

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 13, 2024, 5:15 PM - Hybrid
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Attendance

Mr. Chernick called the meeting to order at 5:19 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Chris Cherick, Citizen Representative – Chair
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Victor DeVito, Citizen Representative
Julian Hill, Esquire, Morris County Prosecutor’s Office – Vice Chair
David Martinak, Citizen Representative
Vicky Mulligan, Life Center State (virtual)
Alton Robinson, Community Recovery Center of Morris County (virtual)
Amy Villano, Acenda Integrated Health (virtual)
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sherriff’s Office (virtual)

Board Liaisons:

Rose Brown, Mental Health Association
Cynthia Gatica, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (virtual)

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services
Kasey Errico, Director of Morris County Human Services
Anna Marie Hess, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services
Rosalyne Suarez, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Service

Others in Attendance:

Michael Loberfeld, National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI)
Laavanya Pasupuleti, National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI)
Carmen Lopez, Zufall Health

II. Closed Session – county Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) 2024 Supplemental Funding Recommendations

Mr. Chernick asked that anyone in conflict with CASS Supplemental Funding and anyone from the public leave the meeting. Ms. Brown and Ms. Lopez left the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Benson and seconded by Ms. Csengeto to begin the closed session of the meeting. There were no abstentions and no opposition. 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 5:20 p.m.

Return to Meeting

The meeting reopened at 5:25 p.m. Ms. Brown and Ms. Gatica returned to the meeting.

Action Resulting from Closed Session

Mr. Chernick stated that the MHASAB met, reviewed, and discussed the CASS 2024 Supplemental Funding Recommendations. Let the record reflect that the board voted to approve the requests in the closed session.

As discussed in the closed session, Mr. Benson motioned to approve the supplemental funding. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion. All were in favor, with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

III. Approval of May 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Tabled

IV. Presentation: National Alliance of Mental Health (NAMI) – In Our Own Voice (IOOV)
This powerful presentation aims to change attitudes, assumptions, and stereotypes about people living with mental health conditions. Two trained presenters with lived experience of a mental health condition talked openly about their experiences and how they have found pathways to hope and healing. They talked about “What Happened,” “What Helps,” and “What is Next.” All in attendance had the opportunity to ask questions, learn more about mental health, and challenge misconceptions.

The presentation is offered free of charge and is appropriate for diverse audiences, including family members, friends, mental health professionals, and people diagnosed with mental health conditions. IOOV presentations are available for businesses, hospitals, high schools, colleges and universities, faith communities, and community organizations and are offered in Spanish if requested.

V. Open to Public – no comment

VI. Chair Report – Chris Chernick
MHASAB will not hold meetings during July and August due to the fact that Site Monitoring Meetings are being conducted.

VII. State Liaison Report:

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Cynthia Gatica

A. Designated Screening Services for Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Middlesex, Morris, and Somerset Counties

- i. This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (HMHAS) for the continued provision of Designated Screening Services (i.e., Psychiatric Emergency Services) for Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Middlesex, Morris, and Somerset Counties

The psychiatric emergency service programs awarded through this RFP shall offer services to persons approaching or experiencing a psychiatric crisis. Prompt assessment, crisis intervention, and referral services will be offered 24 hours daily, 265 days per year. The program will also operate a 24-hour hotline, with calls answered by trained clinical staff at all times.

Amount of funding available:

Total annualized funding is \$10,672,570, subject to State appropriations as follows:

- Atlantic County: \$2,134,498
- Bergen County: \$1,662,076
- Cape May County: \$970,580
- Middlesex County: \$2,315,524
- Morris County: \$2,251,184
- Somerset County: \$1,338,708

DMHAS anticipates making one award for each county-based service area, resulting in six total awards. Bidders applying for more than one county/region must submit separate proposals for each region.

Timeline:

July 8, 2024 – Deadline to submit written intent to apply – no later than 4:00 pm ET

July 15, 2024 - Deadline for receipt of proposals – no later than 4:00 pm ET

August 12, 2024 – Mental Health Board Letters of Recommendation due

B. Permanent Community-based Housing for Individuals Currently Diagnosed with a Mental Illness who are in a Nursing Facility, State or County Psychiatric Hospital, or are Homeless

- i. The DHS, DMHAS, issues this RFP for the provision of Community Support Services (CSS) and community housing (unsupervised) to adult consumers age 18 and over being discharged from a New Jersey long term

care or nursing facility (NF) or, with prior written DMHAS approval, persons being discharged from a State or County Psychiatric Hospital or persons experiencing homelessness.

Available Funding Amount:

Total Annualized Funding for each award is \$525,950, subject to federal and State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to fifteen (15) awards. DMHAS seeks to award five (5) residences in the three (3) regions defined below. Each of the fifteen(15) residences will accommodate (3) individuals, resulting in a minimum of forty-five (45) community housing placements served through this RFP, with up to forty-five (45) CSS consumers served.

