

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TRENTON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Trenton Psychiatric Hospital was held on **Thursday, November 17, 2022**, pursuant to notice duly given. In conformance with the Public Open Meetings Law, notice of the meeting has been sent to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian, Newark Star-Ledger and the Secretary of State and a notice placed on the bulletin board of Trenton Psychiatric Hospital.

**Present:**

\*\*\*Neil Weisfeld - Chairperson  
\*\*\*Patricia Carr – Vice Chairperson  
\*\*\*Maureen Lebel – LSW, PhD.  
\*\*\*Carolyn Torre - RN, MA APN

**Excused:**

\*\*\*Susan Rubino, MD

**\*\*\*Board Member Via Microsoft Team and Via  
call in on Microsoft teams**

**TPH Staff Attendance:**

Maria Christensen, CEO, James Hollen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer-Operations (DCEO), Faith Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer-Clinical (DCEO), Intikhab Ahmad, M.D., Clinical Director; Michelle Senni, Executive Assistant to the CEO, Julie VanHouten – Associate Hospital Administrator 1  
Sheila Kwoka, Assistant Secretarial 3 to the CEO/Board Secretary

**Guest:**

Mary Jean Weston-DMHAS  
Kimberly Stroman – Risk Manager (For Frank Miller)  
Monica Kelly – Complex Administrator for Travers

**Excused:**

Frank Miller – QI Director  
Meghan Henry-MacLeod - Legal Liaison  
Towana Wilkins, Business Manager,

**ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Roll call was conducted via Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Teams Call-in. The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Minutes from the October 20, 2022, meeting were approved as corrected.

## **BOARD REPORT:**

### **October Monthly Report:**

- Ms. Torre noted that number of assaults declined in October.
- Ms. Torre noted a decrease in restraints in October.
- Ms. Torre noted the flu and COVID vaccination rates are increasing among staff and patients.
- Ms. Torre noted that Mr. Donald Pattershall, Director of Nursing, is retiring. Ms. Torre suggested that the Board send Mr. Pattershall a letter of appreciation for his service to Trenton Psychiatric Hospital and its patients. She will draft such a letter.
- Ms. Carr inquired about the donations of plants and other items from the community.
- The community helps the New Leaf Gardeners with plants and may be a source of assistance for growing and selling the plants.
- Ms. Carr spoke favorably of the New Leaf Gardeners at the Raycroft complex and all the work they are doing.
- Ms. Carr would like to see improvements in the infection prevention section of the report.
- Mr. Weisfeld asked about the average daily census for October. There was a discrepancy between the average daily census and the monthly census, which Mr. Hollen explained.
- Mr. Weisfeld inquired whether every scheduled patient actually attends the SUD (Substance Abuse Disorder Clinic), which Dr. Ahmad confirmed.
- Mr. Weisfeld inquired about injuries from assaults. Dr. Ahmad is keeping a watch on the number of injuries and their severity.
- Mr. Weisfeld favorably noted the reduction in patient hours in restraints.
- Mr. Weisfeld also suggested a recognition letter for Ms. Angela Walker, Health Services Technician, for her courage in helping and sheltering a police officer shot in her neighborhood.
- **Auxiliary Report:**  
No report for the Month of October.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Incident Committee - Dr. Maureen Lebel**

In order to assure she can attend the next Violence Prevention meeting, Dr. Lebel would like the link sent to her.

According to the NJDOH website, for the first 9 months of 2022 six patient to patient assaults resulting in **major** injuries were reported at state psychiatric facilities. One of which occurred at TPH. However, this statistic may not jibe with TPH's own data

From January 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022, forty-seven patient to patient assaults resulting in **moderate** injuries were reported at all four facilities. Nineteen (40 percent) occurred at TPH.

Risk Management reported 172 incidents at TPH during September 2022. This is down from 197 in the previous month. No incidents at TPH were at the A+. This is down from two in August.

