

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

## **MEETING – January 11, 2018 – 1 Medical Dr., Morris Plains**

### **Members Present:**

Linda Csengeto, MCOTA  
Carol DeGraw, United Way of N.N.J.  
Margaret Himsl, No. Jersey Friendship House  
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative  
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative  
Vicky Mulligan, Rest, Stop, Rejuvenate  
LaJuan Tucker, MCPO  
Barb Ward, Citizen Representative  
Deborah Ward, Citizen Representative

### **Also Attending:**

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS  
Lynne Chandler, Saint Clare's Behavioral Health  
Bob Davison, Mental Health Association  
Valerie Fox, Public  
James Gannon, Morris Co. Sheriff  
John Robbins, CSPNJ

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Jennifer Carpinteri, MCDHS  
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS  
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS  
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS  
Lauren Sossin, MCDHS

### **I. Call to Order and Approval of Dec. 14 minutes –**

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. Ms. Carol DeGraw made a motion to approve the Dec. 14 minutes and Ms. Deb Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

### **II. Welcome and Introductions –**

Ms. McMann welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

### **III. Chair Report – Ms. McMann**

There are two new board members this year. They plan to attend the Feb. meeting. The board orientation will be done at that time.

#### **IV. Hope 1 Update – Sheriff Gannon**

Sheriff Gannon talked about the three components of the Hope 1 program:

- Hope 1 mobile outreach – This program involves a van that started going out into the community in April 2017. The van goes to locations throughout the county such as the soup kitchen, community events, strip malls, etc. and helps bring addictions services and education to potential clients, family, others. The van was an old swat team vehicle. The Sheriff's Office removed the police logos and government plates to make the van more friendly and approachable. In the van is staffed by a Sheriff's Officer, a certified peer recovery specialist (from CARES) and a representative from the Mental Health Assoc. of Essex and Morris. With the help of this team, they have connected with about 2,403 people. The van enables clients, friends and family to have an opportunity to have a cup of coffee, talk and get connected with services.
- Hope Wing – Located in the jail, this is a program where inmates participate in recovery services along with employment and education community resources. Human Services is working with Sheriff Office staff to create the program. There are classes on anger management, coping skills, trust, etc. The program has a large faith based component.
- Identification program – Those between the ages of 18 – 54 are no longer able to get a County ID through the County Clerk's office. The county is only giving IDs to youth, veterans or individuals over 55. To fill this gap, the Sheriff's office began providing IDs in June 2017. They have provided about 126 IDs since the start of the program.

Sheriff Gannon also reported that former Governor Christie appointed him along with others to the Greystone Board. All previous members have been replaced. MHASAB members congratulated the Sheriff.

#### **V. Statewide Veteran's Diversion Program – LaJuan Tucker**

Ms. LaJuan Tucker, Prosecutor's office, gave an overview of the Veteran's Diversion Plan. This program is for Veterans with MI. Per the NJ Attorney General's office, every Prosecutor's office was asked to have a program in place for eligible service members, National Guard members and are currently serving or have served and/or are honorably discharged. The focus is on mental health. There are various reasons the veteran may not be eligible for the program. The program is not for first or second-degree crimes; it is for individuals with minor offenses. The Prosecutor's Office is making plans to implement this program as directed with no additional funding. The Veteran does not have to plead guilty if they agree to the program's conditions and participate in what is to be a 6-month to 2-year program. If they do what is required, the charges can be dismissed. Morris already has a small mental health program, so the Prosecutor's Office is exploring how to build upon this program to meet State requirements. Ms. Tucker will contact Ms. Becker if there is a need to schedule a human services network meeting to discuss further.

## **VI. Subcommittee Reports –**

### **Funding – Ms. Becker**

Ms. Becker presented a 2018 pre-contract modification request from NewBridge Services. Grant In Aid was approved for \$331,007 to fund NewBridge for core mental health services. In order to manage the subgrant and the services efficiently, NewBridge has now requested to bundle the service units into a service day. The total funding amount and the services offered remain the same. Ms. Becker asked for a motion to approve this subgrant modification. Ms. Cheryl Gardonick made a motion to approve the subgrant modification day. Ms. Barb Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

### **Planning – Ms. Becker**

There will be a unified funding plan meeting next week with the Morris Advisory Leadership Group. The agenda will include a recap of 2017 and the plan for 2018's funding priorities across the service continuum. The Ruth Davis Drive RFP will also be on the agenda.

