

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) MEETING – November 8, 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.
Heather Diamond, Citizen Representative
Cheryl Garodnick, Citizen Representative
Julian Hill, MCPO
Margaret Himsl, NJ Friendship House
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative
Heidi Schnapp, Citizen Representative
LaJuan Tucker, MCPO
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS
Deanna Ackerman, Mental Health Assoc. of Essex & Morris
Rose Brown, Mental Health Assoc. of Essex & Morris
Lynne Chandler, Saint Clare's Behavioral Health
Heather Darling, MC Freeholder
Maria Merida, Morristown Medical Center
Sheriff James Gannon, MC Sheriff's Office
Veronica Thomas, Atlantic Health

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 October 11 minutes –

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. Mr. Julian Hill made a motion to approve the October 11 minutes and Mr. Gregg Benson seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. McMann welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

III. Chair Report – Ms. McMann 2019 Slate –

Mr. Gregg Benson offered to be Chair and Mr. Chris Chernick and Ms. Cheryl Garodnick both offered to be Vice Chair. Please let Ms. Becker or Ms. Jacobson know if anyone else is interested. Vote will take place at the next meeting.

Update on Assisted Outpatient Treatment – Ms. Deanna Ackerman, Ms. Rose Brown, MHA of Essex and Morris Counties

Presentation on Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT). Ms. Ackerman and Ms. Brown explained about the program. AOT/Involuntary Outpatient Commitment refers to mental health laws that are mandated, community-based, mental health treatment for individuals with mental illness, who, because of their mental illness, meet a legal standard for outpatient commitment.

AOT is an alternative to involuntary inpatient hospitalization for eligible consumers in Morris and Sussex County. Individuals are assessed by a mental health screener and psychiatrist and if commitment to involuntary treatment is necessary, the screening staff and psychiatrist shall determine what type of treatment is the least restrictive to meet the needs of the individual pursuant to NJSA 30:4-2.2 (m). If an individual meets the criteria for AOT, the individual will be mandated to participate in mental health treatment in the community.

The goal of AOT is to enable individuals to live safely within their communities, to avoid repeated hospitals and/or incarcerations, and to ensure that they have access to outpatient mental health services.

The length of stay is from one year to eighteen months. The Morris Census is currently 31. There are two pending referrals. Only one of these consumers is incarcerated. There are many co-occurring clients.

Ms. McMann asked what if the patient is non-compliant. Ms. Ackerman said they could be discharged from the program (although that has not happened lately). MHAEM works with the judge and public defenders at the commitment hearings. The incentive to participate in this program is that the person is not committed to inpatient hospitalization.

For further information or to make a referral for this program contact Ms. Deanna Ackerman at (973) 334-3496 x418.

Sheriff Gannon Updates

Sheriff Gannon gave an update on Greystone Psychiatric Hospital. He is the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. He said the census has been dropping and they are working on safety and security and have made some big changes in the last year. There has been a new CEO appointed and many good things are going on. The Sheriff acknowledged that this is our most vulnerable population and reported that families are embracing the changes. The Board of Trustees is communicating with the state on issues of concern. Concerns include continuing

staff shortages and difficulty keeping staff. Ms. Becker asked if there is any advocacy specific to the shortage of psychiatrists. There are approximately eleven there now and Greystone is attempting to recruit ten more. There was discussion about the relatively low salary of psychiatric staff compared to higher salaries at competing hospitals. Ms. Carpinteri stated this is because they are salaried under Civil Service.

The Hope One van has seen 5,400 people since its start on 4/3/2017. Hope One has made many direct placements for persons struggling with mental health and addictions. The van has been out on the road 210 times. They are going to talk to the Sheriff's Dept. in Atlantic City on Monday. Soon Newark will kick off its own Hope One vehicle. Cape May and Monmouth both already have vehicles out there. The Navigating Hope vehicle is almost ready to launch.

The Sheriff's Department, in collaboration with Human Services, is rolling out additional programs including the Successful Transition and Re-Entry Program (STAR) reentry program at the jail. There are OTA staff at the jail to assist inmates with applying for SNAP, Medicaid, etc. They are doing warm handoffs, helping them find a place to work, live and get their GED. All these things should help recidivism. Inmates are offered Vivitrol medication if clinically advised. The Vivitrol injection is used to prevent relapse in people who became dependent on opioid medicine and then stopped using it. The Corrections Facility is working to get approval to offer methadone treatment as well.

