

**COUNTY OF MORRIS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
**DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**  
P.O. Box 900  
Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0900

Board of County Commissioners

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**MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2022, 5:15 p.m. via Webex Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order and Attendance**

Mr. Chris Chernick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

**Board Members:**

Andrew Agliata, Citizen Representative  
Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative  
Freddie, Bicknese, Citizen Representative  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair  
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative  
Heather Diamond, Center for Evaluation & Counseling  
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County – Vice-Chair  
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office  
Robert Peluso, Citizen Representative  
Alton Robinson, Community Recovery Center of Morris County  
Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office  
Erica Valvano, Morris County Sheriff's Office  
Amy Villano, Acenda Integrated Health  
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative  
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff's Office

**Board Liaisons:**

Eileen Alexander, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services  
Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services  
Rose Brown, Mental Health Association  
Carmine Deo, Community Hope

**Morris County Staff:**

Amy Archer, Morris County Human Services  
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Human Services  
Amanda Jensen, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Stephen Nebesni, Morris County Juvenile Detention Center  
Roselyn Suarez, Morris County Human Services

**II. Approval of February 10, 2022, Minutes**

Mr. Chernick, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Mr. Benson made the motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no opposition and one abstention.

**III. Presentation - Problem Gambling Awareness Month**

Ms. Borden, NewBridge Services, gave a PowerPoint presentation. This PowerPoint will be posted on the County website shortly

<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/Mental-Health-Addictions-Services-Advisory-Board>.

**IV. Chair Report – Mr. Chris Chernick**

During the MHASAB orientation, each MHASAB member must serve on at least one subcommittee. Please remember you can sign up for more than one if you choose. Keep in mind we will ask for a Chair of each subcommittee to report back to the Board. Morris County staff will be available at the subcommittee meetings to assist in the process.

- Funding
  - The subcommittee will develop recommendations to the entire Board for all Morris County programs funded by the County Commissioners, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (as requested), and the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Use. Some examples may include, but are not limited to:
    - Yearly funding recommendations for Grant In Aid (GIA), Chapter 51, and Municipal Alliance funding
    - New initiatives such as innovations grant
    - Review of state contracts
- Planning
  - The subcommittee will develop and present to the Board mental health and substance use systems plans as required by the County Commissioners, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. This committee will also participate in other related planning activities within the Department of Human Services when requested. Some examples may include but are not limited to:
    - Plan and organize presentations and other educational opportunities for MHASAB meetings
    - The Nominating Committee will fall under the planning, piece – plan for chair and vice-chair nominations for the following year

- Update By-Laws as needed
  - Planning special events such as Overdose Awareness Day, Mental Health Awareness Month, etc.
  - Discussion about the public health forum for 2023
- Legislative/Advocacy
  - This subcommittee will monitor State and Federal legislation that addresses mental health issues, substance use, or other behavioral health matters. The subcommittee will perform cursory reviews of such proposed legislation and recommend such legislation that the Board will decide to address. Some examples may include, but are not limited to:
    - Legalization of marijuana
    - ModivCare
  - This subcommittee will provide ideas and assist in writing letters of advocacy that will be brought before MHASAB for final approval

## V. State Liaison Report:

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

- Request for Proposal
  - Program Name: Building Capacity in Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programs to Provide Medications for SUD
  - Purpose
    - This RFP is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), to *assist licensed MH and licensed SUD programs in developing the capacity to offer SUD medications, i.e., buprenorphine, naloxone, naltrexone, methadone, and acamprosate.* The awardee will ensure that the services provided ensure diversity, inclusion, equity, and cultural and linguistic competence to the target population.
  - Available Funding Amount
    - This RFP is funded through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response (SOR) grant. The SOR grant period is from September 30, 2020, to September 29, 2022. Total annualized funding is \$300,000, subject to Federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to four (4) awards (each not to exceed \$75,000). This initiative will be funded through cost-reimbursement contracting.
  - Proposal Procedure
    - Effective February 22, 2022, the RFP is available at [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/rfprfi/index.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/rfprfi/index.htm) and [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/). A proposal must be submitted that comports with the RFP requirements and instructions
  - Submission Deadline
    - Proposals must be received by 4:00 pm on March 29, 2022

