

**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

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**MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)**  
**Thursday, March 12, 2026, 5:15 PM – Hybrid**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order and Attendance**

Mr. Chernick, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM. A quorum was established and attendance was as follows:

**Board Members:**

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative  
Brenda Budd-Dunn, Rockaway Municipal Alliance Coordinator  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Vice-Chair  
Julian Hill, Esq, Morris County Prosecutor’s Office  
David Martinak, Citizen Representative  
Robert Peluso, Parsippany-Troy Hills (virtual)  
Justin Sudol, Morris County Sheriff’s Office (virtual)  
LaJuan Tucker, Esq, Morris County Prosecutor’s Office  
Amy Villano, Acenda Integrated Health (virtual)  
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff’s Office (virtual)

**Board Liaisons:**

Rose Brown, MSW, Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris  
Cynthia Gatica, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)  
Leena George, Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P)

**Morris County Staff:**

Amy Archer, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services  
Kasey Errico, Department of Human Services  
Anna Marie Hess, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services  
Louise Lichtenberg, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services

**Others in Attendance:**

Karley Jankowski, Rutgers University

Dana Miller, Rutgers University

Genaya Palmer, Mental Health Association – Suicide Prevention Services

Naveen Setya, Community Member

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Chernick, Vice-Chair, requested a motion to approve the February 19, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Hill made a motion, and Mr. Benson seconded. All were in favor to approve the minutes without modifications. There was no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

**III. Open to Public**

No comment.

**IV. Presentation**

**Suicide Prevention Services – Ms. Palmer**

Ms. Palmer, Director for Suicide Prevention Services under the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris (MHA), shared information on the programs the agency provides for suicide prevention. Through workshops, webinars, and different styles of therapy, the Suicide Prevention Services program aims to connect with communities and schools to prevent suicide and increase public understanding of mental health. Services are most often provided to agencies, schools, community-based organizations, and companies.

From July 2025 to March 2026, there have been 588 views on the Suicide Prevention Services webpage. During that same time period, there were 2,691 views on the “You Are Not Alone” webpage and 466 views on the “Stop Teen Suicide” webpage.

**Questions**

Mr. Benson asked Ms. Palmer if the program collaborates with outside agencies. She stated that services are generally provided to community-based spaces, such as libraries, YMCAs, or community colleges. They have not collaborated directly with outside agencies. Mr. Benson further asked if the program addresses the risks of AI and social media, and Ms. Palmer shared that she has conducted interactive presentations regarding bullying on social media and the dangers of AI Chatbots for high school students.

Mr. Martinak asked how MHA chooses which locations to attend and conduct outreach in. Ms. Palmer stated that the agency sometimes receives requests by connecting with organizations and schools at resource fairs, or by making connections internally through MHA staff.

**V. Chair Report – Mr. Chernick**

Mr. Chernick, Vice-Chair, announced that there will be no meeting in April to allow time for the subcommittees to convene. The next meeting will be held on May 14.

## VI. State Liaison Report

### **Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) – Ms. Gatica**

Ms. Gatica shared that NJ FamilyCare hosted a training on March 12 for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) laboratory providers to discuss claims and billing in reference to Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). She also discussed leadership changes at the state level and information for upcoming meetings hosted by DMHAS.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) titled Opioid Overdose/Infectious Disease Prevention, Education and Support is available to [view on the DMHAS website](#), along with the answers to submitted questions. The Intent to Apply was due on March 9, and the Proposal is due on March 16 by 4:00 pm. DMHAS will also be hosting a webinar on March 30 titled “Opioid Settlement Funds: Optimizing Investments for Local Response in New Jersey”.

## VII. Staff Reports

### **Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Archer**

Morris County continues to provide technical assistance to the Municipal Alliances for FY2027 Plans. Ms. Archer noted that school assemblies are no longer an allowable expense, and the County will be working with the Municipal Alliances affected by this change to assist in adjusting their plans.

### **Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Archer**

Mrs. Wilson’s is returning \$9,529.80 in Grant-in-Aid (GIA) funding and \$40,000 in Chapter 51 funding, to Morris County. Agencies interested in submitting a modification request must be currently funded under GIA for Addictions or Chapter 51, specifically for SUD treatment. All requests are due to Ms. Fosko by March 23 at 4:30 pm and will be reviewed by the MHASAB funding subcommittee in April and go before the full Board in May.

Discussion ensued regarding the cause for the return of funds. Ms. Archer clarified that she is not aware of specific details but can confirm that all individuals currently being served by Mrs. Wilson’s have been provided alternative placements.

### **Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Archer**

The Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) grant will operate on a fiscal year contract beginning July 1, 2026. Awarded agencies for the 2026 RFA will be given a six-month contract to cover the January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026 period before the fiscal year begins. A new Request for Applications (RFA) will be published in the next couple of months.

Subcommittees will convene in April. Appointed members are encouraged to sign up for at least two subcommittees. Ms. Archer briefly described the purpose of each committee and noted that CASS is commissioner-appointed. Members can email their committee requests to Ms. Lichtenberg at [lolichtenberg@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:lolichtenberg@co.morris.nj.us).

Ms. Archer announced that a flyer with the intake line for the Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey (CSPNJ) was circulated to all advisory boards this week. She explained that CSPNJ is the managing agency for the Coordinated Entry system (CE) in Morris County and is currently providing walk-in services at the building shared with Nourish NJ.

The Office of Community Development is in the process of scheduling meetings for the Community Development Revenue Sharing (CDRS) Committee, which reviews all submitted applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Partnerships Program (HOME).

#### **VIII. Subcommittee Reports:**

**Funding** - No report.

**Planning** - No report

**Legislative/Advocacy** - No report

**County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS)** - No report

#### **IX. Joint Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) Report – Ms. Brown**

The last PAC meeting was held on March 6. Both the County and the State shared reports. Ms. Brown discussed the data provided by Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital (GPPH).

Ms. Errico asked for clarification for the individuals on Conditional Extension Pending Placement (CEPP) status at GPPH. Ms. Gatica explained the meaning of the status and added that, according to legislation, individuals can only remain on CEPP status for a maximum of 120 days. She noted that consumer preference is taken into consideration when finding placements, and the resident must consent.

Ms. Brown also reported that DCP&P provided data for February at the meeting. It was noted that March usually sees a higher number of cases compared to the rest of the year, and Morris County's current cases are mainly referred for domestic violence.

#### **X. Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) Report – Ms. Hess**

The HSAC Program Review Subcommittee is scheduled to review applications and presentations for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

At the Commissioners Meeting on March 25, the Subcommittee on Women will be presenting the 2026 Seeds of Change Award. The current nominee is Theresa Markila of Mutual Morris.

Ms. Hess announced that she will be leaving her position as the HSAC Coordinator on March 31.

**XI. Old Business**

Ms. Errico shared that the Morris County Board of Commissioners allocated homelessness funds in the 2025 Morris County budget. The funds have been reintroduced for the 2026 budget and may be adopted at the March 25 meeting. The previous allocation of \$300,000 was utilized by the Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) as an alternative approach to a homelessness trust fund. Half of the funds were allocated for homelessness prevention, and the other half was for emergency response. Ms. Errico provided the following data for 2025 expenditures:

**Security Deposit Assistance:** 52 Households

**Back-Rent Assistance:** 26 Households

**Electric Service Restoration:** 5 Households

**Emergency Placement:** 210 Households

Ms. Tucker asked how eligibility is determined, and Ms. Errico clarified that OTA assesses the client's living situation to determine if it is affordable and can be sustained. She noted that it is on a case-by-case basis.

**XII. New Business**

Ms. Brown shared news regarding the potential reallocation of funding from NJ4S to be put towards a new school-based program. She noted that MHA is the managing agency of NJ4S in Morris County and discussed the impact the change would have on both the agency and the schools.

**XIII. Adjourn Meeting**

Mr. Chernick, Vice-Chair, requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Benson made a motion, and Mr. Young seconded. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Lichtenberg  
Administrative Professional