

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
973326.7240

Division Director
Amy Archer
973-285-6852

MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)
Thursday, May 11, 2023, 5:15 pm – Webex Meeting ONLY
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Attendance

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

Board Members:

Caroline Bailey, Morris County Prevention is Key
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative - Chair
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Victor DeVito, Citizen Representative
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County – Vice-Chair
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Sarah Jacob, Morris County Municipal Alliance
Justin Sudol, Morris County Sheriff's Office
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., 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:

Rose Brown, Mental Health Association – Joint PAC
Cynthia Gatica, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Kelly Martins, EDGE NJ – HSAC

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Department of Human Services
Kasey Errico, Director of the Department of Human Services
Anna Marie Hess, Department of Human Services
Rosalynd Suarez, Department of Human Services

II. Approval of March 9, 2023, Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, requested a motion to approve the March 9th meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Ms. Ward motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

Approval of April 13, 2023, Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, requested a motion to approve the April 13th meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Ms. Garodnick motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor, with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

III. Open to the Public – no comment**IV. Chair Report – Mr. Chernick**

Thank you to the Board of County Commissions for hosting a Volunteer Reception on Tuesday, May 9th, at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. There was a great turnout from the various Morris County Boards, Non-Profit Providers, and Commissions. In addition, the CCM Culinary Arts program provided food, and a classical guitarist provided music.

During the Commissioner's meeting on May 10, 2023 Commissioner Myers presented a Proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month. Ms. Whiting and I were there to represent the MHASAB and accept the proclamation.

Our September meeting will be in person, October's meeting will be virtual, and November will be in person. We hope the group will come out and join us.

Our Funding Review Subcommittee meetings will be held in person as they were last year.

V. State Liaison Report**Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Ms. Cynthia Gatica**

- General Notes:
 - Happy Mental Health Awareness Month
 - The Fiscal Year 2024 DMHAS contract review and award process letter was sent to providers on April 21, 2023
 - Attorney General (AG) Platkin announced the New Multi-Faceted Efforts to Curb problem gambling. AG Platkin announced several new initiatives to bolster the office's existing responsible gaming efforts, establishing a new position dedicated to responsible gaming, setting new advertising

standards for operators, and simplifying access to self-exclusion for players struggling with a gaming disorder.

- Requests for Proposals (RFP), Funding Opportunities

- DMHAS Residential Services for individuals with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and an Intellectual Developmental Disability (IDD)
 - The RFP is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to provide Level A+ residential services for eligible individuals with a co-occurring SMI and an IDD. This RFP is funded through state appropriations. The DMHAS anticipates making two distinct awards, with an annualized contract amount of \$325,000 each.
 - May 4, 2023, is the deadline for receipt of proposals, no later than 4:00 pm EST
 - June 29, 2023, Final Award
 - July 17, 2023, Anticipated contract start date to commence start-up
 - September 10, 2023, Program Implementation (e.g., operational date)
- Building Capacity Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) 2023
 - This RFP focuses on expanding access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for people with Co-Occurring Disorder (COD) who are being served in an MH or SUD treatment facility and is designed to address the financial challenges faced in building the capacity to offer MAT. DMHAS expects that the funding for this initiative will allow providers to begin the prescribing of the MAT, as well as storing and dispensing of buprenorphine. This initiative is not a grant to provide treatment. However, bidders must be able to prescribe medication by a credentialed MAT.
 - May 3, 2023, the deadline for receipt of proposals, no later than 4:00 pm EST
 - June 21, 2023, final award announcement
- Peer Recovery Specialists
 - The RFP is issued by the NJ DHS, DMHAS for SUD residential treatment agencies contracted by DMHAS to hire Peer Recovery Specialists to provide non-clinical assistance and recovery supports services to individuals in SUD residential treatment. Total annualized funding is \$5 million, subject to federal appropriations. This RFP is funded by the Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant COVID-19 Supplement and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for SAMHSA. The DMHAS is making approximately 65 awards, depending upon demand, of up to \$75,000 annually to support the hiring of a Peer Recovery Specialist to work in residential services. Funding is

available for two years. This includes inpatient withdrawal management, short-term and long-term residential, and halfway houses. Agencies can request one peer for each level of care they provide at a given site.

- May 4, 2023, the deadline for receipt of proposals, no later than 4:00 pm EST
 - June 8, 2023, is the notification date
- Community Psychiatric Residence (4 positions)
 - DHS, DMHAS is issuing a Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) to all fully accredited psychiatry residency programs in New Jersey currently providing four years of training in adult psychiatry (the program). This RLI will grant programs funding for new adult psychiatry residency psychiatry positions using funding not awarded under a prior RLI published in mid-January 2023. Through this RLI, adult psychiatric residency programs can apply through a Letter of Interest (LOI) for funding to support one or two additional four-year positions in their programs.
 - May 10, 2023, is the deadline for receipt of LOI no later the 4:00 pm EST
 - May 17, 2023, the announcement of selected residency programs
 - May 31, 2023, program start date
- Meetings
 - Quarterly Residential Provider meeting is May 4, 2023, at 10:00 am

VI. Staff Reports

- **Municipal Alliance Coordinator**
 - Ms. Archer stated Mr. Nebesni was unable to attend tonight's meeting but did send the following updates:
 - Supplemental applications, the County funding for the Municipalities, were due on April 28, 2023.
 - Fiscal Year 2024 Applications are due on June 2, 2023.
 - Morris & Sussex Job and Resource fair will occur on Thursday, May 18, 2023, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy.
 - The Center for Family Services is holding its first annual SHE virtual symposium, "The Path She Takes: A Woman's Journey through Pregnancy and Recovery." On Monday, June 5, 2023, at 11:00 am & 2:00 pm, expert speakers in pregnancy and recovery will explore mental health, medication-assisted treatment, harm reduction, and state of New Jersey policy reviews. For more information or questions, please contact: Linda Vendome, Outreach Professional 908.836.4228 or linda.vendome@centerffs.org

- **Addictions Services Coordinator – Ms. Suarez**
 - An email will be sent to the Planning Subcommittee in early June to start planning for Overdose Awareness Day. This takes place on August 31 at 1 Executive Drive. We have guest speakers who share their stories about loved ones they have lost to overdose, or they share their recovery journey. If you want to participate in the planning subcommittee, please get in touch with Ms. Anna Marie Hess at ahess@co.morris.nj.us.
 - Ms. Villano asked if this is separate from the regular planning subcommittee. Ms. Suarez answered no; I will contact everyone on the Planning Subcommittee to plan this event.
 - The applications for the Innovations Grant and the 12 and 48-Hour IDRC Programs will need to be reviewed by the Funding Review Subcommittee. We want to schedule this meeting virtually for the first week of June. The application will be sent to the subcommittee via email.
 - All Executed Subgrant Packages for Addiction Services GIA and Chapter 51 were sent out to funded providers via email and regular mail last month. If you didn't receive yours, please contact me directly at rosuarez@co.morris.nj.us.
 - 500 pharmacies currently participate in the Narcan Distribution Program in New Jersey, with over 12,000 Narcan kits distributed.
 - At last month's Opioid Task Force and Coalition for a Safe and Health Morris (CCSHM) meeting, Mr. Brad Seabury, Chief Assistant Prosecutor, announced that for 2023, there had been 41 Narcan deployments by law enforcement. Unfortunately, there have been 15 fatal overdoses due to opioids.
- **Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Archer**
 - As mentioned earlier, May is Mental Health Awareness Month. We have circulated flyers and other documents through the community, and Navigating Hope has also been getting this information out to the consumers. This information includes wellness activities, self-care practices, and resources.
 - A quick reminder that the funding session is upon us and will be coming quickly. Our Funding Review and Planning Subcommittees will start to meet. The RFA is typically posted on the County website from late May to early June. The email invitation will be going out to our complete RFA distribution list. Please keep an eye out for this information.
 - We will not have an August meeting, as in the past, due to our Funding Review meetings. Our Funding Review meetings will be held in person only. The applications will be distributed via email; if you require a hard copy, please request that from Ms. Hess at ahess@co.morris.nj.us, and she will have them ready for pickup. The State Funding Review meetings will continue to be virtual.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

- **Funding Review** – Mr. Chernick
 - There will be a meeting on May 16, 2023, to discuss the 2024 Funding Priorities. We will need to have these approved before our next MHASAB meeting. Mr. Chernick requested a motion to allow an email vote on the 2024 Funding Priorities as long as an email vote is acceptable; if not, a meeting of the MHASAB will be called to vote on this matter. A motion was made by Ms. Tucker and seconded by Ms. Ward. All were in favor, with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion Carried.
- **Planning** – Ms. Archer
 - On April 20th, the Planning Subcommittee met to start planning for the Public Forum. This meeting was held virtually and had many participants. We are looking to hold the Forum on September 21st or September 28th. This will be our first one since the pandemic and will be held in person only. We are looking into different facilities for a larger capacity. We also discussed topics of the forum and some guest speakers. We will also provide boxed dinners from Longfellows for the event.
- **Legislative/Advocacy** – no report
- **County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS)** – no report

VIII. Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) Report – Ms. Brown

- Our last meeting was held on Friday, May 5, 2023.
 - DCF provided updates for the Morris East (ME) and Morris West (MW)
 - Child Protection calls received - 79 ME and 73 MW
 - Child Welfare calls received – 13 ME and 13 MW
 - Domestic Violence calls received – 17 ME and 12 MW
 - Substance Use calls received - 8 ME and 20 MW
 - Child on Child Sexual Assault calls received – 0 ME and 3 MW
 - Sexual Abuse calls received – 0 ME and 13 MW
 - There was a follow-up discussion on how DCF & DCPP are addressing the Child-on-Child sexual assaults being reported. They will assign CMOs to assist with identifying the needs for these cases. In the fall, clinicians will be trained to help treat this trauma. There will be an RFA issued for Agencies to get involved. A special unit was assembled to determine if the calls warranted law enforcement and/or child welfare.
 - There was an open discussion about those aging out of the system. How can they coordinate efforts for a warm handoff for individuals turning 19 and entering the adult system of care?
 - Community Hope is hosting a Vet Fest Music & Food Truck Festival on Sunday, May 7, 2023, to support our local Veterans.
 - Atlantic Health announced their “Grow Your Mental Health – 31 Days of Mindfulness Challenge” for May. Information can be found on their website <https://www.atlantichealth.org/about-us/stay-connected/news/content-central/2023/mental-health-month.html>
 - Mental Health Association announced the purchase of a new building.

- NewBridge announced the purchase of a new building. They are also hosting their annual Gala tonight.

IX. Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) – Ms. Martins

- Thank you for the warm welcome as the newest member of the HSAC. Ms. Csengeto and I will share the reporting responsibility between the MHASAB & the HSAC.
- Opioid Recovery & Remediation Fund Advisory Council
 - In addition to the input already received through the online portal, the State Advisory Council is holding listening sessions to gather public input on distributing opioid settlement funds. New Jersey will receive approximately \$641 million over 18 years as part of a federal opioid settlement. The state will receive half of the funding, and the other half will be provided to participating county and local governments. The dates and locations are as follows:
 - Monday, May 22, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
 - Mercer County Community College, Roma Bank Auditorium, Conference Center, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor
 - Monday, June 12, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
 - Camden County College (Blackwood), CIM Auditorium, 200 College Road, Blackwood
 - Thursday, June 22, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - Essex County College, Clara E. Dasher Student Center, 303 University Avenue, Newark
 - Thursday, July 10, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - <https://www.nj.gov/opioidfunds/> to register. The link will be sent after registration
- Additionally, we were honored to have Commissioner Myers attend the April 25th meeting, where we discussed affordable housing in Morris County. Discussion centered around how we can support our low-income, middle-class families so they can stay in Morris County.

X. Old Business – no comment

XI. New Business

- Ms. Archer announced that during the Commissioner's Meeting last night, NewBridge Services gave a short presentation about the programs they provide. They also received a Proclamation from the County Commissioners for 60 years of service to Morris County residents.

XII. Adjournment

Ms. Villano motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Marie Hess
Human Services Coordinator