There are 3,100 people coming through the jail annually and eight or nine that leave each day. The Sheriff's Office has provided individuals with a total of 275 ID's. Mr. Gannon has been works closely with Ms. Carpinteri on these endeavors. Other initiatives include expansion of food pantry offerings using a donated bus. Many great things are happening and many good people are coming to the table.

Sheriff Gannon did report that most individuals served are dealing with some aspect of mental illness. The Sheriff's job has been the most rewarding since he has been able to have an impact on people's lives. On Tuesday they are going to spend about 2 ½ hours talking about antiterrorism concerns to the Jewish community. There are about 34 Jewish houses of worship invited. In Morris County, there are at total of 317 houses of worship.

After the Parkland shooting and other school incidents, the Sheriff's Office sat down with the Executive Board of the Chiefs of Police and talked about what they can do to conduct behavioral health threat assessments in the schools and community. The Sheriff's Office hired Sigma as the consultant to assist with creating a plan to evaluate and manage threats. A major goal of this program is to prevent youth suicides. This will be a new program offered locally in the near future.

IV. Subcommittee Reports – Funding –

Ms. Becker said that the 2019 award and declination letters will be going out in about a week.

Planning – No Report

Legislative/Advocacy – No Report

County Alliance Steering Committee – No Report

Ms. Jacobson said they are still looking for a new person to fill this position.

V. State Liaison Reports – Ms. Eileen Alexander (written report provided)

Governor Murphy Announces *Get Covered New Jersey* Public Awareness Campaign to Promote Access to Health Coverage

Six-Week ACA Open Enrollment Period Begins Nov. 1

TRENTON - Governor Phil Murphy today announced the launch of *Get Covered New Jersey*, a state public awareness campaign to promote the Affordable Care Act's 2019 open enrollment period, which runs from Nov. 1 through Dec. 15.

Get Covered New Jersey is the first coordinated health coverage public awareness campaign conducted by the State of New Jersey since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The program will promote health coverage options available to residents through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace and off the Marketplace in the individual insurance market during Open Enrollment, as well as through the state's NJFamilyCare program year-round.

Programs that are being funded to help enroll The organizations being funded are the [Center for Family Services](#), of Camden; [The Family Resource Network](#), of Hamilton (Mercer County); [The Oranges ACA Navigator Project](#), of Orange; [Fulfill Monmouth & Ocean](#), of Neptune and Toms River; and the [Urban League of Hudson County](#), of Jersey City.

Press Release – Construction Starts on Phase II of Veterans Village

Lyons, NJ – Affordable Housing and Services Collaborative Inc. in conjunction with Peabody Properties, Community Hope Inc. of Parsippany and Windover Construction, has broken ground on Phase II of Valley Brook Village. The project will contain 50 additional units of affordable housing with on-site support services for homeless and disabled veterans. Expansion of the veterans' village, located on the VA NJ healthcare campus in Lyons, New Jersey, will complement the existing 62-unit development completed in October 2013.

Peabody Properties Principal & Chief Operating Officer Melissa Fish-Crane said, "Plans have been underway for the second phase for the past several years. She reported that the partners anticipate completing the development and welcoming our Veterans to their new homes within twelve to thirteen months."

Community Hope provides on-site case management and employment services to veterans

residing at Valley Brook Village I and will be the service provider for the new veterans taking occupancy next year.

Community Hope CEO J. Michael Armstrong said the project is greatly needed. “This project has been a life saver for the veterans who reside there. It has been a place to call home for veterans who have served as far back as World War II to those who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Despite the age differences and the various military experiences, our veterans have established a community at Valley Brook where they share the commonality of being veterans and the mutual experiences of having been soldiers in service to our country.”

Valley Brook Village is built on land provided through the federal Enhanced Use Lease Program on the VA New Jersey Healthcare campus in Bernards Township. In 2017, the project was awarded \$1,222,000 in federal low income housing tax credits from the NJHMFA. The Township has also committed funding for the project from its Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Additional funding has been awarded from the County of Somerset’s Homeless Trust Fund Program and as well as funding from the VA and a number of private foundations.

Seeds of Hope Eating Disorders Services at High Focus Centers is now open!

