

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)

MEETING – February 14 – 1 Medical Dr., Morris Plains

Members Present:

Charlie Berman, The Willow Tree/Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative
Carol DeGraw, United Way of NNJ/Citizen Representative
Heather Diamond, Center for Evaluation & Counseling/Citizen Representative
Aura Kenny Dunn, Citizen Representative
Margaret Himsl, NJ Friendship House/Citizen Representative
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative
Vicky Mulligan, Rest, Stop & Rejuvenate/Citizen Representative
Alton Robinson, Citizen Representative
LaJuan Tucker, MC Prosecutor's Office
Erica Valvano, MC Sheriff's Office
Russell Wallin, Citizen Representative
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS
Carmine Deo, Joint PAC Rep., Community Hope
Nicole Inniss, Public
Stephanie Intrabartdo, Public, Brian Project, Inc.
Katherine Potter, Student, Sacred Heart University
Marie Potter, Randolph Township Council
G. David Scott, Market Street Mission
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency

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 January 10 minutes

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m. Mr. Charlie Berman made a motion to approve the January 10 minutes and Ms. Barbara Ward 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 were made.

III. Chair Report – Ms. McMann

The Greystone presentation is cancelled for today and will be rescheduled.

Ms. Alexander stated that she is happy to announce that Community Support Services (CSS) will be contracted by the State for one more year, through June 30, 2020. CCS is the name for what was formerly supportive housing.

Ms. Becker reviewed the materials in the MHASAB Orientation packets. State regulations require that membership include consumer and family representation. When last polled anonymously, 60% of the MHASAB identified as consumers/families.

Ms. McMann stated requested that all member update their biographical forms as is necessary.

IV. Presentation/Update on Greystone – Postponed

V. Subcommittee Reports

Funding –

Ms. Becker said that next week the Morris Advisory Leadership group will have their first meeting of the year. They will look at funding across the continuum, priorities and trends in preparation for the 2020 Request for Funding Application (RFA).

Ms. Carpinteri stated that a joint application by Homeless Solutions and Family Promise was awarded the Ruth Davis Drive Request for Application (RFA). The residences will be used to house homeless single women (32 beds). This is a wonderful addition to our continuum. Ms. McMann said many agencies supported this application.

Planning –

Ms. Jacobson said that she submitted the County Comprehensive Plan to the NJ Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS). At the last Association meeting, they were training staff to review the plan. Mr. Jason Bell facilitated the training. All are hoping the process will be more streamlined and efficient than in the past. Once the plan is approved, it will be on the county website.

Legislative/Advocacy – Ms. Laurie Becker

The first Forum planning meeting will be this month. It is the 25th year of the Consumer & Family Forum. The theme is “The Many Faces of Recovery.” The event is designed to hear from the people we serve. Officials and providers are invited. Last year there were about 150 in attendance. After the event, we put together a summary and used it for our funding priorities. All are welcome to join the three planning meetings. The forum will be on June 18. As this is co-sponsored with the MHASAB, would be great to have a good turnout of members. This event takes the place of the June meeting.

The Planning Committee is looking for a consumer advocate that deserves recognition for consideration of The Terri Belske award. This is given out each year at the Forum. Terri Belske passed away in 2016. She was a long time consumer advocate that was well known and loved. If you have anyone in mind for this award contact Ms. Becker at 973 285-6852. There is a simple application to fill out. The committee will make the final decision.

County Steering Alliance Subcommittee (CASS) – Ms. Jacobson

They are interviewing for Municipal Alliance Coordinator position. The next meeting is set for Feb. 26. They need to get the approval of funding for FY 2020.

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

- There will be a Rutgers two day IMR training March 6 and March 20. Both trainings must be attended to get the credit for attendance.
- The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services will be providing a training for Fee For Service agencies to send their staff that they think are having difficulties with the billing process and have not had success with the online help. Pact Services in Essex County is currently out for bid with the mandatory bidder's conference held on January 15, the notify date for this RFP will be March 18. Please check the state website for up to date RFP information.
- Five GPPH diversion beds to serve Morris, Sussex, Warren, Somerset and Hunterdon Counties will become available on Monday, November 26. The contract is currently for the term of November 26, 2018-June 30, 2019.
- There was a webinar held on CSS on January 23, 2019. The training was entitled "The Golden Thread"; and was sent to providers after the meeting. There are upcoming trainings. The booster training was held on January 30, 2019, a training for new people to the CSS program held for two days on February 14 and February 21 in Scotch Plains, and then a regular series in March in both Scotch Plains and in Mays Landing. The next scheduled Webinar is February 6, 2019.
- A correspondence was sent out to all providers regarding the inability to access treatment because you are currently using MAT (medically assisted treatment). The legislation was enacted in January of 2018 and it clearly identifies all the different types of drug treatment providers that are unable to deny access due to the use of MAT. If you are denied services, you are urged to contact DMHAS hotline at 1-800-382-6717 or the Department of Banking and Insurance Hotline at 1-800-446-7467.
- There is a new STCF self-assessment tool developed to ensure your STCF complies with all of the regulations. We strongly encourage that you use this document to ensure your STCF is in line with the expectations of the regulations.
- We received the announcement today that DCA's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program is going to be opening in early February. Please follow this link for further details:
https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/hc_vouchers.html.

