<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Community-Behavioral-Health-Services/Funding>

Ms. Archer will send a Doodle survey to the Funding Committee to find the best date for the application review and funding recommendations.

Site Monitorings will be held virtually this year. All MHASAB members are encouraged to participate in as many site monitorings as possible. This is an excellent way to learn the programs funded through our board.

Planning – Ms. Amy Archer

We are still looking for a committee reporter to bring the information back to the MHASAB. Ms. Csengeto volunteered.

The 30 Days of Self Care was distributed and posted on our website

<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/files/sharedassets/public/departments/hs-boards-services/self-care.pdf>

Ms. Grodnick asked if this is something we can post monthly; Ms. Archer replied, this is something the subcommittee can discuss and see about posting on a bimonthly basis.

Legislative/Advocacy – Ms. Amy Archer

The MHASAB will not write a letter of advocacy for changing St. Clare’s beds from voluntary to involuntary; it could be a conflict of interest in the future. However, the Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services will submit a letter of support.

Since an MHASAB member cannot attend the Oversight Committee meeting for Greystone, we will request a complaint report, and Mr. Carmine Deo will report on Greystone census, admissions, discharges, etc. during the PAC report.

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

The CASS is looking for new members. We meet bimonthly. Functions and Responsibilities of the County Alliance Steering Subcommittee:

1. Develop and submit a County Annual Alliance Plan for the expenditure of funds derived from the “Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction Fund.”
2. Development of programs and fiscal guidelines consistent with directives of the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse for the awarding of funds to counties and municipalities of drug and alcohol Alliance activities
3. Identification of a network of community leadership for the expansion, replication, and development of successful community model programs throughout the county
4. Coordination of projects among and within municipalities to assure cost-effectiveness and avoid fragmentation and duplication
5. The County Alliance Steering Subcommittee shall ensure that the funds dedicated to education pursuant to section 2 of PL 1983, c. 531 (C.54:32C-3.1) do not duplicate the Alliance effort.

For more information and to fill out the Advisory Biographical Profile, go to our website <https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/County-Alliance-Steering-Subcommittee>

VII. Joint PAC Report – Mr. Carmine Deo

The last meeting was Friday, June 4, 2021.

Department of Children and Families has a Request For Quote (RFQ) for their Employee Wellness program.

The next meeting will be Friday, August 6, 2021.

VIII. Human Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) – Ms. Linda Csengeto

The results of the **HSAC Needs Assessment** for NJ were discussed.

- There is a lack of affordable housing
- The cost of living by county showed that childcare and housing used a high percentage of income (Morris Co. had the 4th highest cost of housing in the state)
- Lack of public transportation is a problem
- There are still gender inequities with salaries

Home Energy Assistance (HEA) – Apply for HEA at the Office of Hispanic Affairs before June 30 as the moratorium is coming to an end. This agency will also perform weatherization and lead testing and abatement.

Program Review – There was discussion that the priorities for GIA, SSH, and CAP proposals would remain the same.

Childcare Update – Morris County’s economic recovery depends on the availability of childcare for working parents. Child & Family resources are working on solutions needed to address stabilization and infrastructure support to ensure that parents in Morris County have access to various childcare options required for economic recovery.

MSW HIV Advisory Committee – Officer Anthony Perez of the Morris County Sheriff’s Office reported that he had been assigned to the Community Services Unit as a Community Outreach Officer and the LGBTQ+ Liaison.

Zufall Health Center is holding a Health Fair on June 12. In addition, national HIV Testing Day is June 27.

IX. Old Business

Saint Clare’s Hospital, Dover Church, and Dover Health Department have partnered to provide free COVID Vaccines for all County Residents at the Dover Yard Sale on Saturday, June 12. You do not need to be a Dover resident to receive a COVID vaccine.

X. New Business

Ms. Marcy McMann announced on June 3, Governor Murphy nominated her as a Superior Court Judge in Morris County . Therefore, tonight’s meeting will be her last, and a resignation letter will be sent into the Commissioners office.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Csengeto and seconded by Ms. McMann. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II