

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)

November 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Gregg Benson, Morris County Heroin/Opiate Task Force, Citizen Representative
Susan Calantone, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Carol DeGraw, United way of Northern New Jersey-Montclair
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Marcy McMann, Esq., Citizen Representative – Chair
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

Also in Attendance:

Eileen Alexander, NJDHS Mental Health and Addiction Services
James Curtin, Acenda, Inc.
Bridget DeFiccio, Acenda, Inc.
Carmine Deo, Community Hope
Heather Diamond, Center for Evaluation & Counseling
Dr. Eulena Horne, Alumni Association of the Morris County Drug Court
Beth Jacobson, NewBridge
Charles Johnson, Alumni Association of the Morris County Drug Court
Meg Rodriquez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office

Staff in Attendance:

Amy Archer, MCDHS
Kasey Errico, Director MCDHS
Stephen Nebesni, MCDHS
Rosalyn Suarez, MCDHS

I. Call to Order and Approval of October 8 Minutes

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm and asked for a motion to approve the October 8 meeting minutes. Mr. Julian Hill made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Barbara Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. McMann welcomed all in attendance and introduced Ms. Kasey Errico as the new Morris County Human Services Director. Ms. Errico stated this is her first week and is looking forward to working with everyone.

III. Chair Report – Ms. Marcy McMann

Ms. McMann announced the lawsuit settlement for Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital. Several obligations for the State to oversee enforcement and implementation of the terms of the agreement. They include addressing multiple staffing issues, legal protection for patient and staff whistleblowers, security protocols, the establishment of acute-care and long-term-care units, and other measures to ensure the availability of medical equipment, drugs, and different needs throughout the facility—a new oversight committee with a 10-year mandate to oversee the agreement's terms enforcement and implementation. The committee would consist of three

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designees appointed by the commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health, three appointed by the director of the Division of Mental Health Advocacy of the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender, and one independent designee to be jointly selected by the deputy commissioner of the Department of Health and the director of the Division of Mental Health Advocacy. More information to follow.

There will not be a December meeting.

In January, the Board will need to elect new officers, Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. McMann asked for two volunteers to form a nominating committee. Ms. Barbara Ward and Ms. Carol DeGraw will serve as the nominating committee. Please send your recommendations to Ms. Amy Archer at aarcher@co.morris.nj.us by the first week of December.

IV. Presentations

Acenda – Merger of Daytop Village of NJ, Inc. into Acenda, Inc. presented by Mr. James Curtin and Ms. Bridget DeFiccio



Acenda Services & Locations

- Headquarters in Glassboro, NJ
- Integrated Health
 - Mental Health Counseling
 - Psychiatric Services
 - Certified Community Behavioral Health Center
- Addiction & Recovery Services
 - OPI/OP/Co-Occurring
 - Halfway Houses
 - Sober Living Home for Expectant/Post Partum Moms
- Prevention Services
 - Maternal Health
 - Family Success Centers
- Child & Family Welfare
- Adolescent Services
 - Foster Care Aging Out
 - Juvenile Justice
- Crisis Services
- Residential Settings
- Reproductive Health--Famcare Affiliate



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At a Glance

- ❖ **13 Counties**
- ❖ **100+ Programs**
- ❖ **900+ Employees**
- ❖ **Integrated Vision**
- ❖ **100+ MOU's**
- ❖ **Collaborative~ What Can We Achieve Together!**

ACENDA
INTEGRATED HEALTH

Alumni Association of the Morris County Drug Court (AAMCDC) presented by Ms. Barbara Ward, Mr. Charles Johnson, and Dr. Eulena Horne

In 2008, in response to the void left by the absence of Drug Court supervision, the Alumni Association of the Morris County Drug Court (AAMCDC) was founded, one of the first organizations of its kind in New Jersey. The AAMCDC is a tax-exempt organization un 501 (c) (3).

