

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 900
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MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)
Thursday, June 12, 2026, 5:15 PM – Hybrid
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Attendance

Mr. DeVito, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:21 pm. A quorum was not established and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Brenda Budd-Dunn, Rockaway Municipal Alliance (virtual)
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative (virtual)
Victor DeVito, Citizen Representative - Chair
Julian Hill, Esq, Morris County Prosecutor's Office (virtual)
David Martinak, Citizen Representative
LaJuan Tucker, Esq, Morris County Prosecutor's Office (virtual)
Amy Villano, Acenda (virtual)

Board Liaisons:

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

Morris County Board of County Commissioners:

Christine Myers, Commissioner, Human Services Liaison (virtual)

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services
Louise Lichtenberg, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services

Others in Attendance:

Jessica Raczky, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern NJ

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of the May 14, 2026 meeting minutes was tabled due to a lack of quorum.

III. Open to Public – No comment

IV. Presentation: Big Brothers Big Sisters – Jessica Raczyk

Ms. Raczyk presented information about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey (BBBS) and their mentoring programs. BBBS covers ten counties: Bergen, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren. The following programs are offered in Morris County:

- Community-Based Mentoring – One-to-one mentoring between a child and adult with 4-6 hours of outings per month for a minimum of 1 year. Children in the program are aged 6-18 years old and are usually dealing with trauma, social skills difficulties, or a lack of support at home.
- School-Based Mentoring – One-to-one mentoring between Morristown High School students and Alexander Hamilton Elementary School students that runs during the school year.
- Bigs in Blue – Partnership with the Morris County Sheriff's Office where officers work with elementary school students to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community.
- Workplace Mentoring – One-to-one mentoring between employees and high school students that focuses on career readiness through resume building and interview practice.
- Creating Access to Resources, Events & Support (CARES) Program – A wraparound service where youth and families have more opportunities for college prep, sports events, business discounts, school supplies and more.

All mentors go through multiple interviews with case managers, receive background and reference checks, and take customized training sessions. The case managers will also check in regularly throughout the match process. Annual surveys are conducted to assess child/youth outcomes and the strength of the relationship between the mentor and the mentee.

The Opioid Settlement Funding awarded to BBBS will support 20 youth in the School- or Community-Based Mentoring programs. Ms. Csengeto asked if there is a waitlist. Ms. Raczyk stated that for Community-Based Mentoring, there is a waitlist, but it is not first-come first-serve as there is a matching process.

Mr. DeVito asked if mentees ever return to the program to become a mentor and Ms. Raczyk stated that it happens sometimes in their School-Based Mentoring program.

V. Chair Report – Mr. DeVito

Mr. DeVito shared that he attended the Commissioners' Meeting on May 27 and received a Proclamation in honor of May being Mental Health Awareness Month.

There will be no formal meetings in July/August, but members involved in subcommittees can expect to still be meeting during that time.

On Monday, there will be a Leadership Advisory meeting to discuss CY2027 Funding.

VI. Closed Session:

Mr. DeVito, Chair, asked for those with a conflict of interest to leave the room. Ms. Brown and Ms. Gatica left the room. Ms. Lichtenberg moved Ms. Villano and Commissioner Myers to a virtual breakout room via Webex.

Mr. DeVito, Chair, requested a motion to close the open portion of the meeting. Mr. Benson made a motion, and Mr. Martinak seconded.

According to the P.L. 1975 Ch.231 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the board closed the open portion of the meeting at 5:48 pm.

Return to Meeting

Mr. DeVito, Chair, requested a motion to begin the open session. Mr. Benson made a motion and Ms. Csengeto seconded. The session reopened at 5:51 pm. Ms. Villano and Commissioner Myers returned to the meeting virtually, and Ms. Brown and Ms. Gatica returned to the meeting room.

Action Resulting From Closed Session – CH51 and GIA-SU Modifications

Mr. DeVito, Chair, stated that the group discussed a subgrant modification for Chapter 51. Due to a lack of quorum, nothing was approved. Voting will take place over email.