VII. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator –

Ms. Jacobson is hoping to have the new Alliance Coordinator by the next meeting.

Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Jacobson

There was a press release from Governor Murphy “Combating the Opioid Epidemic”. Copies were distributed.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Becker

Ms. Becker reported that all but four towns in Morris County are Stigma Free. They are working on getting the remaining towns on board. The Webmaster is linking more school-based activities on the county’s website. See <https://morriscountystigmfree.org/> for further information. The website will have feature series stories from CCM students on what it means to be stigma free. Discussion ensued about how to engage the remaining towns. There are various Stigma Free giveaways and no monetary requirements. We are looking for more ambassadors to help spread the Stigma Free message.

Ms. Carpinteri stated that County leadership met with the mayors to review the proposed budget. Some mayors asked about joining the stigma free movement. We want to be sure all understand how to implement this more concretely.

Ms. Vicky Mulligan spoke with the Parsippany mayor about the stigma free initiative. She is encouraging towns to hold stigma free activities after they adopt the resolution. Discussion ensued about this being a communitywide initiative with the county acting as facilitator. The Daytop Substance Use Navigators have created their own power point presentation on language matters and will present this at no cost. Ms. Dunn is from Mendham and offered help to get the remaining towns on board.

VIII. Joint PAC Report – Co-Chair – Mr. Carmine Deo, Community Hope

There was good attendance at the last meeting. He reported that the Governor’s proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour could be an advocacy point that has an impact on mental health and substance abuse agencies. This increase in salaries when there is no agency funding increase is a hardship for many nonprofit agencies.

Ms. Carpinteri suggested the board ask the Freeholders to support this as well perhaps via a resolution. The county will be impacted by this too.

IX. HSAC Report (written report provided)

Ms. Carter reported despite cold temperatures across much of the County and state, the 2019 Point-In-Time Count of Morris County’s sheltered and unsheltered homeless begins for the night of Tuesday, January 22 and concludes over the course of a seven-day service window, ending Wednesday, January 30. The 2018 count identified 398 total homeless persons in 287 households: 65 chronically homeless persons and 35 unsheltered persons (all adults over 18) living on the streets.

Ms. Carpinteri reported that this year Code Blue has been tremendous success. There are twelve beds available at the Homeless Solutions warming center. Homeless Solutions has been a great partner and this has been the smoothest winter yet. The warming center is open every day during Code Blue. There have been more women served than expected. Homeless

providers and the Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) are working collaboratively. Thanks to all especially Ms. Linda Csengeto and the OTA staff for their efforts.

It was reported that when a Code Blue is called the data from the Coordinated Entry is eye opening. From June through Oct. there were 61 people sheltered through the Coordinated Entry. Of those 61 found housing. (This could be diversion housing.) All are coming through a common filter. As of Oct., there were 48 new calls from new consumers. There is a mix of the chronically homeless and domestic violence victims. As of Oct. 31, there were 223 on the housing wait list. There were 49 families and 9 couples. The total current number of people on the shelter waiting list is 281.

The new Chair for the CoC Executive Committee for 2019 is Ms. Rebekka Zydel. The new Vice Chair is Ms. Terry Connolly. There are a few new members this year. On Jan. 31 there is a retreat planned to help get everyone on the same page. The goal is to work toward a more formal recognition of problems and priorities.

X. Old Business –

Ms. Carpinteri stated that she will be leaving the county for a new opportunity as of March 1. She will be the Atlantic Health Regional Manager for Newton and Hackettstown Hospitals. It has been a privilege to work for the county for almost seventeen years. She has been Director for four and a half years. She is proud of our team and community. Ms. McMann thanked Ms. Carpinteri. She will be missed and is always welcome to come back to visit. She has done a wonderful job – best of luck to her.

Ms. DeGraw thanked Ms. Carpinteri for her energy and commitment to all. She is an amazing woman.

XI. New Business –

Ms. DeGraw passed around a booklet from United Way and Atlantic Health that is a Caregiver Health Study. The title of the study is “Family Caregivers: A Community in Crisis”. They got back 970 surveys in order to compile this booklet. Caregivers feel this is important. They did interviews with 50 caregivers although 300 were willing to interview. In reviewing the booklet, you can see that depression is a huge factor for caregivers. Many caregivers do not realize they are caregivers and need help to find support. Please share this information. They may form a task force to work on this.

XII. Open to the Public – No Comment

XIII. Adjourn –

Motion made by Ms. LaJuan Tucker to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Charlie Berman. Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.