The regions are as follows:

- Northern – (Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Warren, Morris, Essex, Hudson)
- Central – (Monmouth, Mercer, Middlesex, Hunterdon, Somerset, Union)
- Southern – (Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, Cape May)

The ceiling for the deficit-funded purchase of services contract for CSS will be up to \$175,950 in annualized funding for three (3) individuals. State appropriations are funding the purchase of service contracts for CSS. In addition to a maximum of \$175,950 in annualized funding to provide CSS for three (3) individuals, up to \$350,000 in one-time Capital funding may be requested for:

- The purchase or purchase and renovation of a single-family home, townhome, or condominium with three (3) single-bedroom accommodations for three (30 individual residents
- For physical modifications to a residence to be long-term leased
- For physical modifications to a residence already owned by the bidder

The timeline is as follows:

- July 12, 2024, Deadline to submit written intent to apply, no later than 4:00 pm
- July 19, 2024, Deadline for receipt of proposals, no later than 4:00 pm
- August 16, 2024, Mental Health Board Letters of Recommendation are due

C. Mobile Crisis Outreach Respons Teams (MCORT)

- i. This RFP is issued by the NJ DHS, DMHAS for Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORT) to respond to adults (18 and older) in non-life-threatening situations who have contacted the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Available Funding Amount:

Total available annual funding, subject to State appropriations, is \$2,838,704. This funding will be used to support eleven (11) MCORTs across Essex and Hudson Counties in New Jersey. This area is known as Region 9 in the MCORT system. DMHAS will also fund one-time startup costs (for computers, phones, office furniture, vehicles, etc.). DMHAS will make one award. DMHAS intends for this program to provide Medicaid-funded MCORT services under Section 1947 of the US Social Security Act.

The goals of the MCOR system are:

- Provide access to timely crisis intervention services
- De-escalate the crisis and stabilize consumers in the community
- Prevent hospitalization, re-hospitalization, incarceration, and intervention by law enforcement whenever it is safe to do so
- Deliver equitable behavioral crisis services to all New Jersey residents.
- MCORTs will be dispatched by the 988 Managing Entity after a 988 Lifeline Crisis Center determines that a community-based response is needed. The 988 Managing Entity is a DMHAS-contracted organization that will coordinate and oversee current and future DMHAS-contracted 988 Lifeline crisis centers and dispatch MCORTs.

The timeline is as follows:

- June 24, 2024, Deadline to submit written intent to apply and request DHS secure file transfer protocol (SFTP) site login credentials
- July 1, 2024, Deadline for receipt of proposals
- July 25, 2024, Mental Health Board Letters of Recommendation due

More information on these Division funding opportunities is available at:

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/>

D. Bilingual Stipend

New Jersey ranks as one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse states, with large segments of its population being born outside of the United States or not speaking English as a primary language. This rich cultural diversity results in language access needs for individuals seeking or receiving mental health services. To address language access needs, the DMHAS is making up to \$1,000,000 of State appropriations available, on a first-come-first-serve basis, to support Licensed Bilingual Practitioners who complete their terminal degree and are eligible to deliver direct services with the requisite supervision in the following qualifying disciplines: psychiatry, nursing, social work, psychology, professional and/or marriage, and family counseling. Qualifying languages include but are not

limited to: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin and/or Cantonese), French, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Italian, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Urdu, Vietnamese, and American Sign Language (ALS).

Licensed Bilingual Practitioners must be employed by (or an independent contractor of) and work in a DMHAS-contracted qualifying agency that provides direct mental health or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder treatment services in the community (e.g., outpatient, residential, etc.). Inpatient settings are not eligible for the Stipend Program. Licensed Bilingual Practitioners must work full-time (at least 28 hours per week) and use their language skills to directly serve individuals at the qualifying agency in a DMHAS-funded program for two (2) consecutive years. Licensed Bilingual Practitioners who have accepted full-time employment and are being onboarded at a qualifying agency are also eligible to apply. The two (2) year service period begins with the date of DMHAS Stipend Program approval or employment start date, whichever is later.

NJ Licensed Bilingual Psychiatrists and APNs are eligible for reimbursement of up to \$40,000 for loan repayment and \$10,000 for training and supervision. Bilingual Practitioners with State Licensure as LACs, LPCs, LSWs, LCSWs, RNs, Psychologists, Psychologists with 3-year permit, LAMFTs, and LMFTs are eligible for reimbursement up to \$30,000 for loan repayment and \$7,500 for training and supervision.

The stipends may be used for the following expenses:

- Training – defined as any post-terminal degree, educational coursework that directly supports clinical work at the qualifying agency, or training that supports the professional development of the Licensed Bilingual Practitioner. Training also includes preparation classes for licensure examinations and continuing education credits.
- Supervision – defined as clinical supervision received outside the qualified agency to support and satisfy the Licensed Bilingual Practitioner’s requirements for State licensure.
- Loan Repayment—A Qualifying Loan is a government or commercial loan for the actual costs paid for tuition and reasonable education and living expenses related to the conferral of the terminal degree needed to deliver.

The deadline is June 14, 2024.

E. Announcements

- i. Please note that the next Division Quarterly Provider Meeting (QPM) Zoom Webinar is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Register in advance for this webinar at https://dhs-nj.gov/zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_3ESMX7fURWC73pmJ4u0n8w. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

- ii. Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced two new Deputy Commissioners will join NJ Human Services' senior leadership team to oversee medical and behavioral health services, social services and emergency management. Commissioner Adelman names Michael J. Wilson as Deputy Commissioner for Social Services and Valerie Mielke as Deputy Commissioner for Health Services.

In his new role, Mr. Wilson will oversee the Division of Family Development, Office of New Americans and Human Services' Office of Emergency Management.

In her new role, Ms. Mielke will oversee the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, which manages the NJFamilyCare health insurance program that serves about 2 million residents. NJFamilyCare in New Jersey's Medicaid program. She will also oversee the Department's work on First Lady Murphy's Nurture NJ maternal health initiative and will support the Catastrophic Illness in Children's Relief Fund.

VIII. Staff Reports

A. **Municipal Alliance Coordinator** – moved to closed session

B. **Addiction Services Coordinator** – Rosaly Suarez

- i. The next Stigma-Free meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 1:30 pm via Webex
- ii. Prevention is Key (PIK) is hosting a Recovery Recognition Breakfast on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., at 25 West Main Street, Rockaway. During the event, PIK will discuss community needs, provide updates, and acknowledge its volunteer of the month.
- iii. PIK is hosting its annual Memorial Butterfly Release on Saturday, August 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Donatoni Park, Rockaway, to honor those lost to substance use.
- iv. The upcoming Quarterly Provider Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Your active participation is crucial for the success of this meeting. Please ensure your timely registration.
- v. Ms. Fosko and Ms. Suarez recently attended the NJ Prevention Annual Conference in Atlantic City, where they participated for two days. The event featured a range of professionals representing the continuum of care, resource tables, workshops, and speakers. One of the workshops they attended focused on "Harm Reduction Strategies-OnPoint." Sam Rivera, Director at OnPoint, brings 32 years of experience in the field. OnPoint operates in two locations in New York: East Harlem and Washington Heights. Their comprehensive program includes case management, holistic services, clinical care, and nutrition programs. Drop-in centers, on-site medication, a garden for relaxation and reconnecting with nature, ceremonial events, mental health support, a respite program, a barber

shop, and overdose prevention centers. Additionally, Mr. Rivera is in the process of establishing his own detox facility.

C. Mental Health Administrator – Amy Archer

- i. Monitoring will take place in July and August. We encourage all Board members to attend as many monitorings as possible. This is your opportunity to learn about the programs and ask questions to assist with funding recommendations.
- ii. The July and August MHASAB meetings are canceled. We will meet again in September to approve our funding recommendations. We must have a quorum for that meeting.
- iii. HOME-ARP funding is posted on the County website:
<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Community-Development>. The Office of Community Development seeks applications to develop affordable rental units and supportive services. There is an application workshop for interested applicants; the link is available on the website.
- iv. Presentation for the remainder of the year:
 1. Prosecutor’s Office on various programs such as Arrive Together, Mental Health Division Program, etc.
 2. Michelle Borden to present Greystone’s Annual Report from the oversight committee
 3. 3rd presentation – TBD
- v. Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Day is July 14, 2024. More information will be emailed to MHASAB later this month or early July, and it will be recognized at the County’s Annual Overdose Awareness Day

IX. Subcommittee Reports

A. Funding – moved to Closed Session

- i. The committee met to develop priorities
- ii. Will receive funding applications in August to review
- iii. A funding meeting will take place in August, with a presentation to MHASAB in September

B. Planning

- i. The committee met to discuss some upcoming events
- ii. Discussion regarding Overdose Awareness Day took place. Some ideas below
 1. Will have providers with resources at the event
 2. Request for additional chairs for attendees to sit if needed
 3. Working on securing speakers for the event

C. Legislative

- i. The committee met to discuss the purpose of the committee
- ii. Members will circulate any incoming legislation to staff to share with MHASAB and discuss areas of advocacy

D. CASS

- i. Voting for CY2024 Supplemental Funding – Closed Session
- ii. GCSUD has approved 75% of the PY2025 plans. The state will move forward with approvals

iii. Municipalities and County staff began using MAGS. Currently, Morris County has no concerns with the new system.

X. HSAC Report – no report

XI. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Brown

A. Last meeting was Friday, June 7, 2024

B. New RFP from DCF will cover newborn home visits. Applications due June 19, 2024 at 12:00 pm

C. DCPD provided statistics

D. The next meeting is Friday, September 6, 2024 at 10:00 am.

XII. Old Business – no comment

XIII. New Business

A. Ms. Suarez announced that she has resigned as Morris County Addiction Coordinator, and her last day will be next Thursday, June 20, 2024.

B. Ms. Archer announced that Ms. Fosko will move into the Morris County Addiction Coordinator position effective Monday, June 14, 2024.

C. Ms. Archer presented the 2025 Funding Priorities for GIA, Chapter 51, and the Opioid Settlement Fund.

i. See attached documents

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Benson motioned to adjourn, and Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
HSAC Coordinator