

**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, December 15, 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
***Maureen Lebel – LSW, PhD.
***Carolyn Torre - RN, MA APN

Excused:

***Susan Rubino, MD
***Patricia Carr – Vice Chairperson

*****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, Frank Miller – QI Director, Towana Wilkins, Business Manager, Sheila Kwoka, Assistant Secretarial 3 to the CEO/Board Secretary

Guest:

Mary Jean Weston-DMHAS
Chinwe Agba-Eluwa – Complex Administrator for the Drake Complex

Excused:

Meghan Henry-MacLeod - Legal Liaison

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 November 17 2022, meeting were approved with changes.

BOARD REPORT:

November Monthly Report:

- Dr. Lebel asked whether a patient who is not vaccinated against COVID-19 can be eligible for discharge. Vaccination is not required for discharge.
- Dr. Lebel favorably noted that Thomas Edison State University has reached out to Trenton Psychiatric Hospital as a potential partner for a Department of Labor grant for nursing workforce development.
- Dr. Lebel noted there were five A+ incidents, 41 Level B incidents, and 125 Level C incidents.
- Ms. Torre noted that data on Assaults are holding steady.
- Ms. Torre favorably noted that patients are again delivering newspapers to the Stratton building.
- Ms. Torre noted the excellent work of the New Leaf Gardner's.
- Ms. Torre noted that COVID cases unfortunately are in several units.
- Ms. Torre favorably noted the Health Information Management delinquency rate has decreased substantially, although it remains unacceptably high at 122 percent.
- Ms. Torre was very pleased that there were no 30-Day readmission.
- Mr. Weisfeld inquired about suicide attempts. Mr. Miller explained they all are taken very seriously and analyzed in depth.

Mr. Weisfeld favorably noted that a new physician has been hired to attend to patients previously seen by Dr. Dubois, who is retiring after many years of dedicated service.

- **Auxiliary Report:**

All holiday gifts have been sorted and distributed to the Complexes for presentation to the patients.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Incident Committee - Dr. Maureen Lebel**
- No Report this month. Dr. Lebel was unable to attend the Violence Prevention meeting, but a mechanism has been set up for her to receive timely notice of future meetings
- **Legislative Committee – Ms. Carolyn Torre**

Health Professions Bill relevant for all APNs:

-S1522: Removes certain restrictions on APN practice. The bill is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Health Committee at 1pm on 12/15/22, that is, today. This bill will:

- a. Remove the Joint Protocol currently required between an APN and a collaborating physician
- b. The rule requiring that APNs-Anesthesia work under the supervision of an anesthesiologist, and
- c. Grant signature recognition to APNs

Primary Senate Sponsor: Vitale; Singleton (and 12 Co-sponsors). S1522 is identical to A2286 (Munoz; Jasey; Spearman and 20 Co-sponsors). I was successful at motivating Senator Zwicker to become a co-sponsor.

Comment: I expect the bill has a good chance of being voted favorably out of the Senate Health Committee (Sen. Vitale is an expert at counting votes and would be unlikely to have it heard without sufficient Yes votes); I would expect more opposition at a third hearing on the floor of the Senate, but expect it can pass the Senate. It has not yet been scheduled for a hearing in the Assembly Health Committee.

Assemblyman Conway, the Chairman of the Assembly Health Committee has long been opposed to any legislation that might ease barriers to APN practice, in line with the AMA, echoed by the NJ Medical Society. Many individual physicians as well as organizations outside of medicine and nursing support this legislation, including but not limited to AARP, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Governors Association because it will increase patient's access to primary and psychiatric health care providers.

Mental Health Related Bills Currently Before NJ Legislature and recently active:

-A4615/S1153: Requires State to foster development and implementation of graduate medical education programs in behavioral health care

Primary Sponsors: A: Greenwald;/Reynolds-Jackson; Verlina/Park,

9/22/2022: Introduced And Referred To Assembly Health Committee

12/12/2022: Transferred To Assembly Higher Education Committee

12/12/2022: Reported And Referred To Assembly Health Committee

Link: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/A4615>

Comment: Moving along in Assembly but no action in Senate since 1/31/22 introduction.