- Notification Date
  - Bidders will be notified on or before April 19, 2022
- New Jersey Mental Health Application for Payment Processing (NJMHAPP) Update
  - NJMHAPP 4.9.1 went live on February 23, 2022
  - The most significant change is the addition of the “Revenue Template.” Revenue templates need to be completed for Residential Providers and CSS to report any money collected by the agency from the consumer, such as residential fees or nutritional fees
  - The information needs to be submitted on the NJMHAPP Revenue Template, and the costs collected will be reduced from the Agencies FFS payment monthly
  - Appendix M was released with the 4.9.1 update on February 23, 2022, which provides instructions on how to complete the Revenue Template
- General Information
  - The Governor’s Budget Address is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>
  - The next DMHAS QPM Zoom Webinar is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. The agenda is attached. Please register your attendance with this link
    - [https://www.zoomgov.com/weinar/register/WN\\_Zp80lbjiSWofXA1ylRSiUQ](https://www.zoomgov.com/weinar/register/WN_Zp80lbjiSWofXA1ylRSiUQ)
  - A reminder that Screening Waiver Requests must be submitted in writing to the Division 60 days before the expiration of the waiver
  - Acting Commissioner Sara Adelman today announced the Department had awarded a contract to provide cultural competency training for opioid treatment providers to narrow the treatment gap experienced by black residents, who are statistically less likely to receive or access services
    - The Department awarded a \$750,000 contract to Family Connections Inc. to provide training, coaching, and consultation services to counselors and leadership employed at state-licensed opioid treatment providers. The plan is funded by a grant through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
    - A secondary goal of this initiative is to increase the prescribing of medication for black residents that support addiction recovery. Medication-assisted treatment is the clinical standard of care for opioid use disorder. The initiative will train up to nine providers each year, with a minimum of 60 participants served each year at each agency. Providers will be selected to participate in training via an application process managed by the awardee and approved by the DMHAS. The training plan much include measures to identify progress.
  - Short Term Care Facility (STCF) units and screening centers should refer to Jenna Caccese’s email sent on March 1, 2022, regarding BEDS System pointers from technical assistance.

- Community Support Service (CSS) Updates
  - Harry Reyes stated that providers could send staffing waiver requests to DMHAS and reminded providers to contact him or Deb with any questions or concerns around staffing. Waiver requests can be sent to [Latrisha.Johnson@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Latrisha.Johnson@doh.nj.gov). Mr. Reyes stated that Diana Gittens will send a waiver form to the listserv and that waivers are processed as quickly as possible.
  - CSS and the IME will facilitate a **Learning Application** at the March meeting on Individual Recovery Plan Development and Measurability
  - The CSS Team developed a new TA Quick Reference. Providers can review information like the State Plan Amendment and Medicaid regulation, Medicaid Newsletters, and information on DCA and HSC. The TA Quick reference page can be found on the CSS Initiative website <https://sites.rutgers.edu/shp-community-support-services/technical-assistance/>
  - CSS Spring Documentation Training
    - Hold the Dates: April 19<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Registration will be available soon
- Upcoming CSS Webinar
  - ***Let's talk about Sex, Gender Expression & Orientation***  
[https://rutgers.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_y78IgnInT-anB3GrD-x5uQ](https://rutgers.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y78IgnInT-anB3GrD-x5uQ)  
 on Friday, March 11, 2022, at 9:30 am, Shelley Buchbinder is facilitating

## VI. Staff Reports

### **Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni**

At the last meeting, the Municipal Alliance funding recommendation was approved, and the Fiscal Year 2023 applications have been submitted.

### **Addiction Services Coordinator – Mr. Rosalyn Suarez**

We are currently writing the County Comprehensive Plan (CCP) for 2024 to 2027. We will develop a planning subcommittee for the CCP and work with community partners, regional coalition, stakeholders, the Local Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA), and others to assist in gathering data and information to improve the CCP. Contact Amy Archer at [aarcher@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:aarcher@co.morris.nj.us) no later than Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, if you would like to be part of the planning subcommittee that will work on this plan.

The next Stigma-Free meeting is March 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm via Zoom.

### **Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer**

Mental Health Association has a team of empathetic and trained counselors available for emotional support due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. There are no fees, insurance, or commitment necessary. Call 973.509.9777 and ask to be connected to our Ukrainian Response Team, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, for free, confidential counseling and support.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Last year we put together 30 Days of Self Care. We asked providers for tips and advice on what can be done when feeling anxious

or overwhelmed. We included the provider's website and contact information. The responses from the community were successful.