The AAMCDC was created to provide solidarity and lifelong support of substance-free living for individuals in the Drug Court program and individuals who've completed the Drug Court Program. Its primary functions are: provide continuing recovery support; educate Drug Court participants and their loved ones about the Drug Court process to help them complete the program; function as a vehicle to gain increased community awareness and support, and inform AAMCDC members and current Drug Court participants about changes in substance use laws and expungement procedures.

The AAMCDC currently meets the third Wednesday of the month at 6 pm at the Administration and Records Building, Room 526 (next to the Knox Room), 5th floor, 10 Court Street in Morristown, New Jersey.

The AAMCDC publishes the literary and art magazine, *In Our Shoes*, which is devoted to the original writing and art-work of Drug Court participants and Drug Court Alumni. This free publication is distributed three times a year, at the spring and fall Drug Court graduations in Morris and Sussex counties and a special holiday edition in November in both counties. Participants can submit their writing and/or art for publication in the Drug Court alumni magazine under their name or anonymously.

Since its inception, the AAMCDC has developed several beneficial programs. The programs are valuable to the people who are exposed to and take advantage of them. These programs enhance individuals' self-esteem and improve their communication skills in the workplace and everyday living. People have obtained job interviews and full-time gainful employment, sometimes for the first time in their lives. Participants and graduates also learn how to have fun without using drugs or alcohol. Lives have been changed and saved because of the programs.

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V. Subcommittee Reports

Funding – moved to the end of the meeting

Planning – no report

Legislative/Advocacy – no report

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee – Mr. Steve Nebesni

The subcommittee met on October 29, 2020 to approve the funding recommendations for Fiscal Year (F.Y.) 2021.

VI. State Liaison Reports

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

Report attached

VII. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni

Moved to the end of the meeting.

FY 2021 Funding Recommendation (closed session)

Addiction Services Administrator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey and CARES have not received any referrals through the Innovations Grant at this time. Clients are going through pretrial but have not disclosed a substance use disorder therefore they do not fit the criteria for this grant.

The 2021 application for Chapter 51 was submitted to the State. In addition, budget modifications were approved by the State, and providers should have received their signed modifications, amended pages, and letter.

Ms. Suarez listened to Gov. Murphy's briefing on the legalization of marijuana that was passed. However, it needs to go through legislation, and this can take up to a year. Gov. Murphy appointed Diana Houenou as the Chair of the Cannabis Regulatory and Commission and Jeff Brown as the Commission's Executive Director. More information to follow.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris has scheduled four district Suicide Prevention presentations for the months of November and December.

CARES Act funding for CDBG and ESG was presented at the Freeholder meeting on November 9. Providers will receive grant agreements for rapid rehousing, emergency shelter, and homeless prevention—additional information to follow.

The HSAC is moving forward with the Needs Assessment. Thank you to those that participated. A copy of the final report will be distributed to all advisories once completed to address the community's needs and barriers.

The Office of Aging, Disabilities and Community Programming is holding an Emergency Preparedness Event on Monday, November 23, at the County Library 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Emergency Preparedness Kits will provide four shelf-stable meals and a first aid kit for

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individuals with disabilities and individuals over the age of sixty. You can contact the Division at 973.326.7886 or e-mail sbailey@co.morris.nj.us for additional information and questions.

Grant In Aid award letters went out last week, and we are moving forward with the contract process.

VIII. Joint PAC Report – Mr. Carmine Deo

The last meeting was held on Friday, November 6, and PAC will not be meeting in December. The Joint PAC will be refocusing on Legislative Advocacy starting January 2021.

IX. HSAC Report – no report

X. Old Business – no comment

XI. New Business

Ms. Suarez announced Prevention Is Key is hosting a Lunch and Learn – How Portugal is Solving its Opioid Problem on Wednesday, November 18 at 12:00 pm via Zoom.

Funding Closed Session (moved to the end of 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 6:37 pm.

Return to Meeting

The meeting reopened at 6:47 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 a 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. Benson seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

XII. Open to the Public – no comment

XIII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. DeGraw. Mr. Benson seconded the motion. All were in favor of the meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II