VII. State Liaison Report:

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

Ms. Gatica reported that the Request for Proposals (RFP) titled Opioid Overdose/Infectious Disease Prevention, Education, and Support for Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Agencies was awarded to the New Jersey Harm Reduction Coalition. She noted that it is a statewide service.

The FY2026 Contract Renewal Memorandum was sent out to agencies on May 28. The deadline to submit applications is June 12. Agencies are able to submit a request for an extension as the award summaries have not yet been distributed.

A loan repayment opportunity is available under the Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program (STAR LRP). Applications are due June 23.

The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) is offering monthly Presumptive Eligibility (PE) training.

David Helfand has been named as the new Assistant Commissioner for DMHAS.

New Jersey's 11th Annual Suicide Prevention Conference will be held on September 10, 2026. It is an all-day virtual event with keynote speakers and breakout sessions. Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Education (CE) Units are available. Mr. Martinak asked if the Opioid Summit will also be held in September and Ms. Gatica confirmed that it will be held that month as well.

VIII. Staff Reports:

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Archer

Ms. Archer shared that a Municipal Alliance Coordinator will be named by the end of June or early July. The alliances are working on their FY2027 Plans. There were several statewide changes in the guidelines that impacted the initial plans, particularly assemblies no longer being an allowable cost. Due to this change, half of the alliances continue to work on submitting their plans for approval. It was also noted that Supplemental funding will be announced by the end of the month.

Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Archer

Ms. Archer announced that this year's Overdose Awareness Day will take place in August, but an exact date is to be confirmed.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Archer

Ms. Archer attended the New Jersey Association of County Mental Health Administrators meeting on May 18. At the meeting, it was announced that 988 surpassed 1,000 dispatches from the Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORTs) statewide. There is ongoing difficulty nationwide transferring calls from 911 to 988, but Morris County continues to work to spread awareness to the public about its services.

An annual funding announcement will be sent out shortly to the Request for Applications (RFA) mailing list, as well as posted to the Morris County website. FY2027 Social Services for the Homeless funding is currently open for applications with a due date of June 16 by 2:00 pm.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was announced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and information has since been distributed to all providers. A significant change noted in the NOFO is the decrease in guaranteed funding from 90% to 60% which will potentially impact the availability of permanent supportive housing. Focus has also shifted to substance use

treatment, recovery beds, and transitional housing. Mr. Martinak asked how many agencies receive funding through the CoC and Ms. Archer stated that there are approximately 7-8 agencies and 11-12 programs supported through the CoC. Discussion ensued regarding capacity for housing vouchers and permanent supportive housing units and the need for wraparound services for individuals with mental illness experiencing homelessness.

IX. Subcommittee Reports:

Funding – Ms. Archer

The Chapter 51 modification that was discussed in closed session will be sent out over email for a vote due to lack of quorum.

Planning – Ms. Archer

Ms. Archer reviewed the Funding Priorities for Chapter 51, Opioid Settlement Funding, and Grant-in-Aid Mental Health/Substance Use. It was suggested to broaden the target population in the priorities.

Legislative/Advocacy - No report

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) - No report

X. Joint Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) Report – Ms. Brown

Ms. Brown shared that the last PAC meeting took place on June 5. The February, March, and May minutes were approved. At the meeting, Ms. Archer provided a County report and Ms. Gatica provided a State report. Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital (GPPH) shared data for May on the number of Morris County residents discharged and admitted from the hospital. Leena George, Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P), reported case information from the Morris East and West offices. Discussion focused on the challenges facing young adults in the foster care system transitioning into the adult system. Members discussed the possibility of developing a subcommittee to focus on the subpopulation. Also, at the meeting, Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro, Center for Family Services, shared that NJ4S funding was announced to be reinstated.

XI. Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) Report – Ms. Archer

The HSAC is preparing for the upcoming funding cycle and monitoring site visits. Discussion at the last meeting centered around the CoC and coordinated entry.

XII. Old Business – No comment

XIII. New Business

Ms. Archer shared that the Office of Community Development is working on finalizing funding and reallocations for PY2027.

XIV. Adjourn Meeting

Mr. DeVito, Chair, requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Martinak made a motion and Mr. Benson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Lichtenberg
Administrative Professional