

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, October 13, 2022, 5:15 pm – Webex Meeting ONLY
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order and Attendance

Mr. Chris Chernick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm. A Quorum was 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, Therapy Resources of Morris County
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Lorena Inestroza, New Pathway Counseling
Tracey McGuire, Citizen Representative
Robert Peluso, Citizen Representative
Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Sheriff's Office
Amy Villano, Acenda Integrated Health
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff's Office

Board Liaisons:

Eileen Alexander, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services

Others in Attendance:

Rose Brown, Mental Health Association
Raymond Freaney, Rotary Club of Madison, District 7475
Delins Destra, Franklyn University
Miriam Destra, Franklyn University

II. Approval of August 11, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the August 11th meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Mr. Hill made the motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

Approval of September 8, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the September 8th meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Ms. Csengeto made the motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. Garodnick seconded the motion. All were in favor, with one abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

III. Presentation – Mr. Ray Freaney, Rotary Club of Madison, District 7475

Mr. Freaney has been in the Rotary for 27 years and was District Governor from 2019-2020. He spent 17 years in the Phillipsburg Rotary and the past ten years with Madison. On July 1, 2022, he started a cause-based club, the Rotary Club of Mental Health Advocates.

The Rotary Club of Mental Health Advocates actively strives to generate awareness in our clubs and members by providing educational sessions and training with leading mental health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) experts.

Members work with Rotary clubs and organizations to engage with their communities and local agencies to enhance prevention and treatment measures as we strive to eliminate the stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders, educate, and help provide a road map to a Stigma-Free environment.

The goal is to partner, collaborate, and support organizations and agencies dedicated to mental health and SUD. They meet twice monthly via Zoom and plan to do as many in-person presentations as possible.

IV. Chair Report – Mr. Chernick

The voting members held an emergency meeting to vote on the 2023 Grant In Aid and Chapter 51 Funding. Thank you to the Board and our funding coordinators for your participation in reviewing and approving the funding recommendations.

The Nominating Committee has started to meet with County Staff to discuss the 2023 slate of candidates to be voted on at our January meeting.

Board members are encouraged to stay on the call during the New Business section of tonight's meeting. Ms. Archer will be conducting a Question and Answer in preparation for the County Alcohol and Substance Abuse Comprehensive Plan for 2024-2027.

V. **State Liaison Report**

Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services – Ms. Alexander
Request For Proposals (RFP):

- Open Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder 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 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 medications for SUD, as well as deliver the appropriate level of counseling, or another appropriate support service. 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: (1) identify and designate a Champion within the homeless shelter who will lead the shelter's efforts to provide medication for SUD; (2) initiate same-day medications; (3) contract or employ staff with the credentials to prescribe medications; (4) 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; (5) create a welcoming and non-stigmatizing atmosphere for individuals seeking medications; (6) provide naloxone as an overdose prevention medication, (7) connect individuals to an affiliated Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) for the treatment of physical and mental health concerns and chronic pain; and (8) implement harm reductions strategies and interventions to address SUDs, primarily opioid use disorder (OUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD).
 - New Jersey has designated two Centers of Excellence (COE) in treating SUDs, one at Rowan University/Cooper Medical School in Camden, New Jersey, and another at Rutgers University Medical School in Newark, NJ. The CEOs offer free training, mentoring, and telephonic assistance to prescribers or individuals who are becoming certified to offer medications that treat individuals with SUD. These services will be available to assist the successful bidder.
 - This RFP is Funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant. The total annualized funding for this

RFP is \$2,975,000, subject to Federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to seven (7) awards of up to \$435,000 each.

- No Mandatory Bidders Conference
- Questions on RFP Due Date – no later than 4:00 pm EST on September 20, 2022
- Intent to Apply/DHS SFTP Login Credentials Due Date – no later than 4:00 pm EST on October 14, 2022
- Proposal Due Date – no later than 4:00 pm EST on October 21, 2022
- Notify Date – November 18, 2022
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program
 - The Department of Law & Public Safety is pleased to announce that they have selected the following 6 Municipalities to pilot the LEAD Program
 - Phillipsburg (Warren County)
 - Irvington (Essex County)
 - Elizabeth (Union County)
 - New Brunswick (Middlesex County)
 - Brick (Ocean County)
 - Bridgeton (Cumberland County)
 - Eligible applicants, private or publicly funded, or those that have a public-health-oriented focus, have experience in coordinating and/or providing services to individuals with substance use and/or mental health disorders and have an interest and ability to develop and implement a LEAD Program in at least one of the designated sites. This may include but is not limited to the local health departments, harm reduction centers, non-profits, or community-based treatment providers that provide substance use and/or mental health treatment and/or services to individuals in at least one of the selected communities. Priority will be given to those with demonstrated experience coordinating and/or providing services to economically disadvantaged individuals. An applicant may apply for more than one designated area within a proposal but must demonstrate their capacity to develop and implement the program in each identified municipality.
 - The Notice of availability of Funding, Program Administration and Guidelines, and the Application Package are available at: <https://www.njoag.gov/resources/grant-opportunities> The Deadline for applicants to apply is October 31, 2022, at 4:00 pm.
 - More information about the federal grant the Department received and the LEAD program may be found at [Acting AG Platkin Announces \\$6 Million in Federal Funding to Implement ‘Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program in 6 Pilot Sites Throughout New Jersey - New Jersey Office of Attorney General \(njoag.gov\)](#)

Upcoming Events:

- Please see the flyer promoting the Mental Health Association NJ's Fall "BIPOC Peer Dialogue" on October 19, 2022. This is the fourth of their series bringing together BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) members of the New Jersey peer community to share, network, identify and discuss their challenges. This is part of MHANJ's Consumer Connections weekly series of peer support and education opportunities. Registration in advance is required.
- DMHAS will hold our annual Suicide Prevention Conference on October 12, 2022. We welcome anyone interested in learning about suicide prevention to join us for this annual full-day virtual event. For more information, please contact allison.kusznikow@dhs.nj.gov
- Statewide Integrated Case Management Services (ICMS) will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 10:00 am
- Just a friendly reminder that the next DMHAS Quarterly Provider Meeting Zoom Webinar is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2022, at 10:00 am. Please note the change in the date. Agenda to follow. Register in advance for this webinar: https://dhs-nj.gov/zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_82if4_01Qmi_E5XIitqRZw
- Work Incentive Seminar Event
 - During this month's webinar, we'll discuss the myths and facts about Medicare and Medicaid coverage and work. Learn about how employment affects Medicare and Medicaid benefits and how Social Security's Ticket to Work Program resources can help you succeed on the path to financial independence.
 - Get the facts on
 - How earnings from work affect your Medicare or Medicaid
 - How Social Security Work Incentives help you continue to receive medical coverage when you start working
 - How a Benefits Counselor can help you on your journey to work
 - Register Now
 - Online: choosework.ssa.gov/wise
 - By Phone: 866.968.7842 or 866.833.2967 (TTY)
 - Visit our website: choosework.ssa.gov

Upcoming Training:

- Disaster and Terrorism Branch is offering virtual Mental Health Awareness Training throughout the month of October
 - Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) – October 11, 2022, at 1:00 pm
 - What's Next: Wellness for the New Normal – October 18, 2022, at 10:00 am
 - QPR – October 21, 2022, at 1:00 pm
 - QPR – October 26, 2022, at 10:00 am
 - For more information contact: meg.sullivan@dhs.nj.gov

Announcements:

- The State of New Jersey wants public input on how the opioid settlement funds should be used. Portal will be open for CY2023 submissions August 31 – October 31, 2022.
https://www.nj.gov/opioidfunds/?utm_campaign=20220902_nwsltr&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdeliver
- Narcan information: Emergent Solutions (Narcan vendor) can supply schools and colleges with free Narcan Kits. Please see attached flyer for more information
- Department of Human Services Budget Listening Session



VI. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Nebesni

The award letters for the supplemental and the DMHAS funding have been mailed out.

We have received the letters of intent for Fiscal Year 2024 and the funding will be the same as the current year.

There is a bill currently in the Senate to allow Municipal Alliances to receive Federal Funding. The bill's number is S190, and it is in committee now. More information to follow.

Addiction Services Coordinator – moved to New Business

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

We are currently working through the funding process throughout the County. We are looking at ways to improve our application for next year. More discussion will take place in the next several months.

During the last State Mental Health Administrator Meeting an update on the 988 program was provided. There have only been good things to say about this program. They have reported an influx of calls from last year. It is unclear if this is due to the text and chat feature that is being used frequently. Also, the email address for question is still open and being viewed.

Our Youth Services Coordinator, Ms. Jessica Mondino, has been doing a lot of community outreach lately. Bringing the Youth Services programs in the County to light, for those that might not know what programs are available, Firesetter, Cyberbullying, and Sexting, to name a few. If you would like more information about these programs or others offered, please contact Ms. Archer for more information.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

Funding – no report

Planning – no report

Legislative/Advocacy – no report

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – Mr. Nebesni

Our next meeting will be on December 1, 2022.

VIII. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Borden

Our next meeting is on October 14, 2022.

IX. HSAC Report – Ms. Csengeto

HSAC has completed all site monitoring.

A full-time Veteran's Services Officer was hired as well as a new part-time Veteran's Services Officer.

Three new family childcare centers have opened in Morris County.

HSAC planning subcommittee developed a Workplace Task Force and the purpose is to address issues in the workplace related to trauma from local/regional/world events affecting our staff and our community members. Goals are the safety of both staff and clients, to help frontline staff (including clinical and receptionists, etc.) understand their own trauma responses and those of the clients coming to their organization, the reduction of violent episodes (to self and staff) and create a timely response for a major event of the client community.

X. Old Business – no comment

XI. New Business

Ms. Borden stated there was a hearing for an increase in Medicaid reimbursement for in-person adult behavioral health partial care and substance use disorder treatment by a substantial amount. The bill number is A3792. This would be an increase of payment to those providing these services.

Ms. Borden stated that Assembly Bill number A2286 will eliminate certain practice restrictions for advanced practice nurses. During the pandemic, Governor Murphy passed Executive Order #112, which waived the requirement to practice in collaboration with a psychiatrist to provide primary care and specialty care services. Thus, filling the gap between mental health professionals in New Jersey by providing services to vulnerable populations.

Lastly, Michelle Borden discussed the proposal for the funding of New Jersey school-based youth services programs to be reduced in the budget. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) produced a concept paper, developing a statewide student support service, NJ4S, to be handled by 17 hubs to serve the 90+ school districts. Additional information will be provided, and a discussion ensues.

Ms. Brown announced Mental Health Association is holding its Annual Legislative Breakfast on Friday, October 21, 2022, at the Park Avenue Club.

Ms. Valvano announced that a Project Proposal was submitted for Hope One through the NJ opioid fund. As mentioned earlier, the State does want to hear from the public how the funds should be spent. The portal is open until October 31, 2022.

Mr. Peluso asked if MHASAB was attending the Wellness Resiliency Fair hosted by Picatinny Arsenal. Ms. Archer stated the flyer was circulated to Morris County agencies, but MHASAB will not be attending. Hope One and Navigating Hope will be attending.

Addiction Services - County Alcohol and Substance Abuse Comprehensive Plan for 2024-2027

Ms. Archer began discussing prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery support services as part of the County's Comprehensive Plan process. Part of the plan is to look at what we are currently doing and what is working and identify gaps and barriers and discuss how we can close these gaps. This is just the beginning of the conversations. Ms. Suarez will be getting groups together and sending out surveys electronically for those who cannot attend the group meetings. We will start with prevention:

- What type of prevention programs do we have in the county? Do you see them as helpful and beneficial to the community?
 - Addressing adverse childhood experiences for social and emotional learning approaches in schools. The defunding of certain adolescent educational experiences and opportunities include skills related to

communication problem-solving, alcohol and drug resistance, conflict management, de-escalation, empathy, coping, and emotional awareness.

- Revamp/Rebranding the county's Stigma-Free Initiative
- Collaborative approach as a community of providers. How can we get families engaged and educated?
- What type of education programs would you like to see in the schools?
- What are the barriers that we see in terms of treatment?
 - Cost and accessibility
 - Transportation
 - No support for homeless females

XII. Open to the Public – no comment

XIII. Adjourn

Mr. Hill, Esq., made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II