### **Legislative/Advocacy – No Report**

### **County Alliance Steering Committee – Mr. Nebesni**

The next meeting will be on February 13 at 3:30 p.m. They will go over the Fiscal Year 2019 funding reviews and plan to bring their recommendations to the board for approval at the February meeting.

## **VII. State Liaison Report: Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services – Ms. Eileen Alexander (see attached report)**

## **VIII. Staff Reports**

### **Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Nebesni**

The County submitted the second quarter report today. Fiscal Year 2019 applications are due Feb. 2. Mr. Nebesni has started to receive the Fiscal Year 2019 applications.

### **Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Jacobson**

2018 Chapter 51 and Grant in Aid subgrants are currently being signed by providers. The County is still awaiting approval of 2018 DMHAS application and contract award letter from the DMHAS.

Ms. Jacobson attend the NCADD Morris Somerset Advocacy team meeting was on Tuesday, January 9. This group would like to do a screening of Anonymous People in April. Ms. Jacobson stated that this might be a good collaborative opportunity for the Stigma Free Communities Initiative. Other Advocacy Teams around the state have been doing screenings at local colleges and universities, and Ms. Jacobson offered to see about using CCM.

### **Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Becker**

The stigma free work is building. In 2018, the focus will be on engaging youth and the faith-based community. Atlantic Health is already leading outreach to clergy and has scheduled a breakfast at Chilton Hospital on February 20. Ms. Carpenteri suggested having a poster contest

and involving the students and how they envision being stigma free. All of these points will be discussed at the new Stigma Free meeting on February 13.

The faith based group met for the first time on January 23. Larry Ragonese, Morris County Communications Director, has had some Stigma Free posters made for distribution in the county.

Ms. Becker reported that County College of Morris is offering Mental Health First Aid, Peer Recovery Specialist and CADC credentialing training during the winter semester.

**IX. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Chandler**

Division of Child and Protection Services reported that in Morris County there were 223 referrals for neglect and child welfare. There was discussion about fee for service and the negative impact. To date, there have been no agency closures in Morris County. Everyone is monitoring the Fee for Service roll out.

There continues to be confusion about a ruling that was part of a NJ Substance Abuse Initiative (SAI) regarding service requirements for SAI clients who had actively used illegal substances during the previous year. Some clients had been told they cannot continue in their current programs and need to go elsewhere if those programs are not DAS licensed. A couple of clients served by Saint Clare's primary mental health programs have been impacted by this rule. Ms. Chandler hopes that the situation has been resolved with SAI leadership and that clients can stay in Saint Clare's clinically prescribed treatment at the level of care needed. Ms. Becker asked if the board should write a letter concerning this.

She asked about the role of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers. Mr. Armstrong stated that there are six of these pilot programs in the state that look at mental health, physical health and addictions. These are Federal programs funded by SAMHSA to the state.

**X. Old Business -**

Ms. Carpinteri reported on Code Blue. The County is implementing this new legislation although it came with no funding. There is a mandate that municipalities with nine or more homeless people open up a warming station when the weather is very cold. Morristown has opened up a warming station. This is a good start. We must work together to make Code Blue work for individuals who are homeless and on the streets during the coldest days of winter.

Ms. DeGraw asked if the exiting Greystone board was replaced. Ms. Becker stated that this is true. There will be an entirely new board at Greystone as well as the other State hospitals.

**XI. New Business – None**

**XII. Open to the Public**

Mr. John Robbins stated that there was a law passed in September about residential health care facilities and evictions. Often threats of eviction occur at these facilities, putting undue stress on residents. The new law says there must be due process for eviction. He spoke of a specific

incident where the health care facility tried to send the patient to a nursing home without their knowledge or agreement. The person was clear about what they wanted and secured an ombudsman to stop the health care facility from evicting them. Their concern was payment since the person was paid only up to a certain time. If this happens to a person with a mental illness, contact Eileen Alexander.

Mr. Robbins stated that CSPNJ has space available for mental health or addictions support groups on Sunday and Monday evenings. Anyone needing meeting space should contact Mr. Robbins.

Fliers on the Hearing Voices Network of Morris County were distributed. This group is a safe place to learn and share about managing experiences. Anyone interested in attending this group should call the Morris Community Wellness Center at 973 334-2470.

**XIII. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski  
Program Development Aide