

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

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MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)
Thursday, July 13, 2023, 5:15 pm – Webex Meeting ONLY
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Attendance

Ms. Cheryl Garodnick, the Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. A quorum was not established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

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
Tracey McGuire, Citizen Representative
Meg Rodriquez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Justin Sudol, Morris County Sherriff's Office
Erica Valvano, Morris County Sherrif's Office
Amy Villano, Acenda Integrated Health
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sherriff's Office

Board Liaisons:

Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services
Rose Brown, Mental Health Association
Cynthia Gatica, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services

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
Rosalyn Suarez, Department of Human Services

Others in Attendance:
Kelly Martins, EDGE NJ

II. Approval of June 8, 2023, Minutes

Approval of the minutes was tabled to the next meeting due to lack of quorum.

III. Open to the Public

Ms. Martins announced that EDGE NJ offers a Transgender & Non-Binary support group every Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at their office at 295 East Main St., Denville, New Jersey.

IV. Chair Report

Ms. Archer announced that MHASAB will not meet in July, August, and December. Our September and November meetings will be held in person only. Our October meeting will be virtual via Webex. We will need a quorum to vote on the 2024 GIA and Chapter 51 Funding Recommendations at our September meeting.

V. State Liaison Report

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Ms. Gatica

- **Announcements**

- The New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has compiled the 2019-2020 Opioid Report to illustrate the many avenues of supportive services provided by agencies across the state funded by DMHAS to address the opioid overdose crisis. According to data provided by the New Jersey Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies (NJ CARES), there were over 6,000 drug-related deaths in New Jersey in 2019 and 2020.
- Ms. Angela Wairimu will be the Program Analyst for Middlesex County and the Statewide Coordinator for Integrated Case Management Services (ICMS) and other OCS projects. Program Analyst coverage for Ms. Wairimu's previously assigned counties is as follows:
 - Sussex County- Ms. Eileen Alexander
 - Hunterdon and Warren Counties- Ms. Theresa Wilson and Mr. John Verney
- DMHAS guided to remind & encourage contracted agencies to submit consumer caseload data files before the rollout of the new, secure, web-based USTF+ application ([Unified Services Transaction Form \(state.nj.us\)](https://www.state.nj.us/ustf/)). Agencies are not obligated to take advantage of this time-saving opportunity. Still, please be aware that upon rollout of this new system, all agencies will have 60 days to key in their entire caseload information into the system manually.
- In honor of Pride Month and acknowledgment of the unique challenges young people in the LGBTQIA+ community face, the NJ Department of Children and Families highlighted a list of helpful resources available to LGBTQIA+ youth in New Jersey. See attachment (14 Free Resources for LGBTQIA Youth in New Jersey).

- The new version of the MH FFS Program Manual (5.8.1), effective July 1, 2023, containing the revised Ancillary & Transportation Services policy, is now posted on the NJMHAPP landing page. The request form for Ancillary & Transportation Units above the Monthly Limit (20) is also posted on the landing page just below the request form for ICMS Units above the Monthly Unit (50), labeled 'ICMS - Clinical Justification Form.'
- **Requests for Proposals Funding Awards**
 - Building Capacity in Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programs to Provide Medications for SUD 2023 Awarded: June 21, 2023 Name of Program: Building Capacity in Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programs to Provide Medications for SUD 2023 Purpose: The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services issued the following funding awards to assist licensed MH and licensed SUD programs in developing the capacity to offer SUD medications, i.e., buprenorphine, naloxone, naltrexone, methadone, and acamprosate.
 - Agency Name- NewBridge Services, Inc.
 - Award Amount- \$69,315
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Opioid Listening Session
 - Date – Thursday, July 20th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (virtual)
 - Register – nj.gov/opioidfunds
 - Save the Date for NJ Opioid Summit- September 20, 2023. The topic will be Revitalizing Communities: Healing Together from the Opioid Crisis. This will be an all-day conference with CME and CEU credits available.
 - The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs ("DCA") Social Work Outreach Program: New Jersey Social Work Licensure: You've got questions, we've got answers. On July 10th at 2:30 p.m., the DCA will screen a presentation as an orientation for the licensure process. Following the presentation, attendees will be invited to pose questions to the Executive Director of the licensing Board. Topics discussed will include licensure, renewal, educational requirements, and more! This is an opportunity to engage directly with the licensing Board to help demystify the licensure process and to get an overview of the Board's mission for the profession and the public. This is the follow-up to the discussion Mary Jane and Director of Human Services Michael Frost had with Howard and DCA Director Cari Fais a few weeks back at the behest of the HSAC based on reported concerns about delays in LSW/LCSW licensing and process questions that were attached to that.
 - Topic: New Jersey Social Work Licensure: You've got questions, we've got answers
 - Time: Jul 10, 2023, 02:30 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada)
 - Join Zoom Gov Meeting
 - <https://link.edgепilot.com/s/b3526841/YumGC0myVkq3fSV8TK6TAQ?u=https://njoag.zoomgov.com/j/1609546579?pwd=b0NCKzdoVVZEeVd6Z29LTDhwbXJKQT09>

VI. Staff Reports

- **Municipal Alliance Coordinator**

- Ms. Archer stated that Mr. Nebesni has been doing a dual role as Municipal Alliance Coordinator and working at the Juvenal Detention Center (JDC). Mr. Nebesni was promoted to the JDC Chief. He is working on the Governor's Council on Alcoholism & Drug Use (GCADA) grant and the Supplemental Grants for the board to review. Once this process is complete, Mr. Nebesni will be phased out of this role, and the County will hire a replacement.

- **Addiction Services Coordinator**

- Ms. Suarez stated the Stigma Free Committee met last month and discussed the following:
 - QR Codes for information on the Stigma-Free Initiative, NJ 211, and 988 for MH & SU to be placed on the walking/hiking/biking trail heads in Morris County Parks.
 - Discussed holding a networking event to celebrate the 5 year anniversary of the Stigma-Free Initiative in Morris County. Invites will go out to the Stigma Free partners and non-profit organizations to share information throughout the community—additional information to follow.
- Ms. Suarez announced that we have received the funds from the Opioid Settlement Fund. The County is planning two listening sessions; one will be virtual, and one will be in person. Additional information to follow.

- **Mental Health Administrator**

- Ms. Archer stated that we are in the middle of our new funding season. Our application deadline is approaching quickly, so please check the website for due dates on State and County funding.
- We will be convening the Funding Review Subcommittee in person to review GIA and Chapter 51 applications received and provide recommendations to the MHASAB to vote on. The subcommittee will determine the date and time in the next few weeks, and the recommendations will be presented to the MHASAB at the September in-person meeting.
- Ms. Suarez has started site monitoring meetings for Addiction Services. Mental Health site monitoring meetings will take place during August. We request at least two MHASAB members sign up for each site visit, which will be held in person at the agency.
- Congratulations to Ms. Hess, the new HSAC Coordinator. She has started working in her new position but is still handling MHASAB work until we can find a replacement.
- The State will hold a combined Mental Health and Addictions Coordinator meeting on Monday, July 17th. Ms. Suarez and Ms. Archer will be attending this meeting.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

- **Funding** – no report
 - Ms. Archer stated that this subcommittee has not met since the priorities meeting. They will reconvene for application review at the end of August or early September.
- **Planning**
 - Ms. Suarez stated that she will convene this committee in two weeks to finalize the details for Overdose Awareness Day. This event will be held on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 1 Medical Drive at 10:00 a.m. Additional information to follow.
 - Ms. Archer said this subcommittee has met several times to plan the Public Forum. They are looking to hold the September 28th and are working hard to finalize a venue. We have spoken to a few places, but those locations will not be able to provide the atmosphere and accommodations we are looking for. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18th. Additional information to follow.
- **Legislative/Advocacy** – has not met
- **County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS)** – no report

VIII. Joint PAC Report – has not met since the last MHASAB meeting

IX. HSAC Report – no report

X. Old Business

- Ms. Csengeto suggested we meet at EDGE NJ and tour their new facility. Ms. Martins was open to the idea and will bring the request to her agency.

XI. New Business

- Ms. Suarez announced that Morris County Prevention is Key will be hosting the following two events
 - Memorial Butterfly Release in observance of International Overdose Awareness Day on Saturday, August 26th at 10:00 a.m. at the Donatoni Community Park, 231 West Main Street, Rockaway, NJ. For additional information, www.preventioniskey.org.
- Tackling Opioids through Prevention Annual Conference will be held virtually on Tuesday, September 19th at 7:30 p.m. For additional information and registration, www.preventioniskey.org.
- Ms. Borden stated that the State grant NewBridge received is to expand into medication-assisted treatment. This is a startup grant to outfit a medical office licensed for both MH and SU disorder treatment in our outpatient setting. It's not intended to be like a methadone clinic. Our psychiatrists will be able to prescribe specific medications, and we have many clients that we see that go elsewhere for the medication portion of their treatment. This will better serve our clients as a one-stop shop.

- Ms. Garodnick asked, “Do you know what medications you will prescribe?” Ms. Borden stated she doesn’t know at this time. Discussion ensued.

XII. Adjournment

Ms. Garodnick adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.