

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) MEETING – February 8, 2018 – 1 Medical Dr., Morris Plains

Members Present:

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, MCOTA
Carol DeGraw, United Way of N.N.J.
Cheryl Garodnick, Citizen Representative
Julian Hill, MCPO
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative
Vicky Mulligan, Rest, Stop, Rejuvenate
Heidi Schnapp, Citizen Representative
Mark Spitzer, Undersheriff
LaJuan Tucker, MCPO

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS
Kathy DeFillippo, MC Freeholder
Lee Ann Cianci, Hope House
Rebecca Tritt, Daytop
Galina Gendelman, Felician University Student

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS

I. Call to Order and Approval of Jan. 11 minutes –

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Julian Hill made a motion to approve the Jan. 11 minutes and Ms. Linda Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor with three abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

II. Welcome and Introductions –

Ms. McMann welcomed everyone and she introduced Ms. Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County Freeholder, Human Services Liaison. Ms. DeFillippo thanked new members and past members for their time and effort on this committee.

III. Chair Report – Ms. McMann

The Morris County Advisory Leadership group consists of Chairs from the various County Advisory Boards. They have been meeting and are using a unified planning and funding process to maximize funding potential for community services.

This leadership group drafted the Request For Applications (RFA) for the Ruth Davis Drive homes, currently in review by County Counsel. Once County Counsel approves it, the RFP will go to the Freeholders for final approval. This is an opportunity for a community agency to provide residential services for individuals in Morris County.

IV. Brief Board Orientation

Ms. Becker went over the orientation packet. She asked that all update their biographical forms if they have new information. Please scan and email to Ms. Becker. If you don't have any updates, it is not necessary to do. Feel free to contact Ms. Becker if you have any questions or would like to meet with her.

Mr. Nebesni and Ms. Jacobson went over their respective funding information in the packet. Municipal Alliance funding comes from Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction (DEDR) fines. Chapter 51 funding is the Alcohol Education Enforcement and Rehabilitation Fund (AEREF) from the booze tax. Mr. Nebesni stated that the Municipal Alliance funding recommendations will be presented at the next CASS meeting.

V. Subcommittee Reports – Funding – Ms. Becker

The Advisory Leadership Group is meeting on Feb. 22 to review the service priorities from across the human services system. They will look at allocation summaries and priorities for 2019. The service priorities need to be updated before May since that is when Human Services puts out the annual Request for Funding Application (RFA). The service priorities are part of the RFA packet.

Planning – Ms. Becker

The first planning meeting for the annual Consumer and Family Forum will be on March 6. The Forum will most likely be held in June. All are welcome.

Legislative/Advocacy – Ms. Jacobson

There is a resolution from Monmouth County supported by their Freeholders opposing the legalization of marijuana. The County would like to look at this issue, come up with pros and cons, and determine if Morris should provide a position on legalization. Ms. Jacobson would like to put together an ad hoc subcommittee to work on this. She is looking for people with expertise in this field. The committee would come up with comments and concerns and a summary recommendation. A sign-up sheet was distributed, and a Doodle survey will be sent out to schedule a date for the meeting.

Mr. Spitzer said that County Administrator Mr. Bonanni also asked for a response from law enforcement on this. Problems have arisen in Colorado and Washington since the legalization of marijuana. The Morris Sheriff's Office will be talking with the police chiefs from one/both of these states to hear more about how legalization is affecting their communities.

Ms. McMann stated that the ad hoc subcommittee should meet before the next board meeting. She asked that the ad hoc subcommittee be empowered to provide a recommendation should it be needed prior to the next board meeting. Mr. Benson made a motion authorizing the

subcommittee to make the recommendation. Ms. Garodnick seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried. Ms. DeGraw asked if possible, the recommendation be circulated to the board for review prior to the formal recommendation.

County Alliance Steering Committee – Mr. Nebesni

The next CAS meeting will be on Feb. 13. They will review the Fiscal Year 2019 Alliance Funding recommendations.

VI. State Liaison Report – Ms. Eileen Alexander (see attached report)

The Greystone census has decreased. As of one week ago, the census was 524. This number includes the cottage beds. There are 61 CEPP, 4 KROLL, 40 Involuntary and 1 Voluntary. Many years ago, the census was as low as 450. Then the state closed some hospitals and Greystone's census went up. Although the census went up, the staffing decreased, including the number of psychiatrists.

The Greystone Board of Directors is transitioning. She will invite DMHAS Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke back in a few months to update the board. There are two RFPs coming out and if Morris receives any applications, the board will be asked to review them and provide a recommendation. Ms. McMann stated this is one of the functions of the funding subcommittee.

VII. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni

They are receiving FY2019 applications. They are in a renewal year and all is the same. They received the GCADA site visit report and sent in their corrective action report.

On March 6, there will be an Opiate Forum in Washington Township. Reservations are required. On March 29, there will be a forum in Wharton. Both events are a 7:00 p.m. Please call Mr. Nebesni if you would like further information on either of these events at 973 285-6860.

The NJPN Conference will be held on May 18 at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Jacobson

2018 GIA Subgrant Packages were mailed out on Monday. The contract award letter was received from DMHAS last week, so the Chapter 51 subgrant packages will be sent out by February 23.

Ms. Jacobson met with the Regional Learning Collaborative for Morris, Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset and Mercer on Monday, February 5. She will be meeting with this group on a regular basis, at least monthly throughout the planning process, to share strategies and provide each other with guidance and support. Ms. Jacobson will be putting together a planning committee next month that will include MHASAB members, PAC members, and other community stakeholders. The plan will be due in 2019 for implementation in 2020.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Becker

The Stigma Free Initiative is going strong. Next Tuesday, Feb. 13, is the next Stigma Free meeting here. In 2018, the Stigma Free Task Force will be focusing on bringing the stigma free message to the youth and faith-based communities. There are initial plans to create a poster contest for youth that would involve the library. Atlantic Health will be hosting a breakfast for clergy at Chilton Hospital on February 20.

The Governor’s Council on Mental Health Stigma is seeking 2018 Ambassador Awards. These awards are a great opportunity to recognize someone. This year educators and teachers will be honored. Please contact Ms. Becker for further information at 973 285-682.

VIII. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Cianci

Ms. LaJuan Tucker gave a presentation on the Veterans Diversion Plan.

IX. Old Business – None

X. New Business – None

XI. Open to the Public –

Ms. Gendelman, a nurse, commented about the legalization of marijuana. She thinks that many people who use it abuse it. It is much stronger than it was in the past. Many people cook with it, eat it, etc. At times, the people that are using it end up in the ER. She believes that it is ok for people to use it to help with their illness but feels strongly it should not be legalized for recreational purposes. Further discussion ensued about this.

XII. Adjourn –

Mr. Gregg Benson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. LaJuan Tucker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia MocarSKI
Program Development Aide