

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)
MEETING: May 14, 2020 via ZOOM

Members Present:

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
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
Alton Robinson, Citizen Representative
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, NJDHA Mental Health and Addiction Services
Lynn Chandler, Saint Clare's Behavioral Health Center
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 p.m. Ms. Linda Csengeto made a motion to approve the April 9 minutes. Mr. Chris Chernick seconded the motion. All were in favor with four 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 – No Report

Planning

Ms. Amy Archer reported that Ruth Davis Drive is being used by some Morris County providers to help with social distancing in shelters and other congregate settings. The providers are using six out of the nine homes as they seem fit to protect our most vulnerable clients.

Legislative/Advocacy no report

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

Ms. Archer stated that at this time funding is currently frozen and there will not be payment for any new activities as of March 23, 2020. How this will effect the upcoming funding cycle has not been determined.

V. State Liaison Reports

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

Please see attached report.

VI. Staff Reports:

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Amy Archer

Please see County Alliance Steering Subcommittee report

Addictions Services Coordinator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez

Mrs. Suarez reported the Morris County Innovations Grant has been approved. The resolution will be going to the next Freeholder's meeting on May 27. The Request For Proposal (RFP) will be posted soon and providers can check BidNet for submission.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

Ms. Archer provided the following update to the County's Covid-19 efforts:

- May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Resources and reference guides are continuously being updated on the website at <https://morriscountynj.gov/>.
- The Warming Center was extended through May 31, so that will be coming to an end soon
- Handwashing stations were placed in Dover and Morristown.

Joint PAC Report – Ms. Lynn Chandler

Ms. Chandler reported with the implementation of Telehealth, providers are seeing positive response from those clients that typically cancel in-person appointments and they are now keeping their virtual appointments.

Ms. Carol DeGraw asked if the Children's Mobile Response is still operating. Ms. Chandler stated yes, but is underutilized statewide and the community may not be aware of this service.

HSAC Report – Ms. Jane Shivas

Ms. Shives reported the State Comprehensive Needs Assessment is temporarily on hold.

Child Care for essential workers was extended to the end of May.

Work Force Development is working remotely. Due to the massive increase in claims this has caused delays with receiving unemployment benefits. It is expected that 45% of small businesses will file for bankruptcy which could trigger another wave of unemployment claims.

Old Business

Ms. Suarez provided a Stigma Free update. Wharton does not want to pass the resolution to be Stigma Free. However, they have been doing Stigma Free activities. The following townships are still not Stigma Free; Wharton, Harding, Riverdale, and Florham Park. The next Stigma Free meeting will be May 19 at 2:00 pm via ZOOM.

Ms. DeGraw provided the following information about the ALICE Fund; 186 applications have been processed to date with a payout of \$250,000, 59 applications going to the Review Committee on May 15 totalling \$84,000 and over 800 applications still need to be looked at.

New Business

Ms. Linda Csengeto stated that Greystone has reported 107 staff members and 47 residents have tested positive for Covid-19 and 7 deaths have been reported.

Mr. David Griffith will email Ms. Anna Marie Hess, "Recovery Readiness: A How-To Guide for Reopening Your Workplace", for distribution.

Open to the Public – no comment

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Linda Csengeto. Mr. Gregg Benson seconded the motion. All were in favor of meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess