

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

Director
Christine Myers

Deputy Director
Stephen H. Shaw

Douglas R. Cabana
John Krickus
Thomas J. Mastrangelo
Tayfun Selen
Deborah A. Smith



County Administrator
Deena Leary

Department Director
Katharine A. Errico
973.285.6863

Deputy Director
Gary L. Denamen
973326.7240

Division Director
Amy Archer
973-285-6852

MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)
Thursday, October 10, 2024, 5:15 PM – Hybrid
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Attendance

Mr. Chernick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM. A quorum was not established at the start of the meeting. Attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative - Chair
Linda Csegento, Citizen Representative
Victor DeVito, Citizen Representative
David Martinak, Citizen Representative
Tracey McGuire, Citizen Representative (virtual – joined for closed session)
Justin Sudol, Morris County Sherriff's Office (virtual – joined for closed session)
Amy Villano, Acenda Integrated Health (virtual)
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sherriff's Office (virtual – joined for closed session)

Board Liaisons:

Rose Brown, MSW, Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, Inc.
Cynthia Gatica, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (virtual)

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Division of Community & Behavioral Health
Mackensie Fosko, Division of Community & Behavioral Health
Anna Marie Hess, Division of Community & Behavioral Health
Louise Lichtenberg, Division of Community & Behavioral Health
Cherish Robinson, Division of Community & Behavioral Health

Others in Attendance:

Elizabeth Williamson, Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, Inc.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of September 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the minutes was tabled to the next meeting due to a lack of quorum.

III. Presentation: SURE – Ms. Williamson

- A.** Ms. Williamson is the Director of the Substance Use Recovery and Empowerment (SURE) Program for the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris.
- B.** The program offers several different levels of care from traditional outpatient to intensive outpatient.
- C.** It is co-occurring focused as the majority of clients that are served have dual diagnoses. As long as the individual is stabilized, they are able to obtain care through the program regardless of what they have been diagnosed with, but substance use must be primary.
- D.** Both Ms. Williamson and her colleagues are fully licensed.
- E.** In the Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), group sessions are administered up to four days a week. There are also individual sessions, which are roughly 45 minutes to an hour long per week. Many outpatient clients utilize the program in a way that works best for them, meaning that some come once to twice a week, while others may attend more often, and the providers assist with scheduling.
- F.** SURE accepts both Medicaid and Medicare. Due to receiving funding through the GIA and Chapter 51 grant, they are also able to work with clients who are either pending Medicaid or are ineligible for other types of insurance.
- G.** They receive many referrals from the Intoxicated Drivers Resource Center (IDRC). While it is common that individuals from IDRC do not have any type of insurance, SURE is still able to provide them with an assessment and, possibly, treatment.
- H.** There is a psychiatrist on staff who works closely with the providers and clients. Whether or not the psychiatrist prescribes medication, they are still highly involved in the client's treatment process. The program is currently awaiting final approval to prescribe and administer Vivitrol on-site. For that reason, they have a nurse on-site as well.
- I. Questions:**
 - i.** Mr. Chernick asked where the program is located. Ms. Williamson replied that they are located at 1160 Parsippany Blvd. She further stated that the building and space are nice in terms of quality so that clients do not feel as though they are undeserving of the same level of care that someone with private insurance might receive.
 - ii.** Ms. Archer asked when the SURE program will be able to start administering and prescribing the Vivitrol. Ms. Williamson stated that they currently have a nurse trainer attending their site on October 15, 2024 to show how to administer the Vivitrol in order to ensure that the doctor feels comfortable with the administering of the medication. After that process is complete, they should be able to start within the next month.
 - iii.** Ms. Archer further asked if Ms. Williamson had any materials she would like to be distributed. Ms. Williamson gave out her business cards and flyers. She stated that she will leave any extras with the Division to be distributed at the next meeting.

- iv. Mr. Martinak asked if they still prescribed Naltrexone or just Vivitrol. Ms. Williamson stated that they sometimes will start patients on Naltrexone and see what works best for them. Mr. Martinak further asked for more information about how Vivitrol is prescribed and administered. Ms. Williamson stated that it is a one time prescription, and they do not house the prescription on site for the clients. The client would receive the medication in the mail, bring it to SURE, and the nurse would administer the medication. Vivitrol is not a medication that can be abused in the form they are prescribing it, so it is not a problem for the client to hold onto it until they are able to get it administered.
- v. Ms. Csegento asked how people who are street homeless would receive the medication since they would not have a mailing address. Ms. Brown stated that sometimes the program uses Edna's Haven in Dover as the address for mail, and Ms. Williamson added that it is handled on a case by case basis. If a client does not have a mailing address, they may try an oral medication, such as Naltrexone, which could be picked up at the pharmacy. The only problem with the oral medication is that it would require the client to take it everyday.

IV. Open to Public – no comment

V. Chair Report – Mr. Chernick

- A. The last MHASAB meeting of the year will be held in November.

