

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, January 12, 2023, 5:15 pm – Webex Meeting ONLY
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order and Attendance

Mr. Chris Chernick, Chair, called to order at 5:20 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Caroline Bailey, Morris County Prevention is Key/CARES
Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative – HSAC Liaison
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County – Vice-Chair
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Robert Peluso, Citizen Representative
Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Erica Valvano, Morris County Sheriff's Office
Amy Villano, Acenda Integrated Health
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff's Office

Morris County Commissioner:

Christine Myers, Morris County Deputy Director, Commissioner Liaison

Board Liaisons:

Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services – PAC Vice-Chair
Cynthia Gatica, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services

Others in Attendance:

Rose Brown, Mental Health Association
Tracey Cappicille, Mental Health Association
Robert Davidson, Mental Health Association

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Department of Human Services
Kasey Errico, Director of the Department of Human Services
Anna Marie Hess, Department of Human Services
Rosalyn Suarez, Department of Human Services

II. Planning – 2023 Slate of Officers – Ms. Ward

Ms. Ward stated that the nominees presented at our November meeting were Mr. Chris Chernick for Chair and Ms. Cheryl Garodnick for Vice-Chair. No other nominees were presented to the committee. Ms. Csengeto motioned to accept Mr. Chernick as Chair, Ms. Garodnick as Vice-Chair, and Mr. Hill second. All were in favor, with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

III. Approval of November 11, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, requested a motion to approve the November 11th meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Mr. Hill motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

IV. Open to the Public – no comment**V. Presentation: Teen Connect Warm Line – Ms. Tracey Cappicille, Mental Health Association**

This is a non-crisis mental health support line for youth ages 13 – 24. This call-in-support line was launched in November 2022 to help with feeling connected, which helps reduce stress, and loneliness and improves mental health. The line is open Monday through Friday, 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm 888.866.6054, and for a texting option, starting January 16, 2023, 973.791.5700. Nine youth volunteers (18-25 years of age) answer the calls, with three clinicians supervising the calls. The volunteers have completed the Youth Mental Health First Aid certification course and received training in bullying and LGBTQ+. This line can serve individuals throughout the state.

VI. Chair Report – Mr. Chris Chernick

Mr. Chernick announced that the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services liaison, Ms. Eileen Alexander, is now in Bergen County. Ms. Cynthia Gatica is the new Morris County liaison. We look forward to working with her this year.

We are recruiting new members for MHASAB. If you know someone interested and would like to become an appointed member, please contact Ms. Archer at aarcher@co.morris.nj.us.

VII. State Liaison Report – Ms. Cynthia Gatica, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Service

- DHS Listening Session
 - In-person will be on January 17th beginning at 1:00 pm
 - Virtual January 19th beginning at 1:00 pm
 - In-person on January 24th beginning at 1:00 pm
 - Email humanservices@dhs.nj.gov to register, including your name, phone number, and organization
 - The registration deadline is January 13, 20223
- Request for Proposals
 - Recovery Management Check-Up for Individuals Experiencing Substance Use Challenges
 - This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for Recovery Management Check-Up (RMC) for Individuals Experiencing Substance Use Challenges to ensure the success of recovery. This RFP is funded by the Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant COVID-19 Supplement and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
 - The total annualized funding for this RFP is \$1,500,000. DMHAS anticipates making up to three (3) regional awards, up to \$500,000 each, with one award for each of the following three (3) regions:
 - **North:** Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties
 - **Central:** Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and Union Counties
 - **South:** Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem Counties
 - The RFP intends to offer a RMC service for discharged clients to support their independent living and success with recovery. The new proposed program will provide more methods of outreach to clients. These methods include virtual face-to-face visits, text messaging, chat features, and in-person contact opportunities. This check-up service will help provide local recovery support, including information about local resources such as self-help meetings, food pantries, and sober houses if needed. The successful bidder(s) will provide services to clients in each country specified in the region the bidder will serve.
 - Residential Services for Individuals from Nursing Facilities
 - This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for residential services for individuals discharged from nursing facilities. The RFP is to develop a Level A+ Residential program for those with a mental

health diagnosis and medical needs. DMHAS anticipates making one award to a vendor to provide services to five (5) individuals. This home will be in New Jersey and will accept referrals assigned by DMHAS

