

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, March 14, 2024, 5:15 PM
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order and Attendance

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

Board Members:

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative - Chair
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Victor DeVito, Citizen Representative
Heather Diamond, Center for Evaluation & Counseling
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office – Vice Chair
Tracey McGuire, Citizen Representative
Vicky Mulligan, Life Center Stage
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Amy Villano, Acenda Integrated Health
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff's Office

Board Liaisons:

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

Morris County Commissioner:

Christine Myers, Morris County Commissioner

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services
Kasey Errico, Director, Department of Human Services
Anamika Fnu, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services

Mackensie Fosko, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services
Anna Marie Hess, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services
Rosalyn Suarez, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Service

Others in Attendance:

Dana Catapano, NJ 211

II. Approval of Minutes

A. November 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, requested a motion to approve the November 16, 2023 meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Mr. Hill motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

B. January 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, requested a motion to approve the January 11, 2024, meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Mr. Benson motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, with one abstention and no opposition. The motion carried.

III. NJ 211 presentation – Dana Catapano

Ms. Catapano gave a presentation about the 211 website.

The website is designed with a user-friendly interface for consumers and service providers. It offers a straightforward process for agencies to join or update their listing in their database. The ‘Language Selection’ feature provides over 150 languages for page translation. It provides live assistance; one can reach them by dialing 211, texting, emailing, or using the chat feature. Anyone can access the live dashboard under ‘Our Impact’ to view data on calls, texts, and consumer demographics. Agencies can update their information by filling in the necessary details. Once the form is submitted, a database team member is contacted to finalize the process.

IV. Open to Public – no comment

V. Chair Report – Mr. Chernick

A. The April MHASAB meeting is being canceled, as we will focus on subcommittees.

B. Mr. Chernick urges everyone to sign up for two subcommittees. The Board values in-person meetings but recognizes there are times when members are unable to attend in person. Therefore, the Webex alternative will continue to be an option.

VI. State Liaison Report: Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Ms. Gatica

A. Funding Opportunities:

i. Open Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Homeless Shelters

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Services (DMHAS) to increase access to Low Threshold medication-assisted treatment and other ancillary services for individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) through programming available at homeless shelters that are licensed by New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Bureau of Rooming and Boarding House Standards. The successful bidder shall develop the capacity to provide medication and support services for individuals who reside or drop in at homeless shelters. The guiding principles of low-threshold medication include the following, and services must adhere to these principles: a. Increased Access through same-day entry and medication, b. Harm reduction approach with education, naloxone, etc., with no requirements for counseling, c. Wide availability and meeting individuals "where they are" using mobile outreach and/or telehealth, and d. Flexibility in not having requirements for in-person appointments, psychosocial counseling, meeting attendance, or drug testing.

The successful bidder to this RFP shall initiate medication for SUD and maintain the individual on that medication or transition the individual to a community provider for continued treatment, including, but not limited to, an Office Based Addictions Treatment (OBAT) provider or licensed treatment provider that can administer buprenorphine and other medications for SUD, as well as deliver the appropriate level of counseling or other appropriate support service.

DMHAS will make funding available for a maximum of four (4) awards through this RFP. The maximum award amount will be \$425,000 for one year, renewable based on funding availability and other factors such as contract performance.

The deadline to submit written intent to apply no later than 4:00 PM is **March 21st, 2024**

For the Crisis Receiving Stabilization Center (CRSC) RFP, proposals must be received by 4:00 PM on March 28th, 2024.

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 the creation of new CRSCs. This initiative provides services to those needing immediate in-person crisis intervention and stabilization for a behavioral health crisis. The CRSC initiative aims to create programming that utilizes best practices for behavioral health crisis intervention and produce cost savings by mitigating the use of Emergency Departments (EDs) and preventing unnecessary or inappropriate hospitalization. Furthermore, CRSC reduces police engagement, arrests, incarcerations, and 911 calls.

Total funding for this CRSC initiative is up to \$37,235,284.00, including one-time start-up funds of \$2,000,000.00 and capital funds of \$833,330.00. DMHAS anticipates making up to five (5) awards to \$7,447,057.00 per award, including up to \$400,000.00 in one-time start-up funds and up to \$166,666.00 in capital funds per award. Funding for this

RFP is provided by 1. the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Community Mental Health Block Grant Crisis Set Aside; 2. COVID-19 Supplemental Funding (appropriated through the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act 2021); 3. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act 2021) and Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA); and 4. State appropriations. All funding is subject to Federal and State appropriations.

The deadline to submit written intent to apply no later than 4:00 PM ET is **March 20th, 2024**

Proposals must be received before 4:00 PM on **March 27th, 2024**.