VI. Closed Session – Moved to the end of the meeting due to a lack of quorum.

VII. State Liaison Report:

A. Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services – Ms. Gatica

- i. Community Hope received funding from the Group Home RFP for five individuals who are being discharged from nursing facilities. They received capital funding to purchase a home and are currently in the process of doing so.
- ii. The Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORTs) were awarded in Essex and Hudson county to the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris. The original date for the award to go live was September 23, 2024, but it was delayed.
- iii. The Behavioral Health Care Provider Loan Redemption Program applications reopened on October 1, 2024. This is the third round under HESA.org for individuals to apply for tuition reimbursement. Individuals can apply up to three times for a two year commitment of \$50,000, resulting in a total of \$150,000 after six years. In order to receive the funding, individuals have to be working for an existing licensed mental health program. Additionally, they can receive incentive grants up to \$5,000 annually if they're working with children.

- iv. The Behavioral Health Integration Advisory Hub meeting was at the end of September. They discussed trainings and preparation for transitioning to the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) for Medicaid. Information about the meeting will be posted to the DHMAS website.
- v. The 9th Annual New Jersey Suicide Prevention Conference will be held virtually on October 29, 2024. Registration in advance is required and there are CMEs and CEUs available.
- vi. The last CSS meeting was held on October 9, 2024, and the CSS conference will be on October 27, 2024. There are slots available, but registration closes on October 11, 2024.
- vii. The Fiscal Year 2025 Memo Contract Renewal Award was released on October 9, 2024. DMHAS will be working with providers to finalize the calendar year 2025 renewals.

VIII. Staff Reports:

A. Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Robinson

- i. The Municipal Alliance Grant System (MAGS) Phase Two is opening in late October and the state will be holding MAGS training for the Municipal Alliance Coordinators.
 - 1. The County Quarterly Report Webinar will be on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, and the Municipal Quarterly Report Webinar will be on Thursday, October 17, 2024 via Zoom.
 - 2. The county and municipal training videos and instruction documents will be uploaded into every MAGS user’s account “Training Materials” folder for reference.
- ii. For Fiscal Year 2025, the Quarter One reports are going to be reviewed October 22, 2024.
- iii. Morris County applied for \$7,500 for the DHMAS Block Grant, which provides countywide funding for education and training opportunities. The grant period is from November 4, 2024, to March 14, 2025. The following are the allowable costs under the grant:
 - 1. Community Programming and Materials
 - 2. Program Refreshments
 - 3. Presentors for Countywide Presentations
 - 4. Limited Program Giveaways
 - 5. Reimbursement for conference registration, meals, and car or train travel costs

B. Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Fosko

- i. The next Stigma Free meeting will be held Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 1:30 PM via Webex.
- ii. Ms. Fosko attended the Morris County School Boards Association Meeting on October 2, 2024 and presented a brief overview of the Morris County Stigma Free Initiative. She received feedback that some school districts were looking for a toolkit specifically for them. There is a toolkit on the website for universities, but not for school districts, so that is something they are looking into developing.

- iii. The Fiscal Year 2024 Opioid Settlement State and Subdivision Reports were posted to the state website last week.
- iv. Legal Services of Northwest Jersey is going to be hosting an open mic and karaoke fundraiser on Friday, October 18th, 2024. It will be held at the Mt. Tabor Fire Department. Tickets are \$30 and flyers will be circulated after the meeting.

C. Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Archer

- i. The MCORT GoLive date has been delayed. Once the Division receives news of when the new date will be, they will send out the information.
- ii. Ms. Archer and Ms. Meg Rodriguez have been reaching out to some of the providers who have been awarded state funding. They met with Bridgeway for the MCORT several months ago and recently met with Center for Family Services for their Crisis Stabilization Centers in order to better understand what service at the centers will look like. The Prosecutor’s Office will likely be involved as well as they administer several of their own programs through their office. The purpose of reaching out is to better establish an understanding of the programs in order to facilitate communication with the community regarding the program information.
- iii. Once Center for Family Services becomes closer to finding a space to establish their Crisis Stabilization Center, Ms. Archer would like to ask them to present to MHASAB due to the fact that it could be another resource for the community in Morris County.
- iv. The New Jersey Crisis Services’ “Who Should I Call?” flyer was distributed by the state in English and Spanish. Since there are several different resources for mental health, the state has created this chart to help people decide whether they should call 988, 911, or 211. They give a few different scenarios, and put a picture by each one for who an individual should call. The flyers will be distributed electronically after the meeting so that the different organizations can make use of the resource.
- v. Human Services is beginning to work on its Point-in-Time (PIT) count. The PIT count is a count of the homeless population in Morris County – both sheltered and unsheltered. There is also a nationwide count every year taken on the same day but Morris County does it for one week.
 - 1. Outreach teams are sent into the community to survey individuals on where they slept that night in order to better understand the housing situation and adjust funding and resources as necessary. In October, there was a meeting with PIT Providers where roughly 95% of the invited providers attended. This year, PIT is offering more technical assistance such as streaming of Monarch’s presentation on how to do the count. Project Homeless Connect will also be occurring during that time. Ms. Archer encouraged anyone who would like to volunteer to reach out to her. There are shifts starting at 5AM and some ending at 2AM on weekends.

