

**COUNTY OF MORRIS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
**DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

P.O. Box 900  
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Board of County Commissioners

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**MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)**

**Thursday, April 14, 2022, 5:15 pm via Webex Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to order and Attendance**

Mr. Chris Chernick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:25 pm. A quorum was NOT established, and attendance was as follows:

**Board Members:**

Caroline Bailey, Morris County Prevention is Key  
Freddie Bicknese, Citizen Representative  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair  
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative  
Cheryl Garodnick, Citizen Representative  
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office  
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor'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, New Bridge Services

**Morris County Staff:**

Amy Archer, Morris County Human Services  
Kasey Errico, Morris County Director of Human Services  
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Human Services  
Stephen Nebesni, Morris County Juvenile Detention Center  
Rosalynd Suarez, Morris County Human Services

**Others in Attendance:**

Rose Brown, Mental Health Association

**II. Approval of March 12, 2022, Minutes** – Tabled until next meeting

**III. Chair Report – Mr. Chernick**

Has attended the leadership Committee meeting. The meeting was informative and active. There was a discussion on how the 2024 Grant in Aid (GIA) process can be streamlined to evaluate performance outcomes related to the specific program application. This work will begin later this year. The next Leadership Committee meeting will concentrate on the upcoming 2023 funding process.

For the May MHASAB meeting, we are offering a hybrid arrangement; virtual and in-person options will be provided. Please let Anna Marie Hess, [ahess@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:ahess@co.morris.nj.us), know how you will be attending the meeting.

As an appointed member of the MHASAB, it is mandatory that you sign-up for at least one of our subcommittees. The subcommittees have already started to meet.

**IV. State Liaison Report**

**Division of Mental Health addiction Services – Ms. Alexander  
Request for Proposals**

**Mobile Access to Medications for Substance Use Disorder**

This initiative is funded through a blend of the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response (SOR) grant program awarded to the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) in 2020 as well as federal funding from the Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention block grant. The contracts awarded for this initiative will be for one year, and therefore, the term will be July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

This Request for Proposals (this RFP) is issued to implement an initiative that will enable agencies to travel to communities regularly to provide low-threshold medication services to people with a substance use disorder (SUD) who encounter obstacles to receiving services at traditional "brick-and-mortar" treatment agencies. The selected bidder(s) in response to this RFP (Contractee(s)) will purchase a Mobile Outreach Vehicle (MOV) to travel to areas of high need in the agency's service area and prescribe medication to people with SUD or co-occurring SUD and mental illness. Total annualized funding is \$3,000,000, subject to Federal and State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to three (3) awards. Contractees will address the behavioral and medical health needs of, at minimum, 100 people and refer them to primary or specialty providers for needed services. Each Contractee will receive \$1,000,000, including start-up funds for \$300,000 for each contractee to purchase the MOV. When the initiative ends, the MOV will be the property of DMHAS, and Contractees may continue to operate by renting the vehicle from DMHAS for a nominal cost.

This initiative, *Mobile Access to Medications for Substance User Disorder* (Short Title: *Mobile Access*), is designed to increase access to medications for SUD, i.e., buprenorphine, naloxone, naltrexone, methadone, or acamprosate; case management; and recovery support services. This initiative is open to any Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) licensed by the NJ Department of Health Certificate of Need Licensing Office before services start. Priority will be given to proposals from counties with low access to those medications and areas of the State with a high number of homeless or at risk of homelessness.

**Mandatory Bidders Conference** – April 5, 2022, at 10:00 am.

**Proposal Due Date** – no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 2, 2022

**Notify Date** – May 23, 2022

### **Contingency Management and Other Strategies for the Treatment of Stimulant Use Disorders Purpose**

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), for the development of a Contingency Management program for stimulant use disorder. This RFP is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response to Grants (SOR). The SOR grant period is from September 30, 2020, to September 29, 2022. Funding is available for FFY 2022 and may be available for FFY 2023, depending on federal appropriations. The Contingency Management program is intended to be a two-year program. Total annualized funding is \$2,000,000 per year, subject to federal appropriations, including services and funds to provide contingency management for individuals with a stimulant use disorder. DMHAS anticipates making five (5) awards up to \$400,000 each.

### **No Mandatory Bidders Conference.**

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. on April 7, 2022

Notification Date: Bidders will be notified on or before April 29, 2022

### **Training**

#### **CSS Spring Documentation Training**

This training provides a brief overview of CSS and psychiatric rehabilitation. However, the primary emphasis of the training will be on CSS documentation. Participants will learn about the Rehabilitation Needs Assessment (RNA), Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP), and progress notes. Case-based learning approaches will help clinicians practice documentation strategies covered in training.

Target audience: Clinicians & Registered Nurses working in a CSS program responsible for completing the RNA and/or IRP (i.e., LSW, LAC, LCSW, LPC, RN).

Registration: The training will be on Tuesdays, April 19 and 26, from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm on Zoom. There will be required self-paced content to be completed before registrants can take the training on Zoom.

[CSS Training – Community Support Services \(rutgers.edu\)](https://rutgers.edu/css-training)

### **Training Scholarships for Behavioral Health Agencies- Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist**

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services is pleased to announce that the Office of Tobacco Control and Prevention in the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) has provided funding to support 50 scholarships for staff members of mental health and addiction agencies to attend training that is part of the eligibility process to become a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist (CTTS).

In nominating a staff person for the CTTS training, your agency is committed to providing onsite smoking cessation programs for clients. Your agency will also be provided with ongoing support from Tobacco Free NJ to implement the services.

Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program will provide the virtual two-day training. See the following link for the complete information: <http://www.tobaccoprogram.org>. The initial CTTS training will be held on May 2 and 3, 2022, and registration for this training closes in early April. Additional CTTS training dates will be available in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023. See letter dated March 24, 2022.

### **Contracts**

All year-end Modification requests are due to the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services by **May 31, 2022**. Mod requests received after June 1, 2022, will not be approved unless it is critical to direct services affecting clients and approved on a case-by-case basis. If you need to make cleanup adjustments to your budgets, this is the time to mod those changes to your budgets. See letter dated March 30, 2022. The FY 2023 Contract renewal letter is forthcoming.

### ***FYI- Share at SRC only***

#### **RLI**

This Request for Letters of Interest (this RLI) focuses on providing funds for staffing and response structure to the five (5) current NJ Lifeline member centers so they can respond to at least 90% of Lifeline calls originating from New Jersey by June 15, 2022. Based on funding availability, the total funding available through this RLI is \$3,700,000. Within this initiative, up to five (5) awards will be available, one (1) to each of the five (5) current NJ Lifeline member centers as detailed in this solicitation. This RLI offers one-time funding to cover a two (2) year period, ending on April 30, 2024.

## **V. Staff Reports:**

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

Morris County Municipal Alliances was awarded approximately \$47,000 in additional funding. Nine out of the eleven municipalities offered the additional funding are now working on their applications. They will be presented to this committee for approval at an upcoming meeting.

Ms. Ward asked what area does this money have to be spent? Mr. Nebesni stated it must be spent on new youth leadership programs or an existing program that is not already funded.

**Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Suarez**

In last month's Alcohol and Addictions Meeting, Johnson and Johnson's opioid settlement press release was discussed. New Jersey will receive \$641 million; 50% will stay at the state level, and 50% will be distributed to Counties & Municipalities. They are still finalizing the legislation on how the money will be spent. More details will be provided as information is received.

In July of 2021, the NJ Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) sent a letter to Law Enforcement Agencies regarding free Narcan. It is anticipated that Narcan kits and education materials will be available soon. Law Enforcement will be able to leave a Narcan kit with individuals that refuse to go to the hospital.

With the legalization of marijuana, Governor Murphy announced that there would be seven dispensaries in New Jersey selling recreational marijuana.

**Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Archer**

An updated flyer from Mental Health Association was distributed regarding the Ukrainian Response Team.

The office of Community Development will be publishing its Annual Action Plan soon. It will go out in a public notice in the Daily Record and be on the County website <https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Community-Development>.

Navigating Hope has started outreach in new municipalities and sites they are visiting. They have received a great response and will continue educating and supporting the communities.

**VI. Subcommittee Reports****Funding – Ms. Ward**

We met to look at the priorities for Grant in Aid (GIA) and Chapter 51.

- Reviewed the verbiage to update for the funding year 2022
  - Priorities related to COVID-19. It was decided since many agencies have already incorporated this into their regular priorities, it was no longer necessary to keep it as a separate priority
  - Telehealth will be considered remote services
  - Maintaining housing and availability of food for those with mental illness
  - Family Services will be changed to Family Resources
  - Will include the population that does not qualify for inpatient psychiatric care but needs more than monthly or weekly counseling under Support Services

### **Planning – Ms. Archer**

- Hope Hub, A Community Program under the Morris County Sheriff's Office, is holding a Community Day on May 6, 2022, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm at 2 Executive Drive, Morris Plains. Hope One and Navigating Hope will be at the event, and Narcan training and lifesaving Narcan kits will be provided as well as a free clothing giveaway
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month. We will be reaching out to our providers to make a video clip of activities to help someone cope with stress, anxiety, depression, and relaxation. The providers can share these clips with us, and we can have them posted on the county website with information about the agency
- There was a brief discussion about Overdose Awareness Day. We will meet again in May to discuss this in detail.

### **Legislative/Advocacy – Mr. Bicknese**

- More members needed for this subcommittee
- Brief discussion on vaping, legalization of marijuana, and harm reduction

### **County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – Mr. Nebesni**

- Met on April 7, 2022
- Discussed the additional funding received by the Municipal Alliance. There will be a funding review meeting to review the application and then present it to the MHASAB for approval.

## **VII. Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) Report – Ms. Borden**

The last meeting was held on Friday, April 8, 2022, and was Chaired by Mr. Deo.

A new representative from CURA, Inc., an organization that provides addiction services based in Newark, New Jersey, will be a regular participant in the PAC meetings.

A representative from Greystone reported on the census being at 342 patients, and 42 of those are Morris County residents. The interim CEO, Mr. Tom Rosamilia, is meeting with consumers, families, medical staff, and employees and getting good feedback on his progress.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) is out for Psychiatric Community Homes. It was suggested that some of the group homes might be able to convert some of their beds to Psychiatric Community Home level of care.

## **VIII. Human Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) Report – Ms. Csengeto**

- Division of Child Protection and Permanency – It was reported that they need more Spanish Speaking services as they are lacking. This includes parenting classes, etc.
- There was a request to DCP&P to put statistical data in a spreadsheet by month to understand the numbers over time and tracking services.

- DCP&P will provide a list of their acronyms
- Morris County Director of Human Services reported that the Superior Court would have a Landlord-Tenant court Information Webinar on March 30 from 2:30 to 4:00 regarding resources available
- Ms. Archer discussed that no towns asked for any of the \$95,000 in Code Blue money that the County will receive
- A discussion about the four-year plan regarding addictions that Morris County will be completing, with help from the MHASAB planning subcommittee, and that small focus groups would be used
- It was discussed that there might be an outdoor stigma-free event in June
- Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Robert Armstrong reported that in January, the NJ Department of Health announced that Governor Murphy signed legislation to expand harm reduction efforts to help end NJ's opioid epidemic. This package of laws impacts HIV+ intravenous substance users to reduce their transmission of HIV, which usually occurs through the sharing of needles. Expanding access to clean syringes will save lives.
- Advisory Committee on Women – Ms. Joann Bjornson reported that they would support the Housing Partnership and the Dover community with a half-day event in May to educate and provide opportunities to women on ways to compete in the world from a position of economic strength.
- Youth Services Advisory Committee – Report stated that Head Start has two locations in Morris County.
- Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis discussed the New Jersey Health Collaborative - health matters.

## **IX. Old Business – no comment**

## **X. New Business**

Ms. Suarez stated at last month's Stigma-Free meeting; there was a discussion about language barriers. The Committee would like to get a presentation on language matters and additional resources for the community. The next meeting will be on June 14, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. via ZOOM.

Ms. Tucker stated that Madison and the Chatham's Police Departments are researching a program modeled on the Co-Response Program that the Mental Health Association is doing with the West Orange Police Department. The police respond to calls involving people who may be emotionally disturbed; a licensed social worker/therapist from MHA also goes out on the call. The police departments are looking for funding streams and information on funding, and any guidance provided. Discussion ensued, and it was suggested they reach out to the West Orange Police Department for more information about what funding streams they used and are currently using.

## **XI. Public Comment – no comment**

**XII. Adjourn**

Mr. Hill made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II