-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.

Comment: This bill was reported out of the Assembly Health Committee on

12/8/22 with amendments that APNs had requested.

Link: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/A4755>

Comment: The Assembly version of the bill was amended in Committee to expand the definition of Behavioral Health Care providers which is now: a psychiatrist, psychiatric advanced practice nurse, psychologist, clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or any other mental health or substance use disorder treatment provider licensed pursuant to Title 45 of the revised statutes. It now goes to the full Assembly for a floor vote.

A3514/S704: Anthony M. Prohibits mental health care professionals from disclosing mental health notes to health insurance carriers.

Primary Sponsor: S: Codey; Bucco. A.: Calabrese; Jimenez; Atkins

Senate action: **1/11/2022** Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Commerce Committee

● **5/16/2022** Reported from Senate Committee as a Substitute, 2nd Reading

● **5/26/2022 Senate** Amendment (Voice) (Cunningham)

● **6/16/2022** Passed by the Senate (38-0)

● **6/16/2022** Received in the Assembly, Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

Assembly action: Introduced 3/8/22; **12/5/22**; heard in Assembly Financial Institutions Committee. Not reported (Not passed in Committee).

S2668/A508: Establishes annual cost of living adjustment based on Consumer Price Index for programs providing mental health services, substance use disorder treatment services, or services to persons with developmental disabilities.

Sponsors: Senate: Greenstein; Vitale; Gopal. Assembly: Benson; Murphy
1/11/22: Introduced in Assembly, referred to A. Human Service Committee;
no action since

5/16/22: "in Senate, referred to Senate Health and Human Services...Committee

10/6/22: Reported from S. Health C. with amendments; referred to Senate Budget/Appropriations; **No action on this bill in November/December.**

Link: https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S3000/2668_R1.PDF

A1700/S524: Creates Mental Illness Diversion Program to divert eligible persons away from criminal justice system and into appropriate case management and mental health services.

Sponsors: Assembly: Quijano; Mukherji. Senate: Ruiz; Cunningham
Introduced: A and S: 1/11/22. No movement in Senate, since. In Assembly:

9/29/22: Reported from Assembly Judiciary Committee; referred to A. Human Services, C. **No action on this bill since late September.**

Link: https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A2000/1700_S1.PDF

-S3031/A1924: Requires health insurance carriers to categorize mental health treatment and therapy received by victim of domestic violence as medically necessary treatment and provide full benefits coverage, therefore.

Sponsors: S.: Gopal; Ruiz; A.: Swain; Benson.

S3031/A1924 (cont.)

Introduced: S: **9/22/22:** Referred to Sen. Health and Human Services.

"A: 1/11/22: Referred to A. Financials Institutions and Insurance

No action on this bill since September!

Link: https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S3500/3031_I1.PDF

-A4604/S682: Requires suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.

Primary Sponsors: A.: Rooney. S.: Bucco; Gopal

Introduced: A.: **9/22/22;** S.: 1/11/22 No action on this bill since September.

Link:

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/A4604/bill-text?f=A5000&n=4604_I1

-A4540/S1133: Requires mental health evaluation of all animal cruelty offenders (adult or juvenile).

Primary Sponsors: A. Jimenez. S.: Vitale

Introduced: A.: **9/22/22;** S.: 1/11/22. **No action on this bill since September.**

Link: https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S1500/1153_I1.PDF

A4618/S3122: Creates online job portal (in the Dept. of Health) for behavioral health care workers and online internship and externship portal for health care students.

Primary Sponsors: A: Freiman; Murphy; Greenwald; S: Zwicker

Assembly action: **9/22/2022 Introduced**, Referred to Assembly Labor Committee: **12/8/2022** Reported and Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

Senate action: Introduced 10/3/22.

Recent Statute and Executive Order related to Mental Health:

Statutes: Recent Statute related to Mental Health:

-**P.L. 2022, c.36** Signed by Governor, June 30, 2022

“The Attorney General shall establish a pilot program to be known as the Alternative Response to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation (ARRIVE) Together Pilot Program. The program shall be designed to provide accessible crisis intervention, mental health screening, or other support to individuals experiencing mental health crises who have contacted or are engaging with law enforcement.” The new law provides an appropriation for the pilot program.

