

# **Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)**

## **MEETING – September 10, 2020, via Webex Meeting**

### **Members Present:**

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative  
Susan Calantone, Citizen Representative  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative  
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative  
Carol DeGraw, United Way of Northern New Jersey  
Heather Diamond, Center for Evaluation & Counseling  
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County  
Marcy McMann, Esq., Citizen Representative – Chair  
Alton Robinson, Citizen Representative  
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office

### **Also Attending:**

Eileen Alexander, NJDHS Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Michelle Borden, NewBridge  
Lynne Chandler, Saint Clare's Hospital Behavioral Health  
Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office  
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Amy Archer, MCDHS  
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS  
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS  
Rosalyn Suarez, MCDHS

- I. Call to Order and Approval of August 13 Minutes**  
Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm Ms. Cheryl Garodnick made a motion to approve the August 13 minutes. Mr. Chris Chernick seconded the motion. All were in favor with three abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.
- II. Welcome and Introductions**  
Ms. McMann introduced Ms. Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office.
- III. Chair Report – Ms. Marcy McMann – no report**
- IV. Subcommittee Reports**
  - a. Funding – Moved to the end of the meeting**
  - b. Planning – no report**
  - c. Legislative/Advocacy – no report**

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

The Alliances are currently closing out Fiscal Year (F.Y.) 2019. They have submitted the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter reports and vouchers for F.Y. 2020. In the process of revising the applications for F.Y. 2021 with revision suggestions from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA).

There was a funding decrease for F.Y. 2021. Alliances were notified of what their funding will be. Ms. McMann asked how much was the funding decrease. Mr. Nebesni stated GCADA decreased each Alliance's allocation by 60% - 70%. Mr. Nebesni is working with the municipalities to revise their applications with the new amounts. If the township feels they cannot run the programs with money allocated to them, they can opt-out of F.Y. 2021 and opt back in for F.Y. 2022. GCADA extended F.Y. 2020 an extra quarter (fifth quarter), so Alliance Coordinators can submit their stipends for their work on the Alliance program. F.Y. 2021 will have three quarters starting October 1, 2020.

**V. State Liaison Report – DMHAS – Ms. Eileen Alexander – see attached report**

**VI. Staff Reports**

**a. Municipal Alliance Coordinator – no report**

**b. Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer**

Ms. Archer announced the Mental Health Association would be holding a Suicide Prevention presentation on September 29, 2020, from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm via Zoom. All community members are welcome. The flyer is posted on the Morris County website <https://hs.morriscountynj.gov/mentalhealth>, or you can contact Tracy Klingener at [tklingener@mhaessexmorris.org](mailto:tklingener@mhaessexmorris.org) for additional information.

Zero Suicide Academies is offering free Training for Mental Health, Addiction, Primary Care, and General Health Care Providers. The Zero Suicide Academies will present Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) recommended tools and interventions, and N.J. Academies will focus on firearm safety and Suicide by firearm presented by the Rutgers School of Public Health, Center on Gun Violence Research. Organizations that participate in one of the three Academies, each of which consists of three half-day (8:30 am – 12:30 pm) virtual training sessions, will implement practices that prevent suicides in those that they serve.

- September 9, 10, 11
- September 14, 15, 18
- October 23, 26, 27

For more information and to apply: [www.zerosuicideintitute.com/zero-suicide/academy](http://www.zerosuicideintitute.com/zero-suicide/academy)

International Overdose Awareness Day, an annual event observed to reduce drug addiction stigma, and the tragedy of drug-related deaths was August 31. The occasion was marked with a freshly planted, weeping cherry tree, dubbed an “Angel Tree Memorial,” dedicated outside the Morris County Addiction Center off Central Avenue. State Senator Anthony Bucco (R-25) opened the dedication ceremony, joined by Freeholder Director Deborah Smith, Morris County Sheriff James M. Gannon and U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11), along with many county human services officials, health care professionals, counselors, and law enforcement personnel who assist people with addictions. Rebecca Finnerty of Montville spoke at the ceremony about losing her son to a heroin overdose in 2016.

**c. Addictions Services Coordinator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez**

Narcan kits were distributed to numerous agencies throughout New Jersey on September 4.

An email was sent out regarding State budget cuts for School-Based Youth Service Programs that will eliminate mental health programs and other needed services within schools. Morris County Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) will be submitting a letter of support. Ms. McMann asked the board if the MHASAB should send a separate letter to advocate not cutting funding for programs we have identified as a high priority. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gregg Benson made a motion to draft a letter of support for funding for the School-Based Youth Service Programs in Schools, empowering the Chair and Vice-Chair to review the letter and send it under Ms. McMann’s signature on behalf of the MHASAB. Ms. Linda Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

The next Stigma-Free meeting will be on September 15 at 2:00 pm.

The next Opiate Taskforce Meeting will be on September 15 at 10:00 am via Webex.

**VII. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Lynne Chandler – no report**

**VIII. HSAC Report – Ms. Jane Shivas**

HSAC has not had a meeting since June 23, 2020. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 22. The funding committee has met and will be making their recommendations for the 2021 Grant In Aid Funding and voting presentation.

**IX. Old Business – no report**

**X. New Business**

**Funding Closed Session (moved to the end of the meeting)**

Ms. McMann asked anyone in conflict with Grant In Aid, Chapter 51, or Municipal Alliance from the public to leave the call. Ms. Eileen Alexander, Ms. Michelle Borden, Ms. Lynne Chandler, Ms. Meg Rodriguez, and Ms. Jane Shivas left the meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Carol DeGraw and seconded by Mr. Gregg Benson to begin a closed session. There were no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting under P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 6:07 pm.

**Return to Meeting**

The meeting reopened at 7:05 pm. No one reentered the meeting.

Actions Resulting from Closed Session

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

As discussed in the closed session, Mrs. DeGraw made a motion to approve the F.Y. 2021 Alliance funding recommendations. Mr. Alton Robinson seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

Ms. McMann stated the Funding Subcommittee met and reviewed all funding applications. Funding is for 2021 (January 2021 to December 2021). The Subcommittee recommends that the MHASAB approve all 2021 GIA/Chapter 51 funding recommendations as discussed in closed session. We need a motion in an open session of the same.

As discussed in the closed session, Ms. Linda Csengento made a motion to approve the C.Y. 2021 GIA and Chapter 51 funding recommendations. Mr. Chris Chernick 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. DeGraw. Mr. Benson seconded the motion. All were in favor of the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II

