

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, May 09, 2024, 5:15 PM
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order and Attendance

Mr. Chernick called to order at 5:15 PM. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

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
David Martinak, Citizen Representative
Alton Robinson, Citizen Representative
Meg Rodriquez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office

Board Liaisons:

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

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services
Anamika, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services
Mackensie Fosko, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services
Anna Marie Hess, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services
Rosalynd Suarez, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Service

Others in Attendance:

Ashley LaPaglia, PIK

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 08, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, requested a motion to approve the February 08, 2024, meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Ms. Tucker motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no abstentions and no opposition. The motion carried.

B. March 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, requested a motion to approve the March 14, 2024, meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Ms. Tucker 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. Presentation: PIK/Tianeptine and Xylazine Drug Trend – Ashley LaPaglia

In the presentation, Ms. LaPaglia informed that opioids, particularly fentanyl, are a significant concern today due to their prevalence and potency. Fentanyl, 15 to 100 times stronger than heroin, is found in 98% of drug submissions. Its unregulated presence leads to overdoses as the quantity in each dose is unknown. It's often mixed with other drugs, enhancing their effects. Misuse can be extremely dangerous, given its potency. Naloxone, an opioid-reversal drug, can save lives and is a crucial tool in combating the opioid crisis. It's not addictive and doesn't encourage drug use. It only works with opioid substances and is vital for survival, even if it upsets individuals by reversing an opioid high. The main goal is to save lives. Naloxone, an opioid reversal drug, is widely available and often doesn't need a prescription. Ms. LaPaglia also discussed the drug scene is changing with the introduction of Xylazine, a non-opioid tranquilizer not approved for human use. It's addictive and can't be reversed with Naloxone, complicating substance use treatment. Xylazine can cause open wounds, making recovery more challenging. Despite these issues, Naloxone is still recommended when possible. Tianeptine, an unapproved drug in the U.S., is similar to opioids and is often sold in convenience stores. Despite recalls, it's still available, leading to a spike in poison control center calls. They are a prevention hub offering various services and programs for substance use prevention, including recovery services for those seeking help.

IV. Open to Public - no comment

V. Funding Closed Session

Mr. Chernick asked that anyone in conflict with Chapter 51 Funding and anyone from the public leave the meeting. Ms. Borden, Ms. Brown, Ms. Gatica, and Ms. Lapaglia left the meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Csengeto and seconded by Ms. Tucker 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 6:00 p.m.

Return to Meeting

The meeting reopened at 6:15 p.m. Ms. Borden, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Gatica returned to the meeting.

Action Resulting from Closed Session

Mr. Chernick stated that the Funding Review Committee met, reviewed, and discussed a Chapter 51 Grant Modification for St. Clare's. Let the record reflect that the board voted to approve the requests in the closed session.

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

VI. Chair Report—Mr. Chernick

- A.** The county has lost two valued members of our community: Ms. Barbara Ward, a member of the MHASAB, and Mr. Charlie Berman, a member of the CASS. Ms. Ward was honored at yesterday's Commissioners' meeting. Please take a moment of silence to honor both Ms. Ward and Mr. Berman.
- B.** In June, there will be a 45-minute presentation in the "Our Own Voice" program. All reports will be sent via email before the meeting. Any questions will be addressed during the meeting, but the reports will not be read due to time constraints. The meeting will also include a closed session for supplemental funding recommendations from CASS.
- C.** Meetings in July and August are canceled because of monitoring during those months. In June, a Doodle poll will be sent out for sign-ups. They encourage two members to sign up per monitoring.
- D.** The commissioner's meeting proclaimed May as Mental Health Awareness Month.
- E.** Welcome to our newest board member, Mr. David Martnick.

