

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)

MEETING – May 10, 2018 – 1 Medical Dr., Morris Plains

Members Present:

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Charlie Berman, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, MCOTA
Carol DeGraw, United Way of N.N.J.
Cheryl Garodnick, Citizen Representative
Julian Hill, MCPO
Margaret Himsl, NJ Friendship House
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative
Mark Spitzer, MC Undersheriff
LaJuan Tucker, MCPO

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS
Valerie Fox, Consumer
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency
Rebecca Tritt – Substance Use Navigator

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

I. Call to Order and Approval of April 12 minutes –

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. Mr. Gregg Benson made a motion to approve the April 12 minutes and Mr. Mark Spitzer seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

II. Welcome and Introductions –

Ms. McMann welcomed everyone.

III. Chair Report – Ms. McMann

On April 25, 2018, the MC Freeholders passed a Resolution urging the State of New Jersey to put fiscal safeguards in place to sustain a full continuum of mental health and addiction services during the transition from State contracting to fee-for-service rate reimbursement. The full resolution was distributed. Mr. Davison said that some agencies are struggling with the fee-for-service model. Discussion ensued.

Ms. McMann said there is still some controversy over the moving of DMHAS under the Dept. of Health. Ms. Becker said that there was some discussion on this topic at a recent NJ DRCC training when some questions came up over why there has been a delay in getting the ID cards for the DRCCs. The response was they are waiting to see where DMHAS lands as there is still the possibility that DMHAS may transfer back to Dept. of Human Services. Mr. Davison thinks they will know of any changes by July 1.

**IV. Subcommittee Reports –
2019 Funding Process Updates – Ms. Becker**

The 2019 Request for Funding Application (RFA) Announcement will be going out to providers on May 30. An application must be submitted to be considered for 2019 funding for Child Abuse Prevention, Social Services for the Homeless, Grant-in-Aid, Grant-in-Aid Senior Support and Area Plan Contract Funding. RFA application packages can be accessed on line at <https://hs.morriscountynj.gov/>. The package contains detailed information regarding the application process, including funding priority summaries and instructions for completing the RFA. Applications are due June 29.

There will be a Community Based Funding Information Session on June 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Morris County Public Safety Academy, Room 102A/B. While this session is not mandatory, potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend.

Planning – Ms. Jacobson

Signup sheet was passed around for anyone that wants to work on the County Comprehensive Planning Process for 2020 – 2023. So far this year the regional learning collaborative is working together to build the plan. They have had productive meetings. They have standard questions for focus groups. They will need to schedule focus groups for the Advisories, the PAC, and for the Jail Reentry Program. They are supposed to get a data binder and will look at this in June. This is a condition of Chapter 51 funding and part of their statutes.

Legislative/Advocacy – Ms. Becker

The 24th Public Forum: Many Faces of Recovery will be held on June 21 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Haggerty Center, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown. 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 distributed. A light supper will be served. Personal recovery stories will be told. The annual Teri Belske award will be given to an individual that is a role model in New Jersey and represents the Morris County community in advocating for the rights of all people with mental illness.

County Alliance Steering Committee – Mr. Nebesni

The April meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be on June 12.

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

There was discussion about limited psychotropic medications provided to patients in nursing homes. Carol DeGraw noted that this could be to ensure the elderly are not being overmedicated. This is a topic that needs further investigation.

Ms. Alexander offered to find a speaker on this topic.

On another note, Ms. Himsl said that there are different Medicaid plans and there are challenges processing HMO Medicaid plans since each individual item needs approval. This could effect a lot of people and agencies. Mr. Davison said that most individuals we serve have traditional Medicaid. Some have an HMO Medicaid. HMO Medicaid requires additional administrative work and associated costs.

VI. Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Nebesni

The Freeholders approved the Fiscal Year 2019 Alliance Funding Resolution. Fiscal Year 2019 Award letters were mailed out. Mr. Nebesni reported that the Freeholders made \$50,000 of supplemental funding available to the Alliances for Calendar Year 2018. Supplemental 2018 funding applications went out and are due at the end of the month. Each Alliance can apply for \$2,000 of supplemental funding per municipality represented. There is a 50% cash match required. We are the only county that offers Supplemental Funding. Historically, 17 – 20 Alliances apply for this funding.

Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Jacobson

The Department of Health is holding a meeting with a focus on the Opioid Epidemic, Strategies and Issues.

There was a recent newspaper article about some towns that want to legalize marijuana. Chatham and Parsippany both passed resolutions against it. The Association is sponsoring a webinar “Understanding the Legalization of Marijuana” on May 22.

The Opioid Task Force met on April 17. The Prosecutor’s office and the Sheriff were at the meeting. Brad Seabury, Prosecutor’s office, reported that over 50% of individuals served by Narcan are in treatment or recovery services. The use of Fentanyl continues to rise.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Becker

Ms. Becker stated that Governor Codey unveiled a plan to combat teen suicide. Today is Youth Mental Health Day. At the last Stigma Free meeting, there were a few folks from the Society to Prevent Teen Suicide. They won a grant from Provident Bank to provide education and training for the Skylands Region in New Jersey, which includes Morris County. Morris has the highest rate of completed teen suicide. There were 20 deaths in 2015-2016. We need to open our eyes to address this and keep it an ongoing topic. The Codey fund for mental health is providing \$1 million to train teachers and professionals on suicide prevention. Training will be offered to paraprofessionals, bus drivers, security guards, custodians, cafeteria workers, teachers, etc. The Governor may also fund Mental Health First Aid. He wants to raise awareness.

There was some discussion with Undersheriff Mark Spitzer on the Sheriff’s Office work to combat bullying. Ms. Ashley Craig is involved and presents her story of being bullied as a child. She started a group called Students Against Bullying (SAB). She has now taken this program to the Sheriff’s office and together they will present it to the schools. Mr. Berman

stated that he believes prevention is the best way to go. He and his wife have done multiple anti-bullying and antidrug trainings. Perhaps Ms. Sue Nobleman can come to talk about this with the board.

Undersheriff Spitzer talked about the Response to School Violence, Prevention, Preparation and Protection. The Sheriff went to the Chief of Police meeting for Morris County. The idea is to “respond before the bang instead of after the bang.” Studies have shown that 80% of the cases where there was a shooting incident the shooter told someone before the incident occurred. Kids need to know how important it is to tell someone if they have heard someone is planning to do something bad.

The county gave them \$50,000 to develop an anti-threat matrix. They hired a group out of Virginia that wrote the study done after Columbine. The Sheriff’s Office is working with Vo-Tech and empowering the kids to create a strong message using Vo-Tech’s film studios.

VII. Joint PAC report – No Report

VIII. Old Business – None

IX. New Business –

Mr. Davison stated that the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris County will have an open house at their new location on May 24 from 3 – 6 at 300 Littleton Road, 3rd Floor, Parsippany. Please stop by to visit their new facility.

X. Open to the Public –

Undersheriff Spitzer stated that Hope One had its anniversary in April. On April 3, its one-year anniversary was celebrated at the Morristown Green. About 500 people have visited the vehicle so far this year. Altogether, over 3,000 people have visited the van. They have been able to help 60 people get into rehabs and about 1000 trained to use Narcan. Overdose deaths have been down this year 40% to 50% partially due to Hope One. There have also been reductions due to the Prosecutors’ new programs and Narcan treatments.

The city of Newark is replicating the Hope One model. The Hope One was there a few weeks ago. Atlantic City is also considering the Hope One model. It is exciting to see other cities looking into this program. There are 12-13 inmates at the Morris County jail now getting treatment at in the Hope Wing at the jail.

Ms. Becker stated that there an RFP going out for the Navigating Hope mobile outreach project. Navigating Hope will be another van that will outreach to the community with Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) staff and community provider staff. This van will be similar to the Hope One model but will bring more human services assistance to the people. OTA staff will be able to take applications for food stamps, GA, etc. At times, the two vans will go out together and other times they will go out separately. The HSAC will review any applications received for Navigating Hope RFP.

XI. Adjourn –

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide