

**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, November 13, 2025, 5:15 PM – Hybrid**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order and Attendance**

Mr. DeVito called the meeting to order at 5:21 PM. A quorum was established and attendance was as follows:

**Board Members:**

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative  
Brenda Budd-Dunn, Rockaway Borough  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Vice-Chair (virtual)  
Victor DeVito, Citizen Representative – Chair  
David Martinak, Citizen Representative  
Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor’s Office (virtual)  
Justin Sudol, Morris County Sheriff’s Office (virtual)  
LaJuan Tucker, Esq, Morris County Prosecutor’s Office (virtual)  
Amy Villano, Acenda Integrated Health (virtual)  
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff’s Office (virtual)  
Brian Young, Citizen Representative (virtual)

**Board Liaisons:**

Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services  
Rose Brown, MSW, Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris  
Cynthia Gatica, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

**Morris County Staff:**

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

Louise Lichtenberg, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services  
Cherish Robinson, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services

**Others in Attendance:**

Christine Farnar, Community Member (virtual)

Catherine Smith, Morris County Support Team for Addiction Recovery (virtual)

**II. Approval of October 9, 2025, Minutes**

Mr. DeVito, Chair, requested a motion to approve the October 9, 2025, meeting minutes.

Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Young seconded. All were in favor with no opposition and five abstentions.

**III. Open to Public**

No comment.

**IV. Chair Report – Mr. DeVito**

Mr. DeVito distributed the 2026 MHASAB meeting schedule and noted that February's meeting is on the third Thursday of the month. A virtual option will continue to be available for all meetings.

**V. Closed Session**

Mr. DeVito, Chair, asked that those with a conflict of interest leave the meeting room. Ms. Budd-Dunn, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Borden left the room. Ms. Lichtenberg moved Ms. Farnar, Ms. Smith, Ms. Whiting, Ms. Villano, and Mr. Sudol into a breakout room via Webex. Mr. DeVito, Chair, requested a motion to close the open session. Mr. Benson made a motion, and Mr. Martinak seconded. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carried.

According to the P.L. 1975 Ch.231 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the board closed the open portion of the meeting at 5:28 PM.

**Return to Meeting**

Mr. DeVito, Chair, requested a motion to begin the open session. Mr. Martinak made a motion, and Mr. Benson seconded. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carried.

The session reopened at 5:49 PM.

**Action Resulting From Closed Session – Chapter 51 Modification**

Mr. DeVito, Chair, stated that the Board discussed a Chapter 51 subgrant modification. Let the record reflect that the Board voted to approve the modification in closed session.

**Action Resulting From Closed Session – FY2027 Municipal Alliance Funding**

Mr. DeVito, Chair, stated that the Board discussed FY2027 Municipal Alliance funding recommendations. Let the record reflect that the Board voted to approve the recommendations in closed session.

### **Action Resulting From Closed Session – Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Mental Health Modification**

Mr. DeVito, Chair, stated that the Board discussed a Grant-in-Aid Mental Health modification. Let the record reflect that the Board voted to approve the modification in closed session.

### **Open Session Vote**

Mr. DeVito, Chair, requested a motion to approve the Chapter 51 modification, FY2027 Municipal Alliance funding recommendations, and the Grant-in-Aid Mental Health modification. Mr. Benson made a motion to approve all modifications and recommendations. Mr. Martinak seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition and four abstentions. Motion carried.

## **VI. State Liaison Report:**

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

- i.** There will be a Behavioral Health Integration Advisory Hub meeting on Friday, November 21, 2025. All information and presentations from past meetings are available on the Behavioral Health Integration Stakeholder Information webpage.
- ii.** The Department of Human Services (DHS) is sponsoring scholarships of \$10,000 and practicum stipends of \$4,000 for one-year practicums that match Rutgers MSW students with DHS-affiliated adult behavioral health programs. The stipends are for Rutgers University students only. Ms. Gatica noted that this is different from the tuition reimbursements they have done in the past.
- iii.** The new Assistant Director for the Office of Community Services is Ron Roebuck.
- iv.** DMHAS is hosting the First Annual Overdose Response Summit on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm in Atlantic City. Registration is \$20, and breakfast and lunch will be provided.
- v.** Updates on SNAP benefits are available via [www.njsnap.gov](http://www.njsnap.gov) and [www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health). Ms. Errico added that the Morris County website has information on resources as well.
  - o.** Mr. DeVito asked for the status of EBT benefits. Ms. Gatica responded that the state has released the funds, but she is unaware if they have been received by individual recipients.
- vi.** The next DMHAS Quarterly Provider meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 10:00 am. Advance registration is required.
- vii.** CY2026 contract renewals were delayed due to the recent government shutdown. Ms. Gatica will forward information as it becomes available.

## **VII. Staff Reports:**

### **A. Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Robinson**

- i.** The FY2027 Letter of Intent (LOI) was released in the Municipal Alliance Grant System (MAGS) on October 22, 2025.
- ii.** FY2025 Quarter 4 reports are due Friday, November 21, 2025.

- iii. Ms. Robinson has begun conducting site visits.
- B. Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Fosko**
- i. Morris County received its Notice of Award for the 2026 Innovations Grant. The award amount is \$181,806. This was noted to be the same amount as the year prior.
  - ii. A Request for Proposals (RFP) titled County Designated Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) is available on bidnet for both 12-hour and 48-hour programs. Submissions are due December 4, 2025.
    - o Ms. Borden asked if there is an RFP for aftercare services in addition to the intensive treatment. Ms. Fosko stated that the IDRCs are required to provide participants with affiliated treatment resources, but they do not have an RFP available for aftercare services.
    - o Ms. Brown asked who the program recipients were in the previous funding cycle. Ms. Fosko stated that the RFP is released every two years. The previous recipients were Morris County IDRC for the 12-hour program and New Hope Foundation for the 48-hour program.
  - iii. Stigma Free is scheduled to have a meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 1:30 pm via Webex.
  - iv. The 2026 Chapter 51 application is currently under review with DMHAS.
- C. Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Archer**
- i. An acronym list was circulated via email. Ms. Archer clarified that it is a draft and she is coordinating with the Division of Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming to establish a combined list.
    - o Ms. Brown asked where the final document would be located, and Ms. Archer responded that it will be accessible from the Morris County website.
  - ii. CY2026 award and declination letters were sent out via email and certified mail. Contracts are scheduled to be sent to agencies at the end of December or the beginning of January. It was noted that the grant period for Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) funding will now follow the fiscal year. Due to this change, there will be a six-month contract from January 2026 – June 2026 before the new funding cycle is established in July.
  - iii. Ms. Archer will be coordinating a presentation covering outreach responses in Morris County for February. This will include a presentation from Bridgeway on the Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Team (MCORT) and a joint presentation from the Morris County Prosecutor's Office and MHA on ARRIVE Together.
    - o Ms. Budd-Dunn asked for clarification on Bridgeway's involvement with the MCORT. Ms. Archer stated that Bridgeway was awarded the grant for Morris County.
  - iv. If there are presentation ideas for 2026, they can be sent to Ms. Archer, Ms. Fosko, or Ms. Lichtenberg for further discussion.

- v. The Continuum of Care (CoC) is waiting for the release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Programs funded through the NOFO include those related to housing, supportive services, coordinated entry, and outreach programs.

**VIII. Subcommittee Reports:**

**A. Funding** – modifications moved to closed session

**B. Planning** – Ms. Archer

- i. Mr. Chernick has nominated himself to serve as Vice-Chair in 2026, and Mr. DeVito has nominated himself to serve as Chair. Nominations will be put forth at the January meeting for a vote and are open to all who are interested.

**C. Legislative/Advocacy** – Ms. Archer

- i. The Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on December 1, 2025, at 11:00 am via Webex to discuss EO:14321 titled “Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets”.
- ii. Ms. Errico noted that it will be important to discuss how involuntary institutionalization will be implemented in New Jersey and how it will be impacted by existing laws and regulations.
- iii. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of mental health and addiction treatment services and housing vouchers.

**D. County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS)** – Ms. Robinson

- i. The final CASS meeting for the year was held on November 12, 2025.

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

**A.** The last PAC meeting was held on November 6, 2025.

**B.** Members reviewed the acronym list and discussed CY2026 Grant-in-Aid (GIA) funding awards.

**C.** Terry Connolly presented on Nourish.NJ’s food assistance programs. Ms. Borden noted that Nourish. NJ has behavioral rules in place at its facility, but there are no other restrictions to receiving meals.

**D.** Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital (GPPH) reported their census and discussed the conditional extension pending placement (CEPP) status of their clients.

**E.** The Department of Children and Families (DCF) shared the breakdown of their September 2025 calls.

**F.** In 2026, Ms. Borden will be stepping down from her role as Co-Chair of the PAC.

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

**A.** The HSAC award and declination letters were sent out, and contracts will be circulated in December and January.

**B.** At the previous HSAC meeting, Terry Connolly from Nourish. NJ and Carolyn Lake from the Interfaith Food Pantry discussed potential assistance during SNAP delays.

**C.** The next HSAC meeting will be held on November 18, 2025. Morris County Prevention is Key will present on Harmless Reduction, and the Community Food Bank will present on its programs and SNAP changes.

**D.** Ms. Hess met with the Morris/Sussex/Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee to establish a 2026 meeting schedule. The Committee will be reintroducing Lunch & Learn's in 2026.

**XI. Old Business – no comment**

**XII. New Business**

- A.** Ms. Borden shared that she recently met with representatives from the state legislature to discuss legislation related to telehealth regulations for mental health practitioners.
- B.** Mr. Martinak shared information regarding Bill S4792. He also announced that the Garden State Association of Recovery Residences (GSARR), an affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR), is an active board that is currently providing advocacy efforts towards Bills A:3891 and S:2527.

**XIII. Adjourn Meeting**

Mr. DeVito, Chair, requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Benson made a motion, and Mr. Martinak seconded. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Lichtenberg  
Administrative Professional