VII. State Liasion Report: Division of Mental Health Addiction Services – Ms. Gatica

A. Funding Opportunities:

i. Independent Peer Review

The Department of Human Services ("DHS"), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services ("DMHAS") hereby announces the availability of funds for credentialed substance abuse professionals to provide Independent Peer Review ("IPR") for quality and appropriateness of treatment services of substance use treatment facilities funded by DMHAS. DMHAS seeks up to three (3) qualified individuals to complete separate IPRs of substance use treatment facilities to be selected by DMHAS in the State's North, South, and Central regions. Applicants must have a master's degree or doctoral degree and be an active Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor ("LCADC") with at least three (3)

years of experience as a clinical supervisor of Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Methadone Maintenance Programs in substance use treatment facilities. Applicants must be willing to travel to assigned facilities for one (1) to three (3) days of peer review of clinical services or conduct the reviews remotely with support provided by the DMHAS. After each review, a full report must be submitted to DMHAS within ten (10) business days. The amount of Funding Available is a flat fee: Up to three (3) reviewers will be selected, each qualifying for \$700 per day with a \$2,100 maximum per review. The total maximum expense for these professional services contracts for all reviewers will not exceed \$6,300 combined. Application Package Deadline: To apply, applicants must upload the completed original application package to the DHS Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) site no later than 4:00 p.m. ET on May 17, 2024. Additionally, applicants must request login credentials by emailing SUD.upload@dhs.nj.gov no later than 4:00 pm ET on May 10, 2024, to receive unique login credentials for the Independent Peer Review to upload your application package to the DHS SFTP site. Email requests for login credentials must include the following: Independent Peer Review, individual's first name, last name, and email address. Application packages must be uploaded to the DHS SFTP site using your unique login credentials: <https://securexfer.dhs.state.nj.us/login>. Notification Date: All applicants will be notified in writing of their status.

ii. **Residential Services for Individuals Discharged 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 Level A+ residential services for eligible individuals with medical needs. This RFP is to develop a level A+ residential program for those with a mental health diagnosis and medical needs discharged from a nursing facility. Total annualized funding for the deficit-funded contract is \$420,000 each, subject to State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to four (4) awards, five (5) beds each. DMHAS anticipates making a total of four (4) awards to provide services to twenty (20) individuals in the following four (4) regions:

- Region 1 (Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Warren, Morris, Essex, Hudson)
- Region 2 (Hunterdon, Somerset, Union)
- Region 3 (Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean)
- Region 4 (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, Cape May)

DMHAS anticipates making one (1) award per the four (4) regions identified above. However, if one (1) awardable proposal is not received for each region, multiple awards in a single area may be considered, but not to exceed four (4) total awards. In addition, up to \$600,000 in one-time Capital funding may be requested to purchase a single-story home with

sufficient bedroom accommodations for five (5) individual consumer residents and the requisite staff. The home must be zoned for residential purposes.

- April 10, 2024 Questions on RFP due – no later than 4 pm ET
- May 1, 2024, Deadline to submit written intent to apply – no later than 4 pm ET
- May 1, 2024, Deadline to request DHS secure file transfer protocol (SFTP) site login credentials – no later than 4 pm ET
- May 8, 2024, Deadline for receipt of proposals – no later than 4 pm ET

B. 988 Lifeline Crisis Center Expansion

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 fund 988 Lifeline crisis centers for the NJ 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline system. Total annualized funding is \$10 million, subject to State appropriations. This solicitation aims to provide interested agencies with information to prepare and submit a proposal for funds to operate a 988 Lifeline crisis center (“Lifeline center”) and, if the agency is not already, become part of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline network. Any applicant must be certified by Vibrant Emotional Health (Vibrant) as a 988 Lifeline crisis center or demonstrate the ability to become a certified 988 Lifeline crisis center and apply for certification within 30 days of award. Details of Vibrant’s Lifeline Minimum Standards are available [here](#). This funding opportunity offers a total of \$10 million annually. Funding will be for multiple 988 Lifeline centers, of which up to three (3) will operate 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Funding from this award can be used to recruit, hire, train, and pay for direct service (responding to calls and/or chats/texts and making follow-up calls), supervisory and administrative staff, and technology. Funding can also be used to develop, manage, and maintain infrastructure, including technology requirements, to respond to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline successfully.