Link: https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/PL22/36_.PDF

No health-related bills signed into statutory law in Fall 2022.

Executive Order: Recent Mental Health related:

8/31/22: Executive Order #305: establishes Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council under the Attorney General to decide how to best utilize NJersey’s share of national litigation drug overdose settlement.

Link: <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-305.pdf>

No health-related Executive Orders issued since the above.

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

Mr. Weisfeld reported an increase in revenue. The new **BOUTIQU'D** created by the staff is responsible for part of the increase.

Work will begin on new flooring for the Schulley Trading Post. Remodeling should begin in January.

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

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - The Grounds have been cleared of the Fall decor. The bales of hay and mums used to decorate areas throughout grounds have been donated to the Greenhouse to support mum propagation for sale next year and the haybale garden.

CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS -Additional decor has been purchased to set up for a **Tour of De'Lights** here on grounds. We are currently in the process of fire, safety, and electrical reviews. When all reviews have been completed, we will begin the process of staging.

Plan:

Patients and staff will board TPH buses and enjoy The **Tour of De'Lights** located on grounds. The drive will end at the Trading Post where everyone will exit for a snack social and then head back for a restful evening.

PROJECTS WAITING IN THE WINGS - Erecting of the outside gazebos for fresh air breaks and programming. (permits pending)

WISH LIST- Covered walkways in Lincoln to protect patients from the elements during inclement weather. This will increase safety when patients and staff go back and forth for meals and activities, including programming.

- **Welfare Fund – Mr. Weisfeld**

Mr. Weisfeld noted that the Welfare Fund has improved. The future plans for the Schulley Trading Post will begin shortly.

**Report from Ms. Mary Jean Weston, MSW, Regional Coordinator
Office of Community Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
(DMHAS)
(December 15, 2022)**

1. DEA Public Safety Alert – Fentanyl-Laced Fake Prescriptions

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports a sharp nationwide increase in the lethality of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills. DEA laboratory testing reveals that 6 out of 10 fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills analyzed in 2022 contained a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl. This is an increase from DEA's previous announcement of 4 in 10 in 2021.

<https://www.dea.gov/alert/dea-laboratory-testing-reveals-6-out-10-fentanyl-laced-fake-prescription-pills-now-contain#:~:text=PUBLIC%20SAFETY%20ALERT,fentanyl%2Dlaced%20fake%20prescription%20pills>

2. Early Intervention Support Services (EISS) Now Open in 18 NJ Counties

EISS offers short-term, mental health services for adults who are experiencing significant emotional or psychiatric distress and are in need of immediate intervention. Early Intervention Support Services offers crisis intervention and crisis stabilization services in a setting that is an alternative to hospital based emergency room treatment. Funding has been made available for EISS services in all 21 counties and additional programs are expected to come online soon.

3. Healthy Weight Program for People with Serious Mental Illness

DMHAS has been invited to partner with researchers at Johns Hopkins NIMH ALACRITY Center for Health and Longevity in Mental Illness to offer the ACHIEVE-D program to consumers of certain mental health services in NJ. Obesity in persons with serious mental illness is highly prevalent and a leading cause of preventable death through its effects on other cardiovascular disease risk factors and cardiovascular disease. The ACHIEVE intervention is an evidence-based weight management program tailored for persons with serious mental illness funded by the NIMH showing clinically significant weight loss. For more information, see attached, or contact Joe Gennusa: jgennus1@jhmi.edu, (443) 509 5320.
Daumit NIMH ALACRITY ACHIEVE project 2022.docx fpsyt-09-00604.pdf

4. RFPs

- a. Special Populations: Awards have been made for both mental health and substance use disorder to provide direct services, reach specialized populations that are often underserved, help to assist those that may benefit from services, and those that may be in crisis. Programs are scheduled to begin providing services January 1st. Details will be forthcoming.
- b. Mobile Access to Medications for Substance Use