IX. Subcommittee Reports:

- A. Funding** – no report
- B. Planning** – no report
- C. Legislative/Advocacy** – no report
- D. County Alliance Steering Committee (CASS)** – no report

X. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Brown

- A.** The last PAC meeting was held Friday, October 4, 2024.
- B.** Kenneth Bae from Raymond J. Lesniak Recovery High School presented at the meeting. The purpose of the school is for young people struggling with substance use to be able to finish out their education. A powerpoint will be sent out after the meeting for members to read more information about the program which is located in Roselle, New Jersey. At the moment, they have collaborated with NJ4S. The school also provides transportation, which is reimbursed at the end of the year, and the tuition is completely covered by the grant funding they have received. Therefore, there are minimal barriers to being able to attend the school.
- C.** Josh Belsky, the new CEO of Greystone Psychiatric Hospital, presented at the meeting as well.
 - i.** Mr. Belsky gave an update on the current situation at the hospital and discussed how some of the hospital’s strength comes from its community partners.
 - ii.** The hospital is currently serving ten counties and its census is 378 but they have the capacity to go up to 393.
 - iii.** There was a recommendation to increase IOC in regards to referrals from the state and the hospital system as it is an underutilized service. Ms. Brown has a meeting the week of October 14, 2024 with the Judges in both Sussex and Morris County. Therefore, Ms. Brown is calling for an advisory subcommittee to discuss the situation and make sure that consumers have access to, and are utilizing, the IOC.
 - iv.** Mr. Belsky also discussed the introduction of new treatment initiatives, focusing on staff training, trauma informed care, and psychiatric and medical emergency response.
 - v.** Greystone Psychiatric Hospital currently has 1,200 staff.
- D.** Prevention is Key announced another vending machine for their location.
- E.** The Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris has been awarded funding for their Wellness Center and are currently looking for a location. At the moment, it will likely be in Morristown.
- F.** Freedom House has a full program and they are looking forward to opening a women’s recovery program in Morris County.

XI. HSAC Report – Ms. Hess

- A.** Stephen Nagel from HomeSharing presented at the previous HSAC meeting on the Shared Affordable Housing Program. The program matches people who are seeking housing with those who need additional income or services to maintain their homes. It is a permanent housing solution that provides companionship and

affordable housing. Seekers and providers are matched based on compatibility and they sign a legal shared living agreement contract. Ongoing match maintenance is conducted to address any issues that may arise between the person renting and the person who owns the property.

- B.** The 2025 HSAC funding recommendations were approved by HSAC and will be submitted to the Morris County Commissioners.
- C.** Nominations for chair and vice chair will be accepted at the next HSAC meeting on October 29, 2024. Voting for the nominations will take place at the January 25, 2025 meeting.
- D.** The Community Resource Exchange Event was held in the parking lot of 1 Medical Dr on September 13, 2024. The event received positive feedback from the community and there were high levels of participation from both vendors and attendees.

XII. Old Business – no comment

XIII. New Business – no comment

XIV. Closed Session

Mr. Sudol, Ms. Whiting, and Ms. McGuire entered the meeting via Webex. A quorum was established.

Ms. Lichtenberg moved Mr. Sudol, Ms. Villano, Ms. Whiting, and Ms. McGuire into a separate online room via Webex for the closed session. Mr. Chernick, Chair, requested a motion to start the closed portion of the meeting. Ms. Csegento motioned to start the closed session, and Mr. DeVito seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions nor oppositions. Motion carried.

According to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the board closed the open portion of the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Return to Meeting

Mr. Chernick, Chair, requested a motion to begin the open session. Ms. Csegento motioned to begin the open session, and Mr. DeVito seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions nor oppositions. Motion carried.

The session reopened at 6:34 PM.

Action Resulting from Closed Session – GIA Funding Recommendations

Mr. Chernick stated that the group discussed funding recommendations for 2025 GIA Mental Health proposals. Let the record reflect that the Board voted to approve the recommendations in closed session.

As discussed in closed session, Ms. Csegento motioned to approve the recommendations, and Mr. DeVito seconded the motion. All were in favor, with three abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

Action Resulting from Closed Session – Ch. 51 and Opioid Funding Recommendations

Mr. Chernick stated that the group discussed funding recommendations for 2025 Ch.51 and Opioid Settlement Funding proposals. Let the record reflect that the Board voted to approve the recommendations in the closed session.

As discussed in the closed session, Ms. Csegento motioned to approve the recommendations, and Mr. DeVito seconded the motion. All were in favor, with three abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

XV. Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Chernick, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Lichtenberg, Administrative Professional