

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 900
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Board of County Commissioners

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MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTIONS SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 9, 2021, 5:15 pm via Webex Meeting

I. Call to order and attendance

Mr. Chris Chernick, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. A quorum was not established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County – Vice Chair
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Erica Valvano, Morris County Sherriff's Office

Board Liaisons:

Eileen Alexander, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Lynne Chandler, Saint Clare's Hospital Behavioral Health

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Morris County Human Services
Kasey Errico, Morris County Director Human Services
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance
Stephen Nebesni, Morris County Juvenile Detention Center
Rosalyn Suarez, Morris County Human Services

Others in attendance:

Joe Bixel, Morris County Prevention is Key
Regina Jessup, Morris County Probation
Martha Seidenfeld, Morris County Probation

II. Approval of July 8, 2021 Minutes

Tabled for next meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

III. Chair Report – Mr. Chris Chernick

Our primary focus tonight will be the 2022 Grant In Aid and Chapter 51 Funding. The Funding Subcommittee will present recommendations during a closed session at the end of the General Meeting. Once the closed session is finished, the meeting will reopen, and the board will vote on the funding recommendation as presented.

IV. State Liaison Report:

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

Request for Proposal: Gambling Disorder Clinician Services Program

Purpose: The New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) announces the availability of funding for the Gambling Disorder Clinician Services Program. This Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to develop gambling disorder services rendered through a Gambling Disorder Clinician to provide treatment and case management for individuals with a dual disorder of gambling and substance use. Individuals with a co-occurring mental health disorder shall not be excluded. This RFP is funded through DMHAS. Total annualized funding for this RFP is \$1.2 million, subject to State appropriation, which is expected to be available. DMHAS anticipates making ten (10) awards to providers licensed as substance use disorder (SUD) providers interested in treating individuals with a gambling disorder. Awarded providers will hire, at minimum, 1 FTE equivalent Gambling Disorder Clinician and provide case management services provided by the clinician or additional staffing. The awards will be chosen regionally and based on a need to offer statewide gambling disorder services. Gambling services can be added to treatment at the following ASAM levels of care: Standard Traditional Outpatient (1.0), Intensive Outpatient (2.1), Medically Managed High-Intensity Residential Services (3.5), and Medically Monitored Intensive Residential Services (3.7). Gambling counseling will be in addition to substance abuse treatment services required by regulation and contract. In addition to treatment services, the Gambling Disorder Clinician will work with individuals to assist with issues that often occur concurrently with gambling disorders, such as financial ruin, broken relationships, legal issues, need for social services, etc.

Available Funding Amount: Total annualized funding is \$1.2 million, subject to State appropriation.

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be received by 4:00 pm on August 17, 2021.

Notification Date: Bidders will be notified on or before September 10, 2021

Request for Proposal: Nurse Care Management in Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)

Purpose: This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to embed Nurse Care Managers (NCMs) into Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) to manage physical health services, including hepatitis C, for individuals being served at the OTP. This RFP is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response (SOR) grant. Funding is available through September 29, 2022, depending on federal appropriations. The total annualized financing of this RFP is \$2,800,000, subject to federal budgets.

Successful bidders will add nurse care management, case management, and health coaching to assist people with improving their overall health and well-being, emphasizing Hepatitis C and integration of their behavioral and medical healthcare. In addition to onsite services, the successful bidder may provide services through telehealth, thereby expanding the reach of nurse care management, case management, and health coaching.

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be received by July 26, 2021

Notification Date: Bidders will be notified on or before August 18, 2021.

Request for Proposal: Maternal Wraparound Program (M-WRAP): This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to develop intensive case management and recovery support services for pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorder. Pregnant women dependent on substances will be eligible for services through the Maternal Wraparound Program (MWRAP) during pregnancy and up to one year after birth. This program combines intensive case management, wraparound services, and recovery supports for pregnant/postpartum women with substance use disorder. The overall goal with this RFP is to alleviate barriers to services for pregnant women who are dependent on substances through comprehensive care coordination that is implemented within the five significant timeframes when intervention in the life of the substance-exposed infants (SEI) can reduce the potential harm of prenatal substance exposure: pre-pregnancy, prenatal, birth, neonatal and early childhood. Traditionally, work related to SEIs has focused on pregnancy and the birth event.

Total annualized funding for this RFP is up to \$386,283, subject to State and federal appropriations.

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be received by 4:00 pm on August 10, 2021.

Notification Date: Bidders will be notified on or before August 30, 2021.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has applied to SAMHSA for \$78M through the American Rescue Plan Act. If approved, funds will be available September 1, 2021, through September 30, 2025, to address a variety of Mental Health and Substance Use needs in the State.