- Total annualized funding for the ***deficit-funded contract*** is \$377,000.00, subject to State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making one award to provide services to five (5) individuals. In addition, up to \$600,000 in one-time capital funding may be requested to purchase a single-story home with sufficient bedroom and bathroom accommodations for five (5) individual residents and the requisite staff. Also, up to \$100,000 in one-time capital funding may be made available for physical modifications to a home to be purchased or long-term leased or for physical modifications to a home already owned by the bidder
 - Bidders Conference-March 15, 2023
 - February 7, 2023, Deadline for receipt of proposals – no later than 4:00 pm EST
 - March 29, 2023, Final Award
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Managing Entity
 - This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for a Managing Entity for the New Jersey 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline system. Total annualized funding is \$2,000,000, subject to State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates awarding funds to a singular agency. This RFP aims to provide funds to a single agency to establish itself as the Managing Entity for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in New Jersey. The award recipient will be responsible for the following:
 - Collaborating with all current and future independently operated, DMHAS contracted contact centers into the New Jersey 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline system
 - Establishing and maintaining affiliation agreements with any non-contracted 988 Lifeline center
 - Serving as Liaison between New Jersey 988 Lifeline crisis centers and Vibrant Emotional Health in relation to Vibrant's Unified Platform
 - Data collection and reporting to DMHAS and SAMHSA as outlined in this RFP
 - Creating and maintaining a Resource and Referral Database or subcontracting for this responsibility using a system identified and/or approved by DMHAS
 - Assertively monitoring referrals made by 988 contact centers to ensure connections are made during these handoffs to treatment

- Ensuring that the Managing Entity and the 988 Lifeline centers adhere to diversity, inclusion, equity, and cultural sensitivity expectations outlined in the National CLAS standards.
 - Providing training to 988 Lifeline centers as required by DMHAS, Vibrant, or SAMHSA or subcontracting for this responsibility
 - Dispatching Mobile Crisis Response teams
 - January 31, 2023, Deadline for receipt of proposals – no later than 4 pm EST
 - February 21, 2023, Preliminary award announcement
 - March 7, 2023, Final award announcement
 - April 1, 2023, Anticipated contract start date
- Announcements
 - NJ Family Care Community-States must resume Medicaid eligibility processes beginning April 1, 2023. Guidance is anticipated from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in early January. An update will be shared at the February 1 meeting of the Medical Assistance Advisory Council. Also, there will be updates to the StayCoveredNJ website, removing references to the end of the Covid Public Health Emergency and clearly stating the April 1st date for when eligibility processes will resume. Please visit the Community Toolkit page for posters in English, Spanish, and 19 other languages.
 - A bill was passed and signed by Governor Murphy (P.L. 2022, c. 34 (N.J.S.A. 18A:71C-87 et seq.)), establishing a loan redemption program for behavioral healthcare providers. The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, HESAA, has published proposed rules for the program (54 N.J.R. 2360 - 2363). Written comments regarding the rules may be submitted to HESAA by February 17, 2023. Please see the following links for additional information. Please visit <https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/Default.aspx> for more information
 - The NJ Supreme Court directive requires that all involuntary civil commitment hearings commence in person on March 1, 2023. This does not include review and CEPP hearings, though it is anticipated that there will be a gradual return to in-person hearings at some point
 - DCA's Winter Termination Program can help prevent service discontinuation for eligible residential customers receiving residential electric, sewer, and water service from a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative through 3/15. To find out if you are eligible, see the flyer or go to shorturl.at/bVY27
 - Effective January 1, 2023, the Northern Region Office Program Analyst assignments are changing to:
 - Eileen Alexander, Bergen, and Special Projects
 - Cynthia Gatica, Morris, and Passaic Counties
 - Dale Monroe, Essex, and Hudson Counties

