

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)

MEETING – April 12, 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.
Julian Hill, MCPO
Margaret Himsl, NJ Friendship House
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative
Vicky Mulligan, Rest, Stop, Rejuvenate
Heidi Schnapp, Citizen Representative
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS
Kyra Baumsmek, Centenary University Student
Lee Ann Cianci, Hope House
Maria Dalbis, Centenary University Student
Valerie Fox, Consumer
Brie Gallo, Allaire Health Services
Carver Parrish – Public
Kathleen Huler – Public
Ellie Plutto, Substance Abuse Navigator
Rebecca Tritt – Substance Abuse Navigator

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Jennifer Carpinteri, MCDHS
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

I. Call to Order and Approval of Feb. 8 minutes –

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:22 p.m. Mr. Gregg Benson made a motion to approve the Feb. 8 minutes and Mr. Chris Chernick seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

II. Welcome and Introductions –

Ms. McMann welcomed everyone. She introduced Ms. Brie Gallo, CBIST, CDP, VP Operations, Allaire Health Services.

Presentation by Brie Gallo on Morris View Behavioral Health Beds – Certificate of Need Application

Allaire Health Services acquired the contract to run Morris View in November 2017, under the auspices of the County. The Dept. of Health has opened up a certificate of need for adult care psychiatric beds. There is a big need for behavioral health beds. Allaire has put in an application for these beds. Regardless of whether they receive the award or not, they are training staff to accommodate patients with mental health diagnoses. People today seem to be getting sicker earlier and drug use is a factor.

If Allaire receives this award they will use Unit 2D for the beds. The unit will be for individuals over 60 years of age that have a medical condition and a psychological diagnosis. All would be Medicaid beds since this is a Medicaid program. The long-range plan would be for the program to accept others with private pay.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Gallo stated that the acute care system would benefit, as there are not enough psychiatric beds, especially for this population. Ms. Gallo said she would like to find out more about Greystone to determine how this program could help support the individuals Greystone is serving. Ms. Becker suggested Ms. Gallo attend the Greystone Board meetings. She says the program has to be affordable for those with mental illness. Often these folks are struggling financially.

Ms. Carpinteri gave the board some information on limited use of psychotropic medications in nursing homes. There will be further exploration on this topic.

Ms. McMann thanked Ms. Gallo for the informative presentation. Ms. Gallo left the meeting.

III. Chair Report – Ms. McMann

The Advisory Leadership group met yesterday. They talked about Grant-in-Aid funding for 2019. The RFA announcement will go out on May 30. There will be a funding orientation for applicants. Applications are due by June 29.

The Sussex Freeholder board passed a resolution concerning fee-for-service, advocating for increased reimbursement rates for services. Sussex is asking other Counties to do the same. Ms. Carpinteri offered to take a similarly drafted resolution to the Freeholders for consideration, as there is still time for amendments to the 2019 State budget.

Ms. McMann stated that she would like to make some edits to the Sussex resolution and incorporate the stigma free message. Mr. Chernick stated he thinks this is a good opportunity and we should do this. Mr. Benson said he thinks this is a good opportunity to capitalize on the new administration. Ms. McMann and Ms. Becker will look at a prior resolution that the Freeholders passed expressing concern for the Fee For Service rates to build upon. Included will be the date of the Resolution and that we are continuing our advocacy efforts.

Ms. Alexander added that when she recently made site visits one agency stated that they foresee 40% less revenue six months into fee-for-service. The agency is still providing

services but at a reduced capacity. Some vital services are no longer included in the FFS rates. Ms. Carpinteri will talk to Mr. Bonanni and the Freeholders about this topic.

IV. Subcommittee Reports – Funding (moved to end of meeting)

Planning –

Ms. Becker and Ms. Jacobson distributed the updated 2019 funding priority summaries for Grant-in-Aid and Chapter 51 for Board approval.

Mr. Gregg Benson made a motion to approve both the 2019 Grant-in-Aid and Chapter 51 funding priority summaries. Ms. Barb Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention.

Legislative/Advocacy –

Ms. Jacobson stated there is a proposed bill to establish an involuntary-commitment system for people with substance-use disorders. Ms. Becker sent this information out via email. Senator Codey is co-sponsoring. It is similar to the mental health version of involuntary commitment. This new proposal would allow a family member to request commitment of a loved one and the family must agree to pay the cost of treatment. Ms. Becker asked Ms. Jacobson to bring information that is more detailed to the Board on this proposed bill.

