

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, May 14, 2026, 5:15 PM – Hybrid
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Attendance

Mr. DeVito, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm. A quorum was established and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Brenda Budd-Dunn, Rockaway Municipal Alliance Coordinator
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative (virtual)
Victor DeVito, Citizen Representative - Chair
Julian Hill, Esq, Morris County Prosecutor's Office (virtual)
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 (virtual)
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff's Office (virtual)
Brian Young, Citizen Representative

Board Liaisons:

Rose Brown, MSW, Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris
John Verney, MSW, LSW, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

Morris County Staff:

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

Others in Attendance:

Becky Cocito, Community Member
Naveen Setya, Community Member (virtual)

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeVito, Chair, requested a motion to approve the March 12, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Benson made a motion and Mr. Martinak seconded. All were in favor with three abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

III. Open to Public

Mr. Setya asked about the process of approving presentations for the MHASAB. Ms. Archer stated that presentation ideas can be submitted to herself and Ms. Lichtenberg via email. If the presentation is attached to an agency, information about the agency should be submitted as well.

IV. Chair Report – Mr. DeVito

Mr. DeVito shared that the Morris County Commissioners will present a proclamation at the next Work Session on May 27 in honor of Mental Health Awareness month. The meeting will take place at the Administration & Records Building in Morristown at 5:00 pm and all are encouraged to attend. Ms. Archer added that the Commissioners will also be presenting a proclamation to recognize Older Americans Month.

V. Closed Session:

Mr. DeVito, Chair, asked for those with a conflict of interest to leave the room. Ms. Lichtenberg moved Ms. Brown and Mr. Setya to a virtual breakout room via Webex. Ms. Cocito joined the meeting during the closed session and was also asked to step into another room until voting and discussion were complete.

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 5:24 pm.

Return to Meeting

Mr. DeVito, Chair, requested a motion to begin the open session. Mr. Benson made a motion and Mr. Martinak seconded. The session reopened at 5:30 pm. Ms. Brown and Mr. Setya returned to the meeting virtually, and Ms. Cocito returned to the meeting room.

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

Mr. DeVito, Chair, stated that the group discussed three subgrant modifications for Chapter 51 and Grant-in-Aid – Substance Use funding. Let the record reflect the Board voted to approve the modifications in closed session. As discussed in closed session, Mr. DeVito requested a motion to approve the modifications. Mr. Benson made a motion and Mr. Young seconded. All were in favor with no opposition and four abstentions.

VI. State Liaison Report:

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) – Mr. Verney

The next Quarterly Provider meeting is scheduled for June 11 at 10:00 am. The link to register was sent to all providers via email.

Mr. Verney discussed two new funding opportunities. The first is a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Independent Peer Review, and the second is an RFP for Statewide Disaster-Focused Network. Information about both RFPs can be found on the DMHAS website on the Notice of Funding Opportunities webpage.

VII. Staff Reports:

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Fosko

Ms. Fosko is working closely with municipalities to assist in getting their FY2027 plans submitted and approved.

Quarter 3 reports are currently in the process of being closed out.

Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Fosko

Ms. Fosko shared that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern NJ is scheduled to present at the June 11 meeting on their Community-Based Youth Mentoring Program. Mr. Martinak asked what the program is funded under and Ms. Fosko stated that it is 2026 Opioid Settlement Funding.

It was announced that Ms. Fosko will be resigning from her position with the County at the end of the month.

Opioid Overdose Awareness Day will be held at 1 Medical Drive in a few months. A date has not yet been established, but if anyone knows of interested speakers they can reach out to Ms. Fosko or Ms. Lichtenberg. The speakers must have been directly impacted by an opioid overdose, either through personally experiencing it themselves, or through a loved one.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Archer

Ms. Archer will attend all site visits in 2026. The visits are not yet scheduled, but she anticipates the dates to be end of July or August.

The Office of Community Development's Annual Action Plan has been on display on the Morris County website. It has received no public comments and will be submitted to HUD in late May or early June. The Office is anticipating small decreases to funding to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), as well as a slight increase to the HOME Partnerships Program (HOME).

The Continuum of Care is looking for new members to join the Executive Committee, which reviews priorities and allocations for HUD funding to assist those experiencing homelessness. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has not yet been released, but is expected to be published later in May. Potential changes to the 2027 NOFO include

caps on Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), and a lower percentage of guaranteed funding. Ms. Archer noted that while these changes are in discussion, they have not yet been confirmed.

Mr. Young asked if the MHASAB can consider allocating funding to agencies who might receive decreases due to the changes in the NOFO. Ms. Archer clarified that housing vouchers are anticipated to be one of the areas significantly impacted, and vouchers are not typically supported through Grant-in-Aid funding due to the large amount of funding needed to support these types of programs.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports:

Funding – Ms. Archer

The Division is working to convene both the Planning and Funding Subcommittees within the next month to discuss priorities for 2027. The priorities will then be voted on at the June 11 MHASAB meeting.

Planning – Ms. Archer

The Planning Subcommittee will meet either end of May or beginning of June to discuss Opioid Overdose Awareness Day.

Legislative/Advocacy - No report

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) - No report

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

The last Joint PAC meeting was held on May 1. Ms. Archer provided a County report, and Judy Hayletts provided the DMHAS report. Tom Bakelas also shared data from Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital (GPPH). The hospital census as of May 1 was 381 individuals with 79 from Morris County.

There was discussion at the meeting regarding the gap in housing assistance and services for youth transitioning from the foster care system into the adult system. Ms. Brown discussed the potential in looking at that subpopulation in terms of advocacy.

Freedom House shared that they will be opening a new facility for women and children within the next few months.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for June 5.

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

There was no HSAC meeting in April. The next meeting will be held on May 26.

XI. Old Business – No comment

XII. New Business

Ms. Archer shared that at the November meeting, there will be presentations on mental health outreach programs. These programs include 988's Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORTs), the ARRIVE Together program, Center for Family Services' Crisis Stabilization Centers, and the Psychiatric Emergency Screening Center.

Mr. Martinak asked about the funding process for 2027. Ms. Archer stated that the Division cannot provide specifics on when the Request for Applications (RFA) will be released as it is a competitive process.

XIII. Adjourn Meeting

Mr. DeVito, Chair, requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Budd-Dunn made a motion and Mr. Martinak seconded. Martinak, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Lichtenberg
Administrative Professional