Information on this was shared at the recent Quarterly Provider meeting. See: <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/information/provider/index.html>

State Budget Updates for Mental Health:

Essential Growth Items from the Fiscal Year 2022 Governor's Budget (State funds):

- Increased State Aid to 4 County Psychiatric Hospitals for Increased Billable Rates \$15.5 million Increased rates (driven primarily by prior period adjustments) result in increased State Aid costs.
- Increase Rental Subsidies to More Current Fair Market Rents Statewide (Community Support Services) \$5.2 million Expected to facilitate placements in Supportive Housing.
- Psychiatrist Residency Program \$4.0 million Full four-year costs for ten slots to assist with a workforce shortage
- Justice-Involved Pilot – 2 counties \$2.2 million Budget language added in Appropriations Act specifies that Morris County will be one of the counties (to leverage current capabilities)
- Olmstead Placements (Community Support Services) \$2.2 million for an additional 200 placements to be phased in for FY22; will annualize in FY23

Statewide Psychiatric Urgent Care: Early Intervention Supports Services (EISS)

The budget includes an additional \$11 million in state funding for EISS, allowing the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services to expand this program to all NJ 21 counties, from the current 11 counties that have this program. EISS allows for rapid access to psychiatric services (e.g., crisis intervention services) without reliance on local hospital emergency departments.

Other resources

Today, Human Services Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced that the Department has partnered with the Community Health Law Project to increase access to legal services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals with lower incomes. The partnership collaborates between the Human Services Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing ([DDHH](#)) and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services ([DMHAS](#)).

Through the partnership, eligible deaf and hard of hearing individuals can receive legal assistance and supports with matters related to their public service, health insurance, social security benefits, landlord-tenant disputes, foreclosure defense, family law issues, consumer protection, and debt collection, and more. In addition, CHLP can meet communication access needs, including ASL interpreting and captioning.

Ongoing- S-COPE Training

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

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

Topic: Suicidality in LTC: September 30

Topic: Mental Illness in LTC: August 12 and November 18

Topic: Managing Resistant and Aggressive Behaviors: September 23 and November 4

DMHAS staff made a recent presentation to the NJ Council of Community Colleges during a webinar with several speakers. The program's goal was to launch an initiative to address mental health issues among community college students. The leadership of the State's 18 community colleges and their student services/counselors were in attendance.

V. **Staff Reports:**

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni

A few alliances need to submit additional information, and then the Fiscal Year 2021 will be closed.

The Fiscal Year 2022 Funding process has begun.

The next county-wide alliance meeting is on September 29, 2021, at 3:00 pm. There will be a presentation by Girls on the Run. Girls on the Run, a national non-profit organization, designs programming that strengthens third- to eighth-grade girls' social, emotional, physical, and behavioral skills to navigate life experiences successfully.

Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez

The 2nd Annual Morris County Overdose Awareness Day event was held on Tuesday, August 31, at 1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains. A memorial honoring the loved ones of Morris County taken by the drug epidemic and fentanyl poisoning, their grieving loved ones, and those who continue to fight for recovery. This event is sponsored by the Morris County Board of County Commissioners, the Global Recovery Movement, Rooting for Recovery, and the Morris County Municipal Alliances.

The weather was beautiful, and there was a great turnout. The courtyard was lined with purple ribbons and 65 empty chairs were representing the lives lost to Overdose in Morris County since January 2021.

Our guest speakers were Senator Anthony Bucco, Morris County Commissioner Director, Stephen Shaw, Sheriff James Gannon, and Morris County Prosecutor Robert Carroll.

Morris County Stigma-Free Initiatives presents Lucas Wolfe, "My Perfect Life. This event is for anyone, parents, teens, and educators; who want to better understand depression, recognize symptoms, and help someone in need. Join us on Tuesday, September 21, at 7:00 pm via ZOOM.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

2022 Grant In Aid and Chapter 51 Funding process is on target to have all contracts executed by the end of 2021.

As of August 16, 2021, Ms. Jennifer Van Natta officially took over Community Development. You can contact her at 973.285.6033 or jvannatta@co.morris.nj.us.

Last year, Mental Health Association (MHA) was awarded a Suicide Prevention Grant through the County. This grant allowed MHA to introduce a Suicide Prevention Program to schools. This year, we expanded this grant through our Community Development Block Grant CDBG with COVID funding. Since suicide has increased due to the pandemic this was an acceptable use of COVID-CDBG funding and this program will last through 2023. MHA will continue to introduce and present the Signs of Suicide Program to schools, continue to go out with Navigating Hope once a week, and provide community presentations as appropriate. Additional information can be found on the MHA website <https://stopteensusuicide.mhaessexmorris.org>

Over the past few months, we have been reaching out to our providers to list the gaps in our Mental Health Services community. As a result, conversations are moving forward between the County and our providers on improving existing programs and the development of new ones.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

Funding – Tabled to next meeting due to a lack of quorum.

Planning – Ms. Linda Csegento

Ms. Csegento stated conversations have started about a Mental Health Forum for 2022, and information will be provided in the future.

Legislative – no report

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

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 7, 2021.

Two new CASS Members were welcomed.

At the last meeting, a funding modification was approved for Kinnelon.

VII. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Lynn Chandler

Schools have been reaching out to the Behavioral Health providers to provide support and education to students, families, and faculty in preparation for returning to school this year.

Behavioral Health providers have noticed workforce challenges not only with recruitment but also retention during the pandemic. A subcommittee will be formed to look into these issues as well as advocacy for policy changes.

Ms. Archer stated that a representative from Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital reported, in August of 2021 there were fifteen admissions, six were Morris County residents. There were thirteen discharges, three were Morris County residents. On Friday, September 3, the total census was 356, with thirty-seven being Morris County residents.

VIII. HSAC Report – no report

IX. Old Business – no comment

X. New Business – no comment

XI. Open to the Public – no comment

XII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Csengeto and seconded by Mr. Hill. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II