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Disaster Response Crisis Counselor Funding

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is issuing a Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) to County Mental Health Administrators in New Jersey. This RLI will provide grant funding for Disaster Response Crisis Counseling (DRCC) programs in the following counties: Middlesex, Cape May, Cumberland, Warren, and Sussex. Through this RLI, county mental health administrators can apply for funding through a letter of interest (LOI) to support their pre-existing county DRCC programs. DMHAS will issue a total of up to 5 awards, and each New Jersey County named is eligible for one (1) award. The grant aims to address the shortage of Disaster Response Crisis Counselors Statewide, ensuring that New Jersey has a robust number of Crisis Counselors that can respond to natural and artificial disasters. Successful applicants will be expected to fund recruitment, exercise drills, training activities, and engagement efforts for Disaster Response Crisis Counselors. Due to this grant opportunity, each county will be awarded up to \$30,000 (or more if funds are not expended). The funds will be disbursed in one increment of \$30,000. The funding period began 10/2023, and successful applicants can expect the sole disbursement in 2024. The total allocated for these activities is \$150,000 to benefit each of the five identified counties.

Letters of Interest must be received by March 1st, 2024, at 4 PM ET.

More information on these Division funding opportunities is available at: <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/>

Recent Awards

Crisis Diversion Homes: The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services issued the following funding awards for developing four (4) Crisis Diversion Homes (CDH). Crisis Diversion Homes will serve individuals who have recently experienced a crisis and prioritize referrals from Crisis Receiving Stabilization Centers (CRSC) and Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORT). The goal is to provide stability, divert hospital admissions, and reduce emergency department (ED) visits. Funding is \$1,211,750 annualized. These homes will serve 80 to 87 people per year.

Awards were made to:

- Center for Family Services for Warren County.
- Legacy Treatment Services for Mercer County
- Legacy Treatment Services Gloucester County.

Implementation of Coordinated Specialty Care & Community Integration Services for Early Serious Mental Illness

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services issued the following funding awards for implementing Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) programs for the early serious mental illness (ESMI) population in New Jersey. In addition, the DMHAS will implement a Community Integration Program designed to address the needs of the ESMI population along the continuum of care. Funding is \$1,443,557 per program. Each of these programs will serve 200 people.

Awards were made to:

Care Plus NJ Northern Sub-Region 1 (Bergen, Passaic, Essex & Hudson)

Care Plus NJ Northern Sub-Region 2 (Morris, Sussex, Hunterdon & Warren)

Legacy Treatment Services Southern Sub-Region 2 (Atlantic, Cape May & Cumberland) Rutgers UBHC Central Sub-Region 2 (Middlesex, Somerset & Union)

Rutgers UBHC Southern Sub-Region 1 (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester & Salem)

Updates:

The next Division of Mental Health and Addiction Service Quarterly Provider Meeting Zoom Webinar is scheduled for Thursday, March 14th, 2024, at 10 AM. Register in advance for this webinar:

- https://dhs.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_HljcczIYQ8eTUWL9vjj9mA
- The Division released the updated Fair Market Rental rates. (See attached)

VII. Staff Reports

A. Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Fosko

- Ms. Fosko discussed the upcoming Countywide Alliance meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 5:00 PM. The deadline for the Municipal Alliance applications for Fiscal Year 2025 is May 10, 2024, for county review and May 31, 2024, for submission to the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD). As the applications will be filled out using the new online system, MAGS (Maryland Automated Guidelines System), a support drop-in day is planned for April 8, 2024. The conference room is reserved from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for coordinators who need assistance with the application process. There has been positive feedback from the Municipal Alliance Coordinators, and they appreciate the additional support from the County with the new system. Site visits to the Municipal Alliances for Fiscal Year 2023 are underway, with 8 out of 26 completed. The visited sites include Netcong, East Hanover, Jefferson, Boonton, Randolph, Mt. Olive, Hanover, and Long Hill.

B. Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Suarez

- i. Ms. Suarez mentioned the 2023 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court Conviction report. Currently, 83% of offenders are first-time offenders, and 14% are second-time offenders. Alcohol remains the primary substance across the board. There has been a 0.5% increase in drug or polysubstance DUIs. In Morris County, the towns with the highest number of convictions were Dover, Morristown, Randolph, Budd Lake, and Parsippany. The age demographics for DUIs in 2023 were as follows:
 - a. Ages 25-34: 243 DUIs
 - b. Ages 35-44: 205 DUIs
 - c. Ages 45-55: 142 DUIs
 - d. Below 18: 18 DUIs

There was a question raised about the influence of marijuana legalization on these statistics. According to the Intoxicated Driving Program (IDP), most police departments are trained by Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) and show up on the scene for standard practice. Currently, there is no chemical test or breathalyzer to test for this, but specific statistics on marijuana cases are forthcoming.

- ii. Chapter 51 contracts will go out to the providers for signature.
- iii. Transportation Reimbursement and Invoicing Program (TRIP): This new initiative is designed to eliminate transportation barriers. Providers can request reimbursement for transportation costs for individuals to prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. This was extended through September 30th, 2025.

C. Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Archer

- i. Ms. Archer discussed that the Morris County Enhancement Team, comprised of members from the Acute Care System Review meetings and Rutgers, have been meeting to identify local barriers for individuals utilizing psychiatric screening services. The Team identified three areas that can be addressed locally:
 - a. Underutilization of Involuntary Outpatient: This trend was observed statewide, and it was questioned whether it is due to a lack of education or hesitancy among ED staff and doctors.
 - b. High ER Visits: The high volume of individuals visiting the ER for issues that could be addressed at a lower level of care.
 - c. Internal Referral System: We are working on changing the way records are sent to a receiving facility. We are exploring eFax instead of faxing.
- ii. Jessica Mondino, the Youth Services Coordinator, resigned in February. Until a replacement is hired, Ms. Archer is assisting with Youth Services.
- iii. Ms. Suarez and Ms. Fosko are working with the Municipal Alliances and other Advisory Boards on opioid priorities. They expect overlapping

priorities among the Boards and will work to put together a complete list that will be approved by MHASAB.

- iv. The Office of Community Development received applications for the ESG, CDBG, and HOME programs for PY2024. Once all applications are reviewed by the Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee (CDRS), recommendations will be included in the Annual Action Plan and displayed on the County website
- v. Several debrief meetings have focused on the Point-In-Time (PIT) count. For the 2025 PIT, the focus will be on educating organizations, consumers, local businesses, and the local police departments on the PIT and its importance.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

A. Funding – Ms. Archer

Committee members are asked to join two subcommittees. The funding subcommittees, especially those active in the summer, review and score grant applications for state and county funding. Recommendations are voted on by the MHASAB and sent to the Board of County Commissioners. Participation is encouraged unless there's a conflict of interest. Conflict of interest forms will need to be completed before the review meeting.

B. Planning – Ms. Suarez

The planning subcommittee will participate in the planning process for the Overdose Awareness event, scheduled for Friday, August 30th, 2024, and Mental Health Awareness Month in May. The committee will also participate in other planning events that come through MHASAB.

C. Legislative/ Advocacy – Ms. Archer

The Legislative and Advocacy Committee will review proposed and/or current legislation that impacts mental health and substance use and update the MHASAB. If any advocacy efforts are needed, they can bring the issues before MHASAB and write a letter of support, if appropriate.

D. County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – Ms. Fosko

The County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) is responsible for approving the Municipal Alliance funding recommendations and submitted plans, as they are developing countywide initiatives that address substance use disorder through prevention and education. With the Countywide Supplemental funding they receive, looking for different ways to address these issues in the community by identifying different programs and organizations to collaborate with. They currently have four active participants on their subcommittee and would love to welcome some new members. The meetings are held quarterly, four times per Fiscal Year, and on Tuesdays at 5:00 PM in the Human Services conference room. The upcoming 2024 meeting dates are Tuesday, April 9th, 2024; Tuesday, June 4th; Tuesday, October 1st, 2024; and Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024. This is a commissioner-appointed board, so those interested must fill out the biographical profile.

IX. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Brown

- The PAC meeting was held on Friday, March 1st, 2024.
- It was announced that a new CEO, Josh Belsky, was hired at Greystone.
- The meeting discussed the impact of marijuana legalization on DUI rates and law enforcement’s ability to test for recent use.
- There were discussions about the lack of qualified staff in the field, with high salaries and telehealth leading to losing staff to virtual work.
- Ms. Brown discussed the efforts of Morris County nonprofits to advocate for paid internships to attract more people to the field.
- Reports were given about several funding opportunities awarded throughout New Jersey.

X. HSAC Report – Ms. Hess

A. The last HSAC meeting was on February 27th, 2024.

DCPP Statics

Morris East -

- i. New cases: 52
- ii. Reopened cases: 36
- iii. CPS cases: 91
- iv. CWS cases: 30
- v. Domestic violence cases: 30
- vi. Sexual abuse cases: 6
- vii. Spanish-speaking cases: 27
- viii. Substance abuse reports: 27

Morris West -

- i. New cases: 38
- ii. Reopened cases: 90
- iii. CPS cases: 113
- iv. CWS cases: 23
- v. Domestic violence cases: 49
- vi. Spanish-speaking cases: 29
- vii. Substance abuse reports: 26

B. There was discussion regarding a connection between the increase in calls to DCPP and the legalization of marijuana use. DCPP responded by saying that they had observed an increase in prescription drug misuse, opioids, and alcohol misuse.

C. Ms. Errico highlighted the language barrier in our community and asked about state initiatives to encourage bilingualism among social workers, nurses, and clinicians.

D. HSAC drafted a letter to Commissioners requesting a budget line for emergency and transitional housing, as HUD had reduced such funding. Various county organizations supported this. Homelessness is a key topic for HSAC. Ms. Archer stated that the County is working to unite various areas, including the CoC, Housing Alliance, HSAC, and Community Development, to avoid siloed operations. The goal is to see how these areas fit into the system as a whole and

how to leverage their funds. The CoC oversees our homeless system, and we're aligning its priorities with our current funding stream. Ms. Errico mentioned the budget presented at the Commissioner meeting has increased, particularly for our Office of Temporary Assistance, which provides funding to place individuals and families in motels. Additional funds have been allocated to provide other support and try to prevent people from entering motels. This will be tracked and measured over the next year to inform future responses. The proposed budget includes an additional \$300,000 for these efforts.

- XI. Old Business** – no comment
- XII. New Business** - no comment
- XIII. Adjourn** – Mr. Chernick adjourned the meeting at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted.
Anamika, Administrative Professional