

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)

MEETING – October 8, 2020 via Webex Meeting

Members Present:

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
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Marcy McMann, Esq., Citizen Representative – Chair
Alton Robinson, Citizen Representative
La Juan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, NJDHS Mental Health and Addiction Services
Michelle Borden, NewBridge
Jennifer Carpinteri, Atlantic Health, Behavioral and Integrative Health Services
Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County Freeholder
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
Roselyn Suarez, MCDHS

I. Call to Order and Approval of September 10 Minutes

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm. Mr. Julian Hill made a motion. Ms. Linda Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor with zero abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

Ms. McMann asked for a motion to approve the Funding Closed Session minutes. Ms. Csengeto made the motion, and Ms. Barbara Ward seconded. All were in favor with zero abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. McMann welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.

III. Chair Report – Ms. Marcy McMann – no report

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IV. Subcommittee Reports

a. Funding – Ms. Amy Archer

Ms. Archer stated the Division is continuing the process with the Grant In Aid and Chapter 51. The next step will be the Award and Declination letters, mailed to providers in early November.

The School-Based Youth Services Programs were added back into the state budget. Therefore, this Advisory Board did not draft an advocacy letter.

b. Planning – Ms. Amy Archer – no report

c. Legislative/Advocacy – Ms. Amy Archer

Ms. Archer stated that there is not an update on Greystone.

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

Mr. Nebesni reported there is a tentative meeting scheduled for October 28. Since it is unknown when the last meeting was held, this will be a reorganization meeting to get everyone updated.

V. State Liaison Report

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

Please see the attached report and attachments.

VI. Staff Reports

a. Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni

Mr. Nebesni stated The Division has closed out the Fiscal Year 2019 grant year. We are working on the extension for the Fiscal Year 2020, and all paperwork was submitted. We are working with the Alliances on their 2021 Applications.

Ms. McMann asked if there was an update on the budget cuts. Mr. Nebesni stated they are the same and not sure what the funding will be like for 2022.

b. Addiction Services Administrator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez

Ms. Suarez reported the Innovations Grant started on September 30. This grant will focus and provide case management, recovery, support, and legal representation to the community involved in Pre Trial services. The Division will be working closely with the Legal Service of Northwest Jersey and Prevention is Key.

Legal Services will represent Morris County individuals with Pre Trial Services and struggling with substance use and addiction. They will also provide representation and landlord-tenant matters, assess income supports, consumer issues, and domestic violence.

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Prevention is Key will assess the needs of the Morris county residents during Pre Trial services. They will provide a services plan, provide up to one-year community engagement, and link the individuals with addiction services and benefits.

Since this program is new, she will be meeting with both agencies monthly, and the next meeting is scheduled for October 26. An update will be provided next month.

c. Mental Health Administrator – Mr. Amy Archer

Ms. Archer stated there is much information about webinars and programs, more than in the past. The Division distributes the information to the various Advisory Boards and Committees to get the word out to the community.

Mental Health Association (MHA) held a webinar on September 29 via Zoom for the Suicide Prevention Program sponsored by the Morris County Freeholders grant for Suicide Prevention. The presentation included Ricky's Compass, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. "Knowing the warning signs for suicide and how to get help can help save lives," introductory to tell you what to look for and how to address an individual, what questions to ask, what signs to look for, and resources you can refer individuals to. MHA goes out in the community with Navigation Hope once a week and has already made 225 contacts, exceeding the grant goals.

Atlantic Health Systems held "How to talk to you Kids About Suicide" on September 30 via Zoom. This presentation addressed the challenges adults face in talking to children about suicide and providing information and guidance to help navigate the conversation.

Navigating Hope is going out up to four times a week and is now equipped to have individuals fill out applications on the van.

Morris County Community Development received CARES money for areas impacted by COVID, including housing. The Division is working on grants for permanent housing solutions in Morris County. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

VII. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Amy Archer

Ms. Archer stated that the information that has already been reported in this meeting was what was discussed at the last Joint PAC meeting.

VIII. HSAC Report – Ms. Jane Shivas

Ms. Shivas reported that the STAR Program is back under the Office of Temporary Assistance and lead by Maria Fodali and Amanda Jensen.

The Advisory Board has completed its review of the 2021 Funding Applications and recommendations for Child Abuse Prevention, Navigating Hope, and Grant In Aid.

The Office of Community Development is in the process of updating the Analysis of Impediment to Fair Housing. This report examines ways to alleviate the housing discrimination within Morris County jurisdiction, promote fair housing choices and adequate and accessible housing. A

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discussion is scheduled for Friday, October 2, 10:00 am – 11:00 am with this council's members and Morris Continuum of Care (CoC).

Discussion about childcare, Morris County's economic recovery depends on childcare availability for working parents. At the same time, the impact of COVID-19 has led to widespread child care program closures. Open programs are experiencing low child enrollment (compared to pre-COVID) and increased operating costs (related to restrictions in the number of children that can be in child care center classrooms for public health purposes and increased cleaning and sanitization requirements.) Child & Family Resources is working on solutions that are needed to address stabilization and infrastructure support to ensure that parents in Morris County have access to various child care options required for economic recovery.

HSAC Needs Assessment next steps, there are ten focus groups, with a minimum of 6 participants per group to be held following a pre-designed comprehensive survey distributed to the participants. They are looking to schedule focus groups in October. A full committee meeting will be held before the focus groups taking place.

IX. Old Business

Ms. Suarez stated that at the last Stigma-Free meeting, Harding Township is willing to write a support letter. Warren Township is not ready to write a letter of support nor pass a resolution. Riverdale and Florham Park have not responded.

X. New Business

Ms. Suarez announced the next Stigma-Free meeting would be held on November 17 at 2:00 pm via Webex Meetings.

Freeholder DeFillippo stated the County had submitted our plan to the State to continue Covid testing and waiting for a response to move forward. We will be targeting various communities around the County with a mobile unit to assist people who cannot get to a testing site.

XI. Open to the Public

Ms. Jennifer Carpinteri announced her new role as Manager of Human Services for Atlantic Health Care and will be working in Morris County again.

Ms. Michelle Borden, NewBridge, announced the Parker House's dedication ceremony in honor of Mr. Bob Parker. Mr. Parker was the CEO of NewBridge for many years.

Ms. McMann announced our next meeting would be November 12 via Webex Meeting and our last meeting for the year.

XII. Adjourn

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Motion to adjourn made by **Mr. Nebesni**. Ms. Susan Calantone seconded the motion.
Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II