

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)
MEETING: June 11, 2020 via Webex Meeting

Members Present:

Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative
Ashley Craig, Morris County Sherriff's Office
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Carol DeGraw, United Way of Northern New Jersey
Heather Diamond, Center for Evaluation & Counseling
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County
David Griffith, vantage health System
Marcy McMann, Esq., Citizen Representative
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, NJDHA Mental Health and Addiction Services
Ashley Reed, Family Promise
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

Staff in Attendance:

Amy Archer, MCDHS
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS
Rosalyn Suarez, MCDHS

I. Call to Order and Approval of April 9 Minutes

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. Ms. Linda Csengeto made a motion to approve the May 14 minutes. Mr. Chris Chernick seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. McMann Welcomed everyone and introductions made.

III. Chair Report – Ms. Marcy McMann no report

IV. Subcommittee Reports

Funding – Ms. Amy Archer

Ms. Archer announced 2021 Grant In Aid (GIA) funding is postponed. Request For Application (RFA) did not go out, and at this time there is no release date. The providers will be notified via email and website <https://hs.morriscountynj.gov/>. Ms. McMann asked about funding for Chapter 51 and State funding. Ms. Archer stated the award letter has not been received, and this will push back our funding timeline. The goal is to coordinate with GIA the same as past years.

Ms. Archer reported the County is looking into funding during the Covid pandemic through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). ESG funds may be used for five program components: street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance, and HMIS, as well as administrative activities. Focusing on homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing, but funding is not finalized.

Planning no report

Legislative/Advocacy no report

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – Ms. Amy Archer
See Municipal Alliance report

V. State Liaison Reports

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

VI. Staff Reports:

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Amy Archer

Ms. Archer reported that Municipal Alliance program funding was frozen; therefore, typical programs have been stopped. The Fiscal Year was extended through September 30, 2020. A reduction in GCADA funding for FY21 is expected because DWI funding has dropped significantly.

Addictions Services Coordinator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez

Mrs. Suarez announced that site monitoring would be scheduled sometime in the summer. Due to Covid-19 and social distancing requirements the monitorings will be held virtually. Emails will go out to providers and the board.

Subgrant modifications for Chapter 51 will be emailed soon.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

At this time, Modification Applications are being excepted. Mental Health and Addiction providers are not requesting additional money for GIA but, are asking to provide Telehealth Services due to Covid-19. Providers are reporting a high response from clients with fewer cancelations and fewer no shows due to Telehealth Services.

Youth Services has formed a Substance Abuse Advisory Committee. They will be focused on barriers to getting help and potential solutions—more information to follow.

All MHASAB providers have been providing services during the COVID19 pandemic. They are starting to see clients in the community little by little.

Navigating Hope has started to go out into the community again with contact modifications. Clients are not allowed on the vehicle, a table is set up, and information on how to apply for benefits is provided. Clients are being referred to Family Promise for additional assistance.

Joint PAC Report – Ms. Amy Archer

Dierdre’s House is looking into running the Game of Life online when schools reopen.

Prevention is Key is working remotely, but all services are being provided.

HSAC Report – Ms. Jane Shivas

Ms. Shivas reported that United Way is providing tax preparation. Clients can call 973.993.1160 ext. 521, leave a message, and the call will be returned for assistance.

Alice Recovery Fund has helped 405 families providing \$568,000 in relief funding. The fund is coming close to running out of money and has started fundraising efforts. Those that are denied financial help are being referred to NJ 211 and NORWESCAP for case management.

VII. Old Business

Ms. Suarez stated at the last Stigma Free meeting; three remaining towns did not join the program. Mr. Larry Ragonese said he wants to try a different approach with the remaining cities. He will work with Freeholder DeFillippo to draft a letter to reconsider and become a Stigma Free community. Harding Township would not pass a resolution, but they may write a letter stating they are a Stigma Free partner.

Ms. Archer provided an update on the Census Outreach. Morris County is #2 in the state, with 71.3% reporting. Food and preprinted grocery bags with reminders to sign up for the Census were purchased and distributed to food banks and pantries.

VIII. New Business

Ms. Suarez announced that the next Stigma Free meeting would be held virtually on Tuesday, July 21, at 2:00 pm.

Ms. Shivas announced that Project Self-Sufficiency (PSS) is starting a program funded by the Department of Labor. Bridges will assist pregnant and parenting youth, male and female, ages 16 – 24, with a range of comprehensive supportive services. Throughout the 16 week program, youth will work to achieve their educational and employment goals, resulting in greater economic self-sufficiency and family stability. Based in Dover, Bridges will create positive outcomes for young parents through thoughtful and practical wraparound services. PSS is seeking to hire the following staff for the Bridges program; Program Coordinator, Job Developer/Employability Skills Counselor, Alcohol & Drug Counselor, Case Manager, Administrative Assistant, Literacy & Numeracy Instructors. A brief job description for distribution.

IX. Open to the Public – no comment

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. LaJuan Tucker. Ms. Linda Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor of meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess