

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)

MEETING – October 10, 2019 – 1 Medical Dr., Morris Plains

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 N.N.J.
Cheryl Garodnick, Citizen Representative
Peg Himsl, North Jersey Friendship House
Aura Kenny Dunn, Citizen Representative
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative
Alton Robinson, Citizen Representative
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS
Rose Brown, MHAEM
Kathy DeFillippo, MC Freeholder
Maria Fodali, MCOTA
James Gannon, MC Sheriff
Robin Lavorato, CRC of Morris
Maria Merida, MMC – Crisis Intervention
Ashley Reed, Family Promise of Morris County
John Robbins, CSPNJ
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency
Marisa Taccogna, Recovery Centers of America
Veronica Thomas, MMC – Behavioral Health

Staff in Attendance:

Amy Archer, MCDHS
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

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

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:22 p.m. Mr. Chris Chernick made a motion to approve the Sept. 12 minutes and Ms. Linda Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

II. Welcome and Introductions –

Ms. McMann welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Sheriff Gannon stopped by to give an update to the board.

Sheriff Gannon said they are working on the release of an application that is a tool to record behavioral health. The tool is an app to help prevent school violence and allow sharing of information between police, school leaders and mental health providers. The Secret Service says studies identify that 81% of the time there is leakage and the student will tell someone what they are planning to do. The app is available for anyone – students, parents, teachers and staff – to report a tip about school safety or a troubling school environment. With the use of this app, crime and suspicious behavior can be reported. Law enforcement professionals working cooperatively with schools monitor tips to the app in real time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Their mission is to help the troubled student get back to a normal life with classes and support.

Hope One is being internationally recognized this month in Chicago. Hope One won a partnership award from the International Association for Chiefs of Police. They have provided 58 percent drug related and 42 percent mental health related services. There are good services and direction provided from the truck. The Sheriff's office has many resources.

It is going into the cold season, the reality is there are 388 documented homeless, and when there is a Code Blue in play, the homeless need many services. The Sheriff stated you can reach out to his office if help is needed. He appreciates all the folks at the table. Morris County makes a difference and has a big impact. The Sheriff thank everyone for the work they do and gave a special thanks to Ms. Jacobson for all her help through the years.

There is a rise in fatalities because of a recent bad batch of drugs.

Ms. McMann thanked Sheriff Gannon for having an officer on site full time at the Family Justice Center. The Family Justice Center is a great model and the people going there receive good care. It is a great collaboration between the county, JBWS and various other organizations. We are grateful to have the resource of a police officer and EMT there to help. The Sheriff said that Ms. Stephanie Mitchell is the primary officer there and is also an EMT. She documents injuries and is the star of that program.

Ms. Maria Merida and Ms. Veronica Thomas gave a brief presentation on the Crisis Intervention Center and Behavioral Health Center, Morristown Medical Center.

Ms. Merida said they see 250 patients a month (children and adults) or about 3,000 patients a year. There is a shortage of involuntary beds throughout the state. There is voluntary and involuntary placement. They screen about 30-33 people a month that are involuntary cases. While the patients are waiting, they are often able to convert about half of them from involuntary to voluntary status. Some patients go into intensive outpatient programs or lower levels of care. They have an art therapist and a variety of programs. Much discussion happens through art. They work with the elderly to be sure they are diagnosed properly and get the help they need. They have a variety of programs for different populations and a staff of 28. They keep the program running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Ms. Veronica Thomas said they have six inpatient psychiatric beds. They have the Electro Convulsive Therapy (ECT) program, outpatient mental health, Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), outpatient chemical dependency, co-occurring programs and IOP. They have child and

adolescence programs, programs for the sexually assaulted and the True North Veterans program. Thanks to the county, they have funds to help those with no insurance.

In the hospital, they have collaborative care programs where clinicians and nurses see medical patients with psychiatric issues. The patients often have suicidal behavior, come from Greystone for medical admission, may be bi-polar, alcoholism (mostly), opioid or drug use. They have clinicians in primary medical care. They have behavioral medicine programs for those with psychiatric or psychological issues. They have collaborative care programs where physicians identify patients with high scores of depression, anxiety and suicidal behavior. The clinicians see the patient for twelve weeks. They also have outpatient programs.

Ms. Alexander said she thinks their art therapy program sets them apart. Through art therapy, they can do an entire assessment of the patient. It is a process that gets the patient to talk and helps the psychiatrist evaluate them. The state contracts are deficit-funded grants and generally, the funding is stable but there is no extra money. Ms. Himsl said that through recent times the county has funded some new programs. She thinks they may want to consider applying for county funding. Ms. McMann stated that things have shifted around and we are trying to leverage all state and county funding and anyone is welcome to apply.

III. Chair Report – Ms. Marcy McMann

The board needs a Nominating Committee and a new Chair and Co-Chair for next year. Ms. Carol DeGraw and Ms. Barbara Ward agreed to be on the Nominating Committee. Ms. McMann asked them to reach out to board members and find out if anyone is interested in the Chair or Co-Chair positions for next year. She asked that they bring back names of nominees for the November meeting. Ms. McMann has been Chair for six years. If no one volunteers, she will continue as Chair.

IV. Subcommittee Reports Funding -

Ms. Archer said that the board would need to review the state contracts. She is looking for a subcommittee of about five members to review and discuss. The contracted agencies will be present and give short presentations. There will be a question and answer period. Ms. Archer will email those interested. Ms. Alexander will be there to provide technical assistance using the variance reports. The board can read the narratives. Ms. Alexander does not have the variance reports yet. When the subcommittee meets, they will have the opportunity to know about any struggles, trials or recommendations to the agency.

Ms. McMann said the funding subcommittee and any other board members are welcome. Participating in the review of contracts/grants is an important part of being a board member. We hope to do this review in November. Ms. McMann asked if the board should empower the subcommittee to approve these contracts (in case the time runs short). Ms. Alexander is waiting on the contracts. We need the award letters to know what the numbers are and to look at the units of service rather than the fiscal piece. This is a similar process each year. The funding remains the same but the units go up and down. Ms. Alexander always checks to find out if there is any unspent money.

Mr. Gregg Benson made a motion to empower the funding subcommittee to review and approve the state contracts. Ms. DeGraw seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

Ms. Archer stated that the target date for the 2020 funding award letters to go out is on Nov. 1.

Planning –

Ms. Jacobson reported that she is working on getting a version of the 2020-2023 County Comprehensive Plan on the county website.

Legislative/Advocacy –

Ms. McMann said there are no updates on Greystone they are still in litigation.

County Steering Alliance Subcommittee (CASS)

Ms. Jacobson stated there is no report. The next meeting is Dec. 10.

V. State Liaison Reports: Division of Mental Health and Addictions Services – Ms. Eileen Alexander (written report provided)

RFP Awards:

- Supportive Housing with Case management to individuals with Opioid Use Disorders who are homeless or at-risk of homeless.
- Community Support Services for individuals discharged from a state psychiatric hospital who are diagnosis DD/MI
- Alternatives to Pain Management for Older Adults
- Support Team for Addiction Recovery Program
- Medically Enhanced Supportive Housing CSS for individuals discharged from the state psychiatric hospital.

Emergency Assistance may be available for consumers for individuals eligible for Work First NJ or SSI. The program is administered by County Welfare Agencies. DMHAS is asking that all consumer seek assistance through this initiative prior to submitting a WRAP request.

Trainings:

MHA-NJ Fall 2019 Partial Care Prevocational Training-Pre-requisite modules- two sessions
(F1) Work and Recovery
Series Pre-requisite
Wednesday, October 30
9:30 am-3:30 pm

Work and Recovery (F1) is the first part to the Partial Care Pre-vocational series that aims to equip Partial Care counselors with strategies on promoting employment and recovery. Using pre-vocational interventions, counselors encourage clients to seek employment by assessing the client's skills, interest, supports and needs.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this training, participants will learn:

The importance of recovery.

The relationship of work and recovery.

Empowerment strategies that promote work.
Ways to counter common myths about work and mental illness.

(F2) Entitlements and Work
Series Pre-requisite
Wednesday, November 13
9:30 am-12:30 pm

Entitlements and Work (F2) is the second part to the Partial Care Pre-vocational series that aims to equip Partial Care counselors with strategies on promoting employment and recovery. This session will provide counselors with knowledge on client entitlements such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Providers will also learn about the work incentives available to consumers that encourage gainful employment.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this training, participants will learn:
The definition of disability according to Social Security Administration (SSA) guidelines.
The differences between Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Ways in which work may impact SSDI and SSI recipients' benefits.

The work incentives offered under these programs.

****Participants will receive a Certificate of Completion following the training. ****

All sessions will be held at The Mental Health Association in New Jersey, 673 Morris Avenue, Suite 100
Springfield, NJ 07081

IMR 2-Day Training on November 12 & 19
at Rutgers UBHC in Piscataway, NJ

Please see the attached flyer for the Rutgers Health IMR 2-day training specifically designed for **Partial** Care and Partial Hospital program staff. Please share the attached announcement/registration details with staff who are IMR interested, invested and have not yet received this training. There will not be another training for this target audience until autumn 2020.

Up to three staff representing your program may register. Registration Deadline is Friday, November 1, 2019. Be sure to email your registration to Laura Burns at Laura.burns@rutgers.edu and include an email address for each registrant (as noted on the form). Seating is Limited; register as soon as possible.

Correspondence:

Letters went out on September 9, 2019 to individual providers in reference to the recoupment of erroneous billing identified by the data extract file audit of Medicaid and NJMHAPP. DMHAS reviewed the data extract file of claims paid to MH FFS providers through NJMHAPP January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2019. Which in some cases identified duplicative billing and overpayments to the provider. Moving forward this audit will be done

quarterly, any erroneous claims will be voided, and the full amount deducted from your agency's next billing cycle until the funds are recovered.

September 27, 2019 follow up letter states that due to the prior authorization restrictions for PC detailed in Medicaid newsletter vol. 27 no. 8, which would result in the provider's inability to recover retroactive claims. DMHAS, in consultation with Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services, has decided that erroneous claims from September 11, 2018- March 31, 2019 will not be recovered.

SRC Note:

Medicaid Newsletter Volume 29 No. 12 Subject: Diversionary Bed Update

Purpose: To clarify the Administration of Diversion Bed Services.

Effective: Immediately

Ms. Alexander stated that recently many people were discharged from residential homes. Many of these people were in these homes for 10-15 years. They are only supposed to be in the homes for 18 months. This is a work in progress. We would like to roll this out across the state and hope to see the Residential Task Force change.

They want to see the Residential Task Force hold meetings at the state hospital to discuss clients ready for discharge and try to place them. They want to try to get that task force to have more working meetings.

Many patients had dementia, the primary reason they were placed in the state hospital was to keep them safe, and have them cared for. This is not the intention. The beds at the State Psychiatric Hospital should be used to help improve patients' lives. Sometimes a nursing home is a better placement for patients. If the person has a psychiatric and medical condition, it makes them harder to place.

VI. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – In Ms. Rose's absence, Ms. Jacobson reported.

Announcement Letters for the new grant cycle will be going out by October 15 to the Alliances and Mayors.

The new grant cycle application will be due to the County by December 6, 2019.

On September 25, Morris County Freeholders presented a Proclamation of National Substance Use Prevention Month in Morris County to the Municipal Alliances.

October 6 was Knock Out Opioid Day (KOOD). In recognition of this day, our Division spent last Friday handing out opioid education materials with Hope One. Hope One also provided Narcan trainings.

Friday evening, as part of KOOD, we were a part of Journey of Recovery: Live Musical Performance at County College of Morris. The event was a collaboration with Community Coalition, Life Center Stage, Partnership for Drug Free NJ and Morris County.

Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Beth Jacobson

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is moving along with evidence-based practices that include Medicated-Assisted Treatment (MAT). Looking at how to collect post-release data since they are no longer under the purview of the jail. Morris County is in a good position for this program since the Successful Transition and Re-Entry (STAR) Program is in place, assisting inmates in their transition from the correctional facility to the Morris County community at large. Ms. Jacobson suggested that the STAR program could present to the board on this initiative after it has been up and running for a few months.

Ms. Jacobson is completing site visit reports with the intent to have all written reports out to providers before the end of October.

The next Opiate Task Force meeting is Oct. 16 in Conf. Rm. 82 at One Medical Drive at 5:00 p.m.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

The New Jersey Mental Health Administrator drafted a letter of advocacy regarding mental health and shootings. There is a new letter with revisions being drafted since all counties want to be comfortable with the letter and get the message across as best as possible. We are hoping the letter will be finalized soon but it is still pending.

There was a Stigma Free meeting on Sept. 17 and New Jersey AIDS Services gave a presentation. They are thinking of doing a community event with those consumers that are LGBTQ+ and those affected by mental health and substance abuse. If anyone is interested in being involved in helping with the event, please sign-up. Sign-up sheet was passed around. Ms. McMann said she learned a lot at the last meeting. The next meeting will be Nov. 19 at 2:00 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 82 at One Medical Drive.

VII. Joint PAC Report

Ms. Jacobson reported that there was discussion about the Families First Act, which passed into law in Feb. 2018. The federal government is focusing on family preservation over out of home placement, with services to keep children in their homes. Jeena Williams from DCF will give an update at the next meeting.

There will be a job fair on Oct. 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Morris County Prevention is Key's Peer Recovery Center (CARES), 25 W. Main St., Rockaway. Anyone at any stage of recovery is welcome to apply for a job and receive information on career training from several organizations.

Ms. Jessica Kwasick said that Probation is shifting their focus on how to supervise youth and adults on probation, and they are training probation officers on interventions related to cognitive behavioral therapy. The state is working on a risk-based assessment tool. Ms. McMann said this has been coming for years. They are waiting for the tool to arrive. At the beginning of the year, the MHASAB will try to get a presentation on the new tool.

VIII. HSAC Report

- Legal Services Northwest Jersey (LSNWJ) along with Employment and Training Services are hosting a Service Provider Forum on October 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Academy. The forum is open to social services providers from Morris, Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon Counties. Light breakfast will be provided. The forum topics will be:
 - Housing & Tenant's Rights – Elliott Harris, Esq. LSNWJ;
 - Debt Collection - David Saltzman, Esq., LSNWJ;
 - Expungement – Scott Dranoff, Esq., LSNWJ; and
 - Career Services – NJ Dept. of Labor; MC One-Stop Career Center.
- New Jersey Community College is offering tuition free community college to recent high school graduates, returning students and working adults who have not earned a degree. The total household adjusted gross income cannot exceed \$65,000. Other rules and information are on their website. Apply now at your local county college at www.njccc.org/ccog or go to the Community College Opportunity Grant Details and Information website at <https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/ccog.aspx>.
- Affordable rentals in Roxbury Township. Applications must be submitted by Oct. 16 to be included in the random lottery number drawing for housing at Woodmont Parc at Roxbury. To submit a preliminary application, visit www.AffordableHomesNewJersey.com or call 609-664-2769 x5.
- NORWESCAP Homelessness Prevention Program (Somerset, Morris Co.). One time assistance for help with security deposit and first month's rent. For more information call Sara Sokoloski at 908-454-7000 x 1118 or email sokoloskis@norwescap.org
- Ms. Joanne McEniry, New Jersey AIDS Services, reported that the HIV rate has increased in Morris County from 8.9% to 9.1%. Funding received from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), part of the Department of Health and Human Services, is tied to HIV rates. Since rates have increased, Morris is not at-risk of losing HIV funding. There is a lot of concern in the HIV circle regarding the public charge. Drugs are distributed through Medicaid. Individuals getting benefits must be reported. Some of those getting benefits are concerned they may be deported. It is important that people stay on their medications so they cannot spread the virus.
- New Jersey AIDS Services partnered with CAN Community Health and together will provide psychiatric and medical services. On Nov. 14, they will open temporary space in Denville and then later move to a new building. This new center will accept Medicaid, Medicare and private insurances. In addition, they have Ryan White funds to assist those without insurance who are HIV+.

Freeholder DeFillippo stated that she is glad to hear that the affordable rental units in Roxbury will soon be available. She hears they are very nice apartments. She worked on this project several years ago and is happy the units are finally done.

IX. Old Business

Board member asked Freeholder DeFillippo about the Complete Count Committee. The Freeholders put together a board of six providers to be on this committee. Freeholder DeFillippo will be the liaison. The first meeting is coming up in two weeks. The Freeholder board feels this committee is very important. More information to come.

X. New Business

Ms. Ward inquired as to when the county would be conducting a Community Needs Assessment. Ms. Jane Shivas advised that the HSAC is planning for this due to a state mandate. It will be a comprehensive needs assessment, with a prescribed way to do it. Some counties are already doing the assessment, but Morris County is not scheduled to begin theirs until 2021. Morris County will try to find out further information from counties already doing the assessment.

There was discussion about whether it is duplicative for the MHASAB and the HSAC to both complete this assessment. The HSAC will be conducting the Needs Assessment and will pull information from the other committees. Ms. Ward stated it is important to know what the community will look like in the next 3 – 5 years, to determine what the needs will be.

XI. Open to the Public-

Ms. McMann stated that Ms. Jacobson is leaving on November 1 and will be starting a new career. She has 26 years with the county and has been involved with and done a lot of great work. Ms. McMann thanked her for her work, and Ms. Jacobson expressed her gratitude to everyone, emphasizing the importance of all the collaborative work, and working together to meet the needs of the community. Ms. Jacobson will be taking on the position of Director of Community Response and Education at NewBridge Services. She will still be involved with the Stigma free work and the Opiate Task Force.

Ms. Rose Brown reminded everyone that the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris would be having their next Legislative breakfast on Friday, Oct. 18. There are 200 registered. Breakfast provided. See flier for more information.

Ms. Garodnick stated that Therapy Resources of Morris County is having an open house on Oct. 25 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP. The address is 25 Lindsley Drive, Suite 203, Morristown. See flier for more information.

XII. Adjourn

Mr. Gregg Benson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. Ms. Carol DeGraw seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia MocarSKI
Administrative Secretary