We are updating the organizational chart, and once complete, it will be distributed.

We are starting to consider the possibility of in-person meetings again. We will provide refreshments as we have in the past. A virtual option will also be provided.

The County has seen an influx of individuals struggling with mental health in the community who cannot be safely housed. While looking into each situation, it seems the individuals are not at the level of needing hospitalization but need a high level of support, requiring more than a weekly or monthly counseling session. If these individuals do not receive the level of care they need, their housing becomes unstable, and they continue to cycle back through the system. Discussion ensued regarding what is required to stabilize individuals in these situations to be safely housed and receive appropriate treatment.

## **VII. Subcommittee Reports**

**Funding:** Mental Health Association Subgrant Modification moved to the end of the meeting

**Planning** – no report

**Legislative/Advocacy** – no report

**County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS)** – no report

## **VIII. Joint PAC Report – Mr. Carmine Deo**

The last meeting was held on March 4<sup>th</sup> and was Chaired by Ms. Borden.

Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP) referrals for Morris East and West were fifteen for Child Welfare and 165 for Child Protection. There are two RFPs out, one for Psychiatric Community Homes and one for Youth with IPD in Home Services.

The next meeting will be Friday, April 1, 2022. There will be a presentation on COVID Vaccinations given by Ms. Meg Fisher, MD, New Jersey Department of Health.

## **IX. Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) Report – Ms. Linda Csengeto**

- Member orientation took place during this meeting. This included the different funding sources for HSAC and a discussion of the Morris County Confidentiality Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy.
- The County will receive \$95,000 in Code Blue funding.
- 22 Childcare centers in Morris County have permanently closed since March 2020. The total number of childcare centers registered as FCC Providers is 34.
- Workforce Development is making changes to its platforms. They are using a consultant who looks at their process and will recommend improvements.

- Aging, Disabilities, & Veterans stated that home-delivered meals continue for seniors. Some congregate meal sites will reopen in March, including Butler, Denville, Long Hill, Madison, Morris Mews, and Roxbury. MAPS is currently operating at 75% capacity and will increase to 100% on March 1, 2022. They have started a pilot program with Trans Options to offer Lyft rides to some MAPS consumers. This is only provided if MAPS is unable to provide the services.
- The Advisory Committee on Women report they will write a letter to the Commissioners supporting the Homeless Trust Fund. They will be awarding the Seeds of Change Award to honor a local woman who has contributed to our community at the March meeting to celebrate Women's History Month.
- The Continuum of Care Strategic Plan was approved.

#### **X. Old Business**

Mr. Benson stated that in the DMHAS report from February, it was noted that Supporting Housing Connection could no longer continue the payment of rent for consumers who did not submit their recertification packet effectively on March 1, 2022. Is there any data on how many consumers were impacted? Ms. Archer stated she would investigate getting additional data and report back to the committee.

#### **XI. New Business**

Ms. Csengeto requested if we could get a report on Greystone. Ms. Archer will reach out to the director of Greystone and arrange for a presentation at a future meeting.

#### **XII. Open to the Public – no comment**

#### **XIII. Funding Closed Session (moved to the end of the meeting) – Mental Health Association Subgrant Modification**

Mr. Chernick asked that anyone in conflict with GIA Funding and anyone from the public leave the call. Ms. Eileen Alexander, Ms. Michelle Borden, Ms. Rose Brown, Mr. Carmine Deo, and Ms. Amanda Jensen left the call. Motion made by Mr. Hill, Esq. and seconded by Ms. Ward to begin the closed session of the meeting. There were no abstentions and no opposition. Motion Carried.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 6:22 p.m.

Return to Meeting

The meeting reopened at 6:30 p.m. No one reentered the call.

Actions Resulting from Closed Session

Mr. Chernick stated the Funding Review Committee met, reviewed, and provided Subgrant Modification recommendations. Let the record reflect that the board voted to approve the requests in the closed session. We need a motion to open session of the same.

Mr. Hill motioned to approve the recommendations as discussed in the closed session. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

- XIV.** Ms. Csengeto made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Rodriguez seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II