## Legislative Committee – Ms. Carolyn Torre

**Legislative Report:** Updated for November 2022 (in yellow highlight)

Submitted by:

Carolyn Torre RN, MA, APN, FAANP

**Mental Health Related Bill** Currently Before NJ Legislature and recently active: Dates of recent action in bold.

**-A4755/S3261: Permits behavioral and mental health care providers to operate within homeless shelters:**

Primary sponsors: A: Lopez; Moen; Speight. S: Burgess

Introduced: A: 10/3/22 Housing Committee, reported and referred to A. Human Services on 10/13/22. S: 10/31/22, referred to Sen. Health C.

Link: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/A4755/bill-text?f=A5000&n=4755> I1.

**Note:** The bill does not currently include Psych. APNs in its definition of “mental health professionals;” the bill sponsors will be contacted, and a request made for modification of the language.

- **Schulley Trading Post – Mr. Neil Weisfeld**

Mr. Weisfeld reported that, during the Board's tour of the Hospital, members sampled different luncheon items from the Trading Post and found them of high quality.

The floor for the Schulley Trading Post will be complete in an estimated seven weeks.

- **Therapeutic Environment Committee – Ms. Patricia Carr**

Ms. Carr noted that she shared pictures from the TPH Fall Festival with the board.

Ms. Carr will receive and update on the Christmas Decorations on the TPH grounds.

- **Welfare Fund – Mr. Weisfeld**

Mr. Weisfeld noted that the Welfare Fund experienced a slight loss over the month due to purchases. to purchases with the Welfare Fund, although the situation is expected to improve.

The **BOUTIQU'D** is generating revenue for the Welfare Fund.

**Report from Ms. Mary Jean Weston, MSW, Regional Coordinator  
Office of Community Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services  
(DMHAS)  
(November 17, 2022)**

1. **FMR Rate Increase** – DMHAS published new updated Fair Market Rates for Rental Subsidy/Voucher payments. This allows DMHAS to provide a higher rate of funding for apartment Security Deposits for individuals being discharged from State hospitals. This should make finding appropriate apartments easier and speed discharges. The update announcement was sent out to all MH providers on or about October 12, 2022.
2. **NJ COURT Update** – The Supreme Court has updated the framework for court operations to allow more in-person proceedings. Among other changes, effective March 1, 2023, initial hearings for involuntary civil commitments will be in person. This does not yet include review and CEPP hearings, though it is anticipated that there will be a gradual return to in-person hearings for these at some point.  
[Notice and Order - The Future of Court Operations - Updates to In-Person and Virtual Court Events | NJ Courts](#)
3. **LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) Program** – The Department of Law & Public Safety recently announced they have selected 6 municipalities to pilot the LEAD Program. LEAD is designed to give law enforcement officers discretion to divert individuals directly to long-term, community-based, harm reduction case management when they commit low-level offenses driven by unmet behavioral health.
4. **Debunking Myths about 988** – Since the transition to 988 in July, considerable misinformation about 988 has been circulating on social media. DMHAS worked with the Communications team of the Department of Human Services to produce a flyer debunking these myths. Please feel free to share this information.



988 Debunking  
Myths FINAL.pdf

5. **RFPs**
  - a. [Open Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Homeless Shelters](#)

The successful bidder to this RFP will initiate medication for SUD and maintain the individual on that medication or transition the individual to a community provider. Total annualized funding for this RFP is \$2,975,000 subject to federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to seven (7) awards of up to \$425,000 each.
  - b. Additional RFPs listed at  
<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/>

**COMMUNICATIONS:** – There were no communications this month.

**OLD BUSINESS:** – There was no old business this month.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Letters are being drafted to recognized two Trenton Psychiatric Hospital Staff.
- The Family Partnership asked to be represented at future meetings of the Board, and members strongly encouraged it.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – There were no comments from the public.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, at 9:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sheila Kwoka  
Secretary Board of Trustees

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Neil Weisfeld  
Chairperson

NW/sk

**Please take note:** Ms. Mary Jean Weston presentation on 988 will take place after today's meeting. I will be sending everyone a hard copy of Ms. Weston presentation on 988.



TPH Board of  
Directors (11-17-22)