

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
John Krickus

Deputy Director
Christine Myers

Douglas R. Cabana
Thomas J. Mastrangelo
Tayfun Selen
Stephen H. Shaw
Deborah A. Smith



County Administrator
Deena Leary

Department Director
Katharine A. Errico
973.285.6863

Deputy Director
Gary L. Denamen
973.326.7240

Division Director
Amy Archer
973-285-6852

MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)
Thursday, March 9, 2023, 5:15 pm – Webex Meeting ONLY
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Attendance

Mr. Chris Chernick, Chair, call the meeting to order at 5:20 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Caroline Bailey, Morris County Prevention is Key
Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County
Julian Hill, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Sarah Jacob, Citizen Representative
Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
LaJuan Tucker, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Erica Valvano, Morris County Sheriff's Office
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff's Office

Board Liaisons:

Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services – PAC Co-Chair
Rose Brown, Mental Health Association – PAC Co-Chair
Cynthia Gatica, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Department of Human Services
Roselyn Suarez, Department of Human Services
Kasey Errico, Director of the Department of Human Services
Anna Marie Hess, Department of Human Services
Stephen Nebesni, Juvenile Detention Center

Others in Attendance:

Robert Davidson, Mental Health Association

II. Approval of January 12, 2023, Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, requested a motion to approve the January 12th meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Mr. Benson motioned to approve the minutes, and Mr. Hill seconded the motion. All were in favor, with one abstention and no opposition. Motion Carried.

III. Open to the Public – no comment

IV. Committee Orientation

Ms. Archer gave a PowerPoint presentation related to MHASAB orientation. This PowerPoint will be posted on the County website shortly

<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/files/sharedassets/public/departments/human-services/a.-hess-mhasab/2023-orientation-mhasab.pptx>.

V. Chair Report – Mr. Chernick

- Announced that on April 4, 2023, the Morris County Sheriff's Office would host the Hope One Symposium at the County College of Morris. Flyer and more information to follow.
- An email will be sent out describing our subcommittees, and MHASAB members are encouraged to sign up for one subcommittee. Keep in mind that we will ask for a Chair for each subcommittee. The Chair will report to the full MHASAB for further discussion, vote, etc.
- We are recruiting new members for MHASAB. If you know someone interested and would like to become an appointed member, please contact Ms. Archer at aarcher@co.morris.nj.us or Ms. Suarez at rsuarez@co.morris.nj.us.

VI. State Liaison Report – Ms. Cynthia Gatica, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Request for Proposals

- **Open Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in Homeless Shelters**
 - This RFP is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to increase access to buprenorphine and other ancillary services for individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD) through current programming available at homeless shelters that are licensed by New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Bureau of Rooming and Boarding House Standards and outlined in the state regulation NJAC 5:15. These providers will develop the capacity to provide medication and support services for individuals who reside or drop in at homeless shelters.

The program intends to provide low-threshold medication services to individuals with SUD who present in these settings.

- The Successful bidder to this RFP will initiate medication for SUD and maintain the individual on that medication or transition the individual to a community provider, including but not limited to an Office Based Addictions Treatment (OBAT) provider or licensed treatment provider that can administer buprenorphine and other medication for SUD, as well as deliver the appropriate level of counseling, or other relevant support services. There will be no gaps in medication caused by the provider or providers for individuals served in this program. It is expected that providers will use funds for all of the following:
 - Identify and designate a Champion within the homeless shelter who will lead the shelter's efforts to provide medication for SUD
 - Initiate same-day medications
 - Contract or employ staff with the credentials to prescribe medications
 - Contract or employ case/care managers and peers to connect and engage patients in treatment and social services and to assist patients with care transitions
 - Create a welcoming and non-stigmatizing atmosphere for individuals seeking medications
 - Provide naloxone as an overdose prevention medication
 - Connect individuals to an affiliated Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) for the treatment of physical and mental health concerns and chronic pain
 - Implement harm reduction strategies and interventions to address SUDs, primarily opioid use disorder (OUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD).
- No Mandatory Bidders Conference
- Question on RFP Due Date
 - No later than 4:00 pm ET on February 15, 2023
- Intent to Apply/DHS SFTP Login Credentials Due Date
 - No later than 4:00 pm ET on March 24, 2023
- Proposal Due Date
 - No later than 4:00 pm ET on March 31, 2023
- Notify Date
 - April 28, 2023

Training

- The last provider training for USTF is March 10th
- LivingWorks ASIST
 - Please see the link to register for this FREE training of ASIST <https://njasist042923.attendase.com>
 - *LivingWorks ASIST* is a two-day workshop designed for members of all caregiving groups. Family, friends, and other community members may be the first to talk with someone at risk but have little or no training. ASIST can also provide those in formal helping roles with professional

development to ensure that they are prepared to provide suicide first aid help as part of the care they provide.

- The emphasis is on teaching suicide first-aid to help a person at risk stay safe and seek further help as needed. Participants learn to use a suicide intervention model to identify persons with thoughts of suicide, seek a shared understanding of reasons for dying and living, develop a safe plan based upon a review of risk, be prepared to do follow-up, and become involved in suicide-safer community networks. The learning process is based on adult learning principles and is highly participatory. Graduated skills development occurs through mini-lectures, facilitated discussions, group simulations, and role plays.

- **Date:**

Saturday, April 29th and Sunday, April 30th

- **Time:**

9 AM- 5 PM on Both Days

- **Location:**

Courtyard Marriott - Parsippany

3769 US-46 East, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Announcements

- Quarterly Provider Meeting March 9th at 10am. Register in advance for this webinar: https://dhs-nj.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_A_BVzOvpSoeYk8EDJmmm_w
- CSIS- There is an updated feature where designated staff within the agency can reset passwords within their agency. A brief training is forthcoming
- PACT- DMHAS will contact PACT providers to organize a small workgroup regarding the renewal of PACT regulations

VII. Staff Reports

- **Municipal Alliance Coordinator** – Mr. Nebesni
 - We are halfway through Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.
 - We will be receiving FY 2024 paperwork and information soon. We are anticipating receiving the same amount of funding as in 2023.
- **Addiction Services Coordinator** – Ms. Suarez
 - During the last Alcohol and Drug meeting, the Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) mentioned that our County Comprehensive Plan (CCP) was reviewed, and they have heard good feedback.
 - We are currently working on the Grant-In-Aid and Chapter 51 Subgrant Contracts. They will be going out to the providers for signature next week. Once all signed contracts are returned, they will go to the Commissioners for signature, and then the fully executed subgrant will be sent to the providers.
 - The next Stigma-Free meeting via Zoom is Tuesday, March 14, 2023. If you are interested in participating, please get in touch with me at rsuarez@co.morris.nj.us.

- **Mental Health Administrator** – Ms. Archer
 - There was an unfortunate event that happened this week in Roxbury. A special thanks to Ms. Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor’s Office, for putting us in contact with the Roxbury Chief of Police and the Chief Assistant Prosecutor of the Tactical Division, who are responsible for the investigation. The Division of Community & Behavioral Health provided resources such as Mental Health Peer-to-Peer Line and Teen Line, and many other warmlines. In addition, Disaster Response Crisis Counselors (DRCC) and NewBridge Crisis in the Community services were offered and available, if needed.
 - 988 is up and running. The community has been informed, and the line is being used. We have heard much positive feedback so far, but to be transparent, an issue was brought to our attention.
 - An individual reached out to 988, but there was no answer (somebody didn’t pick up the phone, and it didn’t redirect them to another individual who could answer). Finally, the caller contacted their case manager at an undisclosed organization and received their needed help. This incident was brought to the State’s attention. An email was sent to 988, and we await a response—additional information to follow.
 - Mr. Benson asked, “What kind of monitoring is being done relative to the volume of calls?” Ms. Gatica stated that this incident was brought up at the Quarterly Provider meeting this morning. In addition, a recent RFP is under review for a managing entity to oversee 988 for the State. Discussion ensued, and additional information will be provided.
 - At the State Mental Health Administrators meeting held on January 23rd
 - January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. The State Police and the Volunteers of America of Delaware Valley provided a presentation. The following are a few points of interest:
 - It is hard to investigate human trafficking, and penetrating the ring is even more difficult.
 - One woman can earn the trafficker up to \$500,000 per year
 - Non-emergency helpline 1.855.END.NJHT (1.855.363.6548)
 - Reach Out-Nonprofit is dedicated to helping children and young adults struggling with mental illness. One of the things they do is donate various things like toys, books, art supplies, and fidget toys to local schools. This isn’t a one-time donation. They will reach out every few months to see what is needed to replenish the supply. They currently donate to many school districts in Morris County, Jefferson, Long Valley, Randolph, Roxbury, and Dover, to name a few. <https://www.reachout-nonprofit.org/>
 - Atlantic Health has a program called Morris Cares. This program is for victims of sexual assault and their loved ones and provides specialized

care in a supportive, nonjudgmental environment. There are several locations throughout Morris and Sussex Counties.

<https://www.atlantichealth.org/conditions-treatments/behavioral-health/sexual-assault-program.html>

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

- Funding – no report
- Legislative/Advocacy – no report
- County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – no report
- Planning – First meeting will be Monday, March 20, 2023

IX. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Brown

- Still working on recruitment and retention of staff
- MHA, Community Hope, and Atlantic Health are in talks about a Veterans Suicide Prevention training
- Community Hope rolls out their Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG-FOX SPGP). For more information, please call 973.463.9600 ext. 210 or SSGFOX@communityhope-nj.org
- DCF statewide response to child-on-child sexual assault cases. They have put a task force in place and are tasked with developing a coordinated approach to managing treatment resources.

X. HSAC Report – Ms. Archer

- We seek someone to attend the Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) meetings. This person will act as a liaison and report HSAC updates to the MHASAB and vice versa. If interested, please contact Ms. Archer at aarcher@co.morris.nj.us or Ms. Hess at ahess@co.morris.nj.us for additional information.
- Ms. Sherrod gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Childcare in Morris County
- The State Initiative, Claris Companion, provided Morris County with 25 Claris Tablets. In addition, in partnership with Hispanic Affairs, they offered 25 Senior Tablets to a senior group they work with.
- The next Morris, Sussex Warren HIV Advisory meeting is Monday, March 27th, from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM, hosted at EDGE NJ 295 E Main Street, Denville, NJ. This will be our first meeting in person in over two years. The committee will begin alternating meeting locations in person to increase consumer participation.
- Deirdre's House hosted the Game of Life on Friday, February 17th, at the West Morris High School. It was a success with 16 providers and 800 students.
- The CoC Executive Committee approved the 2023 PIT methodology by electronic vote at the end of December 2022. The Committee last met on January 26, 2023. During this meeting, the CoC had its annual orientation. The Committee approved an edit to the Coordinated Entry Leadership Team job description, a new process for CE engagement levels, and a new method for CoC public comment. In addition, the Committee discussed the funding stream analysis and unmet needs report provided by Monarch Housing Associates. The January 26 meeting

followed a listening session on the allocations process and general CoC questions and feedback. The Allocation Committee is reviewing this feedback.

XI. Old Business – no comment

XII. New Business

- Ms. Errico announced the VA New Jersey Health Care System’s upcoming PACT Act Enrollment Event at the County College of Morris on Saturday, March 18, 2023. VA staff will be on-site to help you determine your eligibility for VA healthcare and PACT Act benefits, and, for those eligible, enroll you in the VA health system and start a claim for benefits on the spot.
- Ms. Bailey stated that Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman detailed how individuals will soon be able to obtain Naloxone anonymously for free at participating pharmacies at any time. The initiative is part of the Murphy Administration’s ongoing efforts to combat the opioid crisis and save lives. No prescription will be needed. Instead, one two-dose naloxone nasal spray kit will be provided per visit. The program will officially launch soon and be funded with federal grant money.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Benson 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