- Denise Davis, Union, and Somerset Counties
- Angela Wairimu, Northwestern NJ Tri-County (Sussex, Warren, and Hunterdon County)
- Training Opportunities
 - The New Jersey Child Placement Advisor Council and the NAMI NJ are offering a two-part series on Looking at Mental Health Through a Cultural Lens on January 19, 2023. Register here to receive your ZOOM link: <https://njcip.wufoo.com/forms/zk8elnx0wa23ex/>

VIII. Staff Reports

- **Municipal Alliance Coordinator** – No Report
- **Addiction Services Coordinator** – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez
 - The County Comprehensive Plan (CCP) for 2024-2027 was submitted to the state for review. Ms. Suarez thanked everyone who participated in the planning and focus group questions. The input and feedback were extremely helpful in writing the plan.
 - The 12 and 48-hour Intoxicated Driver Resource Center providers could not continue their programs this year. As a stopgap plan, Camden County Community College is currently running the Morris 12-hour classes for Morris County residents until a new provider is selected. Any Morris County residents who need to schedule or reschedule their 48-hour classes will be referred to New Hope as a “friendly transfer.”
- **Mental Health Administrator** – Ms. Amy Archer
 - Last year, there was a discussion about the rise in mental health issues at our shelter and motel placements throughout the County. This subject was also discussed at the State Mental Health Administrators meeting and is a state-wide concern. A possible solution was to bring clinicians into the shelters to meet with individuals. This is an ongoing discussion, and more information will be provided as it becomes available. The following State Mental Health Administrators meeting is on January 23, 2023.
 - The Point in Time Count (PITC) will occur on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. This is a count of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population in Morris County. This will occur over seven days, but only asking where the person spent the night on January 24th. Mental Health Association, Homeless Solutions, and Hope One/Hope Hub will participate in the count. They will distribute bags containing personal hygiene products and resource information, including a QR Code card directing clients to NJ 2-1-1 to connect with warming centers and 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline cards for those needing services.
 - We need a Human Service Advisory Committee (HSAC) Liaison. This person will attend the HSAC meeting and report back to the MHASAB. Anyone interested should contact Anna Marie Hess at ahess@co.morris.nj.us

- Ms. Hess will be reaching out to the board members about two weeks before our meetings to ask for discussion topics or presentations for our meetings. Please be on the lookout for that email.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

- **Funding** – no report – subcommittee sign-ups coming soon
- **Legislative/Advocacy** – no report – subcommittee sign-ups coming soon
- **County Alliance Steering Subcommittee** – no report
- **Planning** – Ms. Archer
 - We are starting to plan the Forum for 2023. For information to follow.

X. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Borden

- The group has not met since our last meeting. The next PAC Meeting will be Friday, February 3, 2023.

XI. HSAC Report – Ms. Csengeto

- The State of New Jersey extended school-based youth services funding through 2024. As a result, they will implement the “hub and spoke” program simultaneously during that time.
- There is a new Behavioral Health Loan Redemption Program for students going into the BH field. See the website for more details
<https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/BHLRP.aspx>
- On November 16, 2022, the Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans held a listening session at OTA on transportation, and it was a success
- World Aids Day is December 1st, 2022, a day that we recognize those we have lost to HIV and AIDS
 - EDGE NJ is opening an exhibit in their new Art Gallery featuring the works of Robert Armstrong and Ronald Ritzie

XII. Old Business – no comment

XIII. New Business

- Ms. Valvano stated that MHA and Hope One would go out on January 26th from 6:00 am – 9:00 am for the Point In Time Count. They plan on visiting six locations: Morristown Train Station, Staples in Morristown, Walmart in Cedar Knowles, Rockaway ShopRite, Dover Train Station, and Edna’s Haven at Trinity Lutheran Church. The team will poll the homeless encampments at these locations and provide outreach information and personal hygiene products.
- Ms. Valvano announced that on April 4, 2023, they would host the Hope One Symposium at the County College of Morris. Flyer and more information to follow.

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Benson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II