

**Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)**  
**MEETING: August 13, 2020, via Webex Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Susan Calantone, Citizen Representative  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative  
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative  
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County  
Julian, Hill, Esp., Morris County Prosecutor's Office  
Marcy McMann, Esq., Citizen Representative – Chair  
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office  
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sherriff's Office  
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

**Also Attending:**

Cynthia Gatica, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Joann Bjornson, Family Promise of Morris County  
Carmine Deo, Community Hope  
Paul Dougherty, SERV Behavioral Health System  
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency  
Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services

**Staff in Attendance:**

Amy Archer, MCDHS  
Rosalyn Suarez, MCDHS

**I. Call to Order and Approval of June 11 Minutes**

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. The following corrections to the June 11 Minutes as noted:

- Page 3, old business, 1st paragraph, 1st line – spelling of Stigma
- Page 3, old business, 1st paragraph, 1st line – spelling of remaining
- Page 4, Adjourn, 1st – LaJuan's name is spelled incorrectly

Mr. Julian Hill made a motion to approve the June 11 minutes with the noted correction, and Ms. Barbara Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

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

**IV. Subcommittee Reports**

**Funding**

Ms. Amy Archer reported the 2021 Request for Application (RFA) for Community Funding was posted. All Grant in Aid and Chapter 51 applications have been received

and are in the processes of being sorted. The Funding Review Meeting will take place on Thursday, August 27, 2020, via Webex Meeting. Applications will be mailed out to the Funding Review Committee before the meeting.

Ms. Rosalyn Suarez provided an update on the Innovations Grant. Proposals for the services that were advertised were received. The Innovations Grant will provide individuals with substance use, or those maintaining recovery that are involved with Pre-Trial services in Morris County legal representation and/or peer recovery services.

There were two Request for Proposals (RFP) posted – one RFP for each service area:

**1. Civil Legal Service**

This service will include legal representation for Morris County Residents involved with Morris County’s Pre-Trial services and struggling with or maintaining recovery from substance use addiction. Legal Services of Northwest Jersey, Inc. was awarded on August 12, 2020.

**2. Peer Recovery Services**

This service will assess and serve the needs of Morris County residents involved with Morris County Pre-Trial Services. They will work with individuals struggling with or maintaining recovery from substance use addiction, develop a plan, provide up to 1 year of community engagement, and link the individual with additional services and benefits. Prevention is Key was awarded on August 12, 2020.

Ms. Suarez reported the funding amount for Chapter 51 has been approved by the State but the County has not received the award letter yet

**Planning – Ms. Amy Archer**

Ms. Archer reported an Overdose Awareness event that will take place on Monday, August 31, at 10:00 am at 1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains. The event will occur on the lawn outside the Human Services conference rooms so that social distancing can be practiced. A memorial tree and plaque are being dedicated in remembrance of the Morris County residents who were taken by the drug epidemic, their grieving loved ones, and those who continue to fight for recovery. Please join us to raise awareness of overdoses and reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths.

**Legislative/Advocacy** – no report

**County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS)**

See Municipal Alliance Coordinator report

**V. State Liaison Reports**

**Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Ms. Cynthia Gatica**

See attached report

**VI. Staff Reports**

**Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Amy Archer**

Ms. Archer reported Ms. Heather Rose resigned from the County as Municipal Alliance Coordinator. Mr. Steve Nebesni, who was the Municipal Alliance Coordinator a few years ago, will be helping the department on a part-time basis. The 2020 Fiscal Year has been extended to a fifth quarter to include July, August, and September. Program funding is still frozen, with payments only for County Coordination and Municipality Stipends per contract agreements. Financing for the Fiscal Year 2021 will be three quarters, running October 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. The expectation is programming will be paid for during that time, with the allowance of online programming being offered. There was a drastic decrease in Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction (DEDER) funding which will affect allotments for 2021

**Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez**

No report

**Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer**

Ms. Archer stated the Morris County Freeholders approved a new Suicide Prevention Program for Mental Health. Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris (MHA) was contacted to come up with a program that will target the adult, as well as the youth population that is struggling with the effects of Covid and isolation during these uncertain times.

MHA will ride along with Navigating Hope one day a week, providing resources and referrals to the community. They will give presentations on their Signs of Suicide program to all school districts in Morris County. This evidence-based program will provide school staff with the tools, information, and resources to targeted youth.

**VII. Joint PAC Report – Mr. Carmine Deo**

The next meeting is on September 4, 2020.

**VIII. HSAC Report – Ms. Jane Shivas**

The 2021 Funding Review meetings will be held on August 31 and September 1.

**IX. Old Business**

**X. New Business**

Ms. Chelsea Whiting announced a second Hope One vehicle. They conducted the Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI) training with Morris County Sheriff's Office on July 1 and will train Netcong on September 10 & 11 and Wharton on September 17. Hope One will also be visiting Probation Testing Sites. If someone tests positive, they will receive Narcan training, a Narcan kit, and receive resource information.

**XI. Open to the Public**  
No comment

**XII. Adjourn**  
Ms. McMann adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess