

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

Director
Stephen H. Shaw

Deputy Director
Deborah Smith

Douglas R. Cabana
Kathryn A. DeFillippo
John Krickus
Thomas J. Mastrangelo
Tayfun Selen



County Administrator
John Bonanni

Department Director
Katharine A. Errico
973.285.6863

Deputy Director
Gary L. Denamen
973326.7240

Division Director
Amy Archer
973-285-6852

MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)
Thursday, October 14, 2021, 5:15 p.m. via Webex Meetings
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order and attendance

Mr. Chris Chernick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Caroline Bailey, Morris County Prevention is Key
Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Susan Calantone, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Alton Robinson, Community Recovery Center of Morris County
Meg Rodriquez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
LaJuan Tucker, Esp., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Erica Valvano, Morris County Sheriff's Office
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

Board Liaisons:

Eileen Alexander, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services
Rose Brown, Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris
Carmin Eo, Community Hope

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Morris County Human Services
Kasey Errico, Morris County Director Human Services
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Human Services
Stephen Nebesni, Morris County Juvenile Detention Center

Rosalyn Suarez, Morris County Human Services

Others in Attendance:

Brandi Garriques, Therapy Resources of Morris County

Martha Seidenfeld, Morris County Probation

II. Approval of July 8 & September 9, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the July 8, 2021 minutes distributed before the meeting. Mr. Hill made the motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

Mr. Chernick, Chair, asked for a motion to approve September 9, 2021, minutes distributed before the meeting. Mr. Hill made the motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

III. Chair Report – Mr. Chernick

Mr. Chernick announced that the Nominating Committee will convene to take and discuss the 2022 Chair and Vice-Chair. Once they have met, they will present their recommendations and ask for a vote.

The November meeting will be our last meeting for 2021.

The Planning Committee is working to put together presentations for the 2022 MHASAB Meetings. It has been suggested that we start the 2022 presentations with the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris.

**IV. NJ Division of mental Health & Addiction Services – Ms. Eileen Alexander
DMHAS announcements**

- During this challenging time, there has been difficulty accessing counseling services. As a result, Rutgers is contracted with DMHAS to offer counseling through tele-psych with experienced mental health counselors. Please call **1-833-223-0011** to access this valuable service.
- DMHAS funded Collaborative Support Program continues to advertise its program as a resource to individuals in need of respite services. CSP offers Peer-run respite programs to individuals to visit the emergency room or a traditional inpatient setting. They can help by turning a crisis into an opportunity for Wellness and Recovery. They can be reached by calling 1-862-229-1401 or visiting www.cspnj.org.
- October 6 is the DMHAS Suicide Prevention Conference; participation is free. Registration information has been circulated.
- The next DMHAS quarterly provider meeting is December 9, 2021

Statewide announcements

- Governor Murphy signed legislation that expands Emergency Rental Assistance and Utility assistance programs. <https://www.nj.gov/dca/cverap2>

Additional resources

- Operation Expanded Testing is expanding national Covid-19 testing and offers testing for K thru 8 schools and vulnerable populations; total funding is \$650 million, the program operates from May 26, 2021, thru November 25, 2021, and they are providing testing materials and supplies, staff, and results reporting at no cost to its recipients. If your facility qualifies, you will be supplied with a test for self-administration. The tests will be mailed to this program who will disseminate the results. They can be contacted by calling 1-844-631-0469 or elc@cdc.gov
- Shatterproof is set to come to NJ in the Spring of 2022. The website is free to use and will be providing information on treatment facilities in the state. They will have a needs assessment for a loved one to execute on their own to determine the level of care possibly needed. Providers will have their information on the website, and it is entirely free to them. This means free advertising and marketing for them. To learn more, go to www.treatmentatlas.org

V. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – no report

Addictions Services Coordinator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez

Ms. Suarez stated she received the letter of intent from DMHAS for Chapter 51 last month and finished the renewal application due October 31, 2021.

The last Opiate Task Force meeting was on October 12, and the next meeting will be on January 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m via Microsoft Teams.

The next Stigma-Free meeting is on December 14 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

Ms. Archer attended the 6th Annual Suicide Prevention Conference on Wednesday, October 6, 2021. The conference was virtual and presented by the NJ Department of Human Services in Partnership with the NJ Department of Health. It featured two keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and a panel discussion.

The 2022 Funding Award and Declination letters will be going out at the beginning of November.

The Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) 2020 Needs Assessment that some of you participated in will not be released at this time. We were informed that the HSAC would be tasked with another Needs Assessment in early 2022. In the previous Needs Assessment Housing, Mental Health Services for both adults and children, substances use, transportation, and child care are among top priority needs in Morris County.

Therefore, it was decided that the results from both needs assessments would be evaluated and researched before a final report is published 2022/2023.

Community Development received approximately \$3 million in Home, American Rescue Plan dollars. The planning for this funding will be extensive. There will be mini needs assessments and collaboration with all of our different advisory groups. The funding will be used for housing those that are currently homeless, at risk of becoming homelessness and other vulnerable populations, such as domestic violence. We expect the process to start early next year and reach out to you for your participation in the workgroups—more information to follow.

At the last Mental Health Administrator's meeting, other Counties reported staffing shortages within the behavioral health field. They are saying that outpatient appointments are hard to get. They are waiting two to three weeks for an appointment or longer. Ms. Alexander stated that in hospitals, due to nursing shortages and one-on-one supervision, programs have to reduce the number of people they allow into the programs.. The Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) has developed a subcommittee to address the experience requirements for new staff. They are trying to onboard experienced staff, but with the low pay rates, they cannot get the skilled staff needed to meet the criteria outlined in the regulations.

VI. Subcommittee Report

Funding – no report

Planning – no report

Legislative/Advocacy – no report

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – Mr. Nebesni

The October meeting was canceled, and the next meeting will be on December 7, 2021.

The Alliances will be receiving additional funding from the DMHAS for the Youth Leadership program. Further information to follow.

The Fiscal Year 2023 Letter of Intent was received, and the money is the same as the current year.

VII. Joint PAC Report – Mr. Carmine Deo

Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital reported their September numbers. There were 360 residents, 78 of them were Morris County residents, 15 new admissions, three from Morris County, and ten were discharged, with one from Morris County.

The Department of Children and Families also gave their statistics for September; Morris West reported 8 welfare cases and 59 protection cases. Morris East reported 3 welfare cases and 47 protection cases.

The next meeting will be on November 5, 2021.

VIII. HSAC Report – Ms. Linda Csengeto

Child & Family Resources Morris County's economic recovery depends on the availability of childcare for working parents. Unfortunately, C& FR has at least 50 job postings for childcare centers listed on their website, and there is a considerable childcare worker shortage. In addition, there are waiting lists at childcare centers due to the need for workers.

Eighteen childcare centers have permanently closed since March 2020 in Morris County.

Workforce Development Board stated that Accountant job postings are now among the top 21 job postings. Unfortunately, home Health Aide job postings are no longer in the top 21 in Morris County.

Unemployment claims for MSW reached a new weekly low last week (459 claims), the first time under 500 since the pandemic's start.

MSW HIV Advisory Committee/EIRC (Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative) report from Mr. Robert Armstrong stated that all agencies that offer services to HIV clients are still receiving in-person visits in addition to communication online.

AIDSWatch (where people living with HIV/AIDS speak to members of Congress) will be held virtually on September 27 and 28, 2021.

The Second Annual Aging with HIV Conference will be held virtually on October 6, 13, and 20 from noon to 1:00 p.m. For more information, call 732.820.7359.

In 2020, 13,830 people living with HIV/AIDS in Morris, Sussex, Warren, Union, and Essex. This number has remained steady (plus or minus 130) for the last five years.

ACADV – Ms. Christine Hellyer, Director, reported that all services continued with Care Managers making wellness calls to their clients.

MAPS has been operating at 100% since mid-July.

IX. Old Business – no comment

X. New Business

Ms. Rodriguez stated the first Crisis Intervention Team Training held in September, since being announced almost a year ago by the Prosecutor's Office. There were 29 participants, a combination of law enforcement, service providers, clinicians, and screeners. The goal is to hold these training four times a year starting in 2022. Training dates and information will be shared when available.

XI. Open to the Public – no comment

XII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Censgeto and seconded by Mr. Hill. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II