- April 5, 2024 Questions on RFP due – no later than 4 pm ET
- April 26, 2024, Deadline to submit written intent to apply – no later than 4 pm ET
- April 26, 2024, Deadline to request DHS secure file transfer protocol (SFTP) site login credentials – no later than 4 pm ET
- May 3, 2024, Deadline for receipt of proposals – no later than 4 pm ET

C. Wellness Centers

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) recognizes the need to provide more significant support to Community Wellness Centers (CWCs) so that these critical programs can better address the needs of individuals with serious mental illness (SMI). This RFP solicits bids from eligible entities that can provide expanded recovery and support services in CWCs statewide. Total annualized funding is up to \$9,500,150, subject to the availability of state appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to 22 awards. DMHAS

considered multiple factors in determining the funding allocation for each County in this RFP, including County population and utilization data. This RFP will allow centers in each county to increase funding to meet the developing needs of the centers and counties and provide innovative models. The following summarizes the anticipated RFP schedule:

- April 1, 2024 Questions on RFP due – no later than 4 pm ET
- April 15, 2024, Deadline to submit written intent to apply – no later than 4 pm
- April 22, 2024, Deadline to request DHS secure file transfer protocol (SFTP) site login credentials – no later than 4 pm ET
- April 29, 2024, Deadline for receipt of proposals – no later than 4 pm ET
- More information on these Division funding opportunities is available at: <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/>

D. Correspondence

The FY25 Contract Renewal Memo went out to providers. The completed required contract documents for the 7/1/2024-6/30/2026 MH FFS contract term shall be submitted by **05/10/2024**. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Please see the attached flyer for the Wednesday Webinar Series. Save the date—every Wednesday at noon.

VIII. Staff Reports

A. Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Ms. Fosko

- i. Ms. Fosko is reviewing the Fiscal Year 2025 applications. To date, 8 out of the 26 Municipal Alliances have submitted their applications.
- ii. The 2024 Supplemental funding applications were released to the Municipal Alliances last week and will be sent to the County on May 31st. They will review these Supplemental funding applications at the next MHASAB meeting in June.
- iii. MS. Fosko and Ms. Suarez will attend the New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN) Conference in Atlantic City next Thursday and Friday.

B. Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Suraz

- i. The TRIP program has been extended through September 30th, 2025. Currently, DMHAS is working on a dashboard displaying all the Narcan distributed throughout the counties.
- ii. IDP has mentioned that they are in a 2-year cycle for the affiliation agreement, with the deadline for paperwork due to IDP on June 17th. The current deal expires on June 30th.
- iii. At the state meeting, all counties were asked to present how they spend their opioid settlement funds. Last month, Burlington County gave a presentation on their opioid settlement funds, and they were able to fund four programs. These include NARCAN distribution in public schools, libraries, and faith-based organizations along with staff training and Camp Cardinal, a free camp at the YMCA for children aged 7-14 who have experienced substance use disorder within their family environment. Hope One distributes sober living services and safe locking pill bottles during outreach.

C. Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Archer

- i. On May 08, 2024, Mr. Chernick, Mr. Hill, and others were at the Commissioner’s Work Session to accept the proclamation and contribute to the conversation. It was also wonderful that Ms. Barbara Ward was honored and that Ms. Laurie Becker and Ms. Csengeto could attend and share their thoughts. It’s essential to have these discussions and raise awareness about mental health.
- ii. Several events happened in the county on the same day. One of these events was MHA’s Consumer Awards, which Mackensie Fosko attended on behalf of the county and reported as a beautiful event. Mountain Lakes High School contacted our team on short notice to come to the school on Tuesday, May 07, 2024, to set up a Stigma Free table during lunch periods. The table also included mental health resources for the high school students. Ms. Anamika and Ms. Hess attended it along with MHA. They gave out stigma-free materials and mental health resources. The event was successful, and several students showed interest.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

A. Funding – Ms. Suarez

- i. Ms. Suarez and Ms. Archer met with the Funding Subcommittee this week to review the GIA, Chapter 51, and Opioid Settlement Funding Priorities. It was decided that Ms. Suarez and Ms. Fosko would attend the different Advisory meetings to survey the target populations about the needs and gaps in services for the Opioid Settlement funding. Additional information will be provided in the future.

B. Legislative/Advocacy – Ms. McGuire

Ms. McGuire said the DEA might soon change how drugs are classified. This could affect how states treat these drugs. Right now, Schedule 1 drugs are seen as having no medical use and a high risk of abuse. Drugs in lower schedules (2, 3, 4) can still be addictive but are also seen as having medical uses. If cannabis moves from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2, it would be recognized for its medical use, which could be a significant change. Interestingly, cocaine spray is used medically today without changing its schedule. In New Jersey, all drug possession charges are the same, no matter the drug’s schedule. The state has also decided to treat legal cannabis and marijuana differently, including how much a person can have. More details will come once the news is looked into more.

C. County Alliance Steering Subcommittee – Ms. Fosko

Ms. Fosko welcomed David Martinak to the MHASAB. He was also appointed to the CASS. The next CASS meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 4th, at 5:15 p.m. and virtual via Webex.

X. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Borden

- The last PAC meeting was on May 3, 2024.
- There was not a report from Graystone.
- DCF will provide statistics for April and May at the next meeting.

- The Carrier Clinic has an addiction Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) for those who are eighteen and older.
- Prevention is Key is doing a virtual webinar for EDGE on LGBTQ+ topics. They will also provide information about the opioid rescue/safety boxes they received Opioid Settlement Funds to place in the local motels.

XI. HSAC Report – Ms. Hess

A. In place of an April HSAC Meeting, we convened our subcommittees. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 5:15 pm.

i. Legislative Subsubcommittee met on April 9, 2024

1. At the March HSAC Meeting, JBWS presented. Ms. Williams stated that the 2025 State Budget proposes funding cuts for Domestic Violence Services. At that time, a motion was made and approved to draft a letter from the HSAC supporting at least level funding for domestic violence services in NJ for FY2025. The letter was sent to County Commissioners, County and State Representatives, the Governor, and the State HSAC. The County Commissioners also submitted a letter supporting level funding for domestic violence to County and State Representatives and the Governor.
2. At the May State HSAC Meeting, it was announced that Morris County supported level funding, at the State level, for domestic violence services. All counties were encouraged to review for similar trends. If it was determined that a letter of support was necessary, they were asked to provide supporting statistics for their county and draft a letter of support.

ii. Program Review Subcommittee met on April 9, 2024

1. Agency Monitoring meetings will take place during the months of July and August (approximately 15). We will need two HSAC Members at each monitoring meeting. These meetings will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

iii. Nominating Subcommittee met on April 11, 2024

1. The need for a good succession plan is important
2. Nomination for new officers will begin in October, a proposed slate will be presented in November, and voting will occur at the January 2025 meeting.
3. Aim to have a diverse representation of agency employees, volunteers, and community members. Anyone is welcome to apply to become a member of the HSAC by filling out the Advisory Biographical Profile through the County Website: <https://morriscountynj.seamlessdocs.com/f/boardprofile>.

iv. Planning Subcommittee met on April 12, 2024

1. The following presentations were discussed:
 - a. DCPP will present at the May 28th Meeting. The presentation will highlight the protocol and practices of collaborating with the community partners, the fear and

stigma associated with calling a worker, the goal of keeping children in their homes unless they are in imminent danger, and the provided services and resources.

- b. United Way-ALICE at Work will be presented at the June 25th meeting, focusing on employers and nonprofits.
- c. HomeSharing-Shared Affordable Housing will be presented at the September 24th meeting. This new program for HSAC is co-funded by the Morris County Division on Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming. Since 1984, HomeSharing has been preventing homelessness by matching “Providers” (homeowners/renters) with “Seekers” (individuals searching for affordable housing).

XII. Old Business – no comment

XIII. New Business

- A. Ms. Archer stated that the 2025 County and State RFA for the Grant-in-Aid, Chapter 51, and Opioid Settlement Funds are typically announced in late spring/early summer, so please watch for the advertisement.
- B. Ms. Archer stated that the County will soon advertise for a Youth Services Coordinator.

XIV. Mr. Chernick adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Anna Marie Hess, HSAC Coordinator