County Alliance Steering Committee – No Report

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

VI. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – No Report

Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Jacobson

The Chapter 51 subgrant packages went out in March.

Ms. Jacobson reported that she continues to meet with the Regional Learning Collaborative to work on the County Comprehensive Plan (CCP). They have developed a standard set of focus group questions, and she will be scheduling focus groups with the various advisories over the next several months, as well as putting out a consumer survey, both through providers and at the public forum. A planning committee will be put together in the next couple of months to review data and discuss priorities in the new planning cycle

There will be an Opiate Task Force meeting here on April 17 at 5:00 p.m. Cross Systems will also meet here on May 2.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Becker

The 24th Consumer and Family Forum will be on June 21 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Haggerty Center, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown. The title of the Forum is “Many Faces of Recovery”. The Forum is a unique opportunity to get countywide perspective from

the individuals we serve regarding the local system of care. All are welcome – fliers were distributed. Mr. Peter Basto is back as the facilitator for the evening.

Fliers passed out on the Terri Belske Consumer Advocate of the Year Award. Terri Belske was a lifelong advocate for people with mental illness and their families. The Terri Belske Consumer Advocate of the Year is an award given annually at the Public Forum. All nominations are due to Laurie Becker, at lbecker@co.morris.nj.us by Friday, May 25. The 2018 Forum planning committee will review and select the recipient.

There are 31 towns in Morris that are Stigma Free. The goal is to get all 39 towns on board as partners. At the April Stigma Free Task Force meeting, a Stigma presentation entitled “Language Matters” was given by the Morris/Sussex Substance Use Navigators. Ms. Becker offered to invite them to a board meeting to give their presentation.

VII. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Cianci

The committee discussed Hope One and the Vivitrol program being developed at the jail. Barriers were discussed regarding injections versus oral medication. Medicaid covers the Vivitrol but there is no reimbursement for doctors or nurses to give the injections.

VIII. Old Business

Ms. Carpinteri stated that there is no update on Ruth Davis Drive. There are still a few homes occupied. The RFP is still in review.

Ms. Carpinteri also reported that Sheriff Gannon, in partnership with Human Services, is implementing a jail re-entry program for eligible inmates that will offer social work, case management, Vivitrol treatment and linkages to community services. The target date to implement is by July 1.

Ms. Carpinteri also reported on Navigating Hope, another enhancement to community services. This program will add a new mobile outreach vehicle to Hope One and provide a range of services throughout Morris County. The Navigating Hope vehicle will go out with the Hope One van twice a week in addition two to three times a week on its own. The whole idea is to meet people where they are to increase access to services.

IX. New Business –

A public attendee addressed the board to make them aware of the lack of addictions services for individuals with disabilities. His son is suffering and has a disability. From his experience, there are no New Jersey programs that can accommodate him in a rehab program. There are places out of state; however, his son is not allowed to leave the state because of his involvement in drug court. Human Services staff offered to meet with the gentleman at the end of the meeting.

Funding – Closed Session (moved to the end of meeting) CASS – Ms. Jacobson

Ms. Jacobson asked that anyone in conflict with Municipal Alliance Funding or from the public leave the room. Ms. Eileen Alexander, Ms. Baumsmek, Ms. Cianci, Ms. Dalbis, Ms.

Fox, Mr. Parrish, Ms. Huler, Ms. Plutto, Ms. Tritt and Ms. Carpinteri excused themselves.
Motion made to begin the closed session of the meeting.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:03 p.m.

Return to Meeting

The meeting reopened at 7:07 p.m. No one reentered the room.

Actions Resulting from Closed Session

Ms. Jacobson stated the CASS had met, reviewed and approved all funding applications. This is for FY 2019 (from July 2018 to June 2019). The funding amount to Morris County for FY 2019 is the same as it was in 2018. In closed session, the board voted in favor of the FY 2019 Alliance funding recommendations.

A motion was made that the MHASAB approve all FY 2019 Alliance funding recommendations as discussed in closed session. Ms. Linda Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

Adjourn –

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia MocarSKI
Program Development Aide