Seeds of Hope specializes in the treatment of eating disorders in adults and is being offered within a full day (Partial Care) and half-day (Intensive Outpatient) treatment structure. Seeds of Hope at High Focus Centers is available at **our Parsippany location** in Morris County. For assistance scheduling an assessment or to learn more about these programs, contact Kellie Kucinski at (201) 207-1050 or **kkucinski@highfocuscenters.com**.

ICMS has just about completed its statewide audit of all ICMS programs. Ms. Alexander said they are working on changing over the email system. Some of the award letters went out this week. Morris and Sussex will be the first ones completed.

Morristown Medical Center – Crisis Intervention Services (CIS) – Ms. Maria Merida and Veronica Thomas

Gave an overview of the services provided through the 2019 DMHAS contract. As an Affiliated Emergency Service, MMC/CIS works closely with Saint Clare’s Screening Center to ensure that psychiatric emergency and related services are available to adults and children countywide. Children are the biggest challenge. Sometimes in the afternoon (around 2:00 p.m.), four to six kids come in at once. Emergency rooms are not equipped to see so many patients. Pediatric patients are prioritized. Schools have reached out to the hospital to see what the process is for schools to send kids to the ER. There are always concerns about youth suicide. MMC has provided parenting classes and education to help parents.

There is also a growing number of geriatric patients seen in CIS.

Ms. Alexander stated that St. Clare’s is the designated Screening Center but both Morristown and Chilton are affiliated emergency service providers.

Ms. Carpinteri stated that MMC's True North Program will be at the VA Clinic at Morris View once a week.

Ms. McMann thanked Ms. Merida and Ms. Thomas for their presentations.

Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the 2019 DMHAS Morristown Medical Center/Atlantic Health Contract for CIS. Ms. Carol DeGraw seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

VI. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator -

Ms. Jacobson said they are working on the final report for FY 18.

Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Beth Jacobson

The Countywide Prevention forum was last week. It was a great evening and there was an excellent engaging speaker and a panel discussion. The focus was on raising resilient teens and suicide prevention.

Last night Ms. Becker and Ms. Jacobson went to the screening of Beautiful Boy in Rockaway. The theatre was packed. Three people shared their stories prior to the show. They showed a short video first called "Stop the Pain". It was very moving. The movie was tough. Thought it would be a little more recovery oriented but there was not a lot about recovery. In the film, the person was in recovery for eight years. The movie showed how hard it is, talked about treatment options and raised awareness.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Laurie Becker

Reported that disaster response counselors responded to the Dover fire on October 22. The challenge was finding Spanish speaking workers. Fortunately Family Intervention Services and Homeless Solutions staff along with OTA provided coverage over several days at the Dover Community Center. Many organizations offered their assistance. There was an outpouring from the local community.

There were many families at the Community Center and some spent the night. Collectively about 55 hours of staff time was provided. Connecting Dover was a big help. There is a need to recruit Spanish speaking DRCC people. Carlos Caprioli from the Family Success Center said there are 53 individuals that still do not have permanent housing or are waiting for a place. However, currently no one is homeless or needs the County's services.

VII. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Lynne Chandler

There was a report on Greystone and the number of residents from Morris County. There will be a youth wellness seminar in March. Students are invited and they are hoping to start wellness councils.

Question if there were any updates on denials to detox related to managed Medicaid as discussed at the last meeting. Heard there is improvement but that 24/7 access is still not in place but they are working on.

VIII. HSAC Report –

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDs Advisory Committee is hosting a Navigating Medicaid and Medicare Lunch and Learn on Nov. 13 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. at 1 Medical Dr., Conf. Rm., 81, Morris Plains. This Lunch and Learn is geared toward clients. RSVP through the client’s case manager or contact Kelly Martins at 973-285-0006 for more information.

The Office on Aging reported that RVSP SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) counselors provide free information and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries. Call 973-784-4900 ext. 3501. Medicare open enrollment ends Dec. 7.

The Office on Aging reported that Hispanic Affairs energy assistance program is now available through Aug. 31, 2019. Call 973-366-4770 for more information. They make home visits to homebound clients, or provide transportation to their office.

The Office on Aging reported that social security benefits will increase by 2.9% in 2019, the largest cost-of-living (COLA) in seven years. The average social security retirement benefit will increase by \$39 a month or about \$468 per year.

IX. Old Business – None

X. New Business – None

XI. Open to the Public – No Comments

XII. Adjourn –

Motion made by Mr. Gregg Benson and seconded by Mr. Julian Hill to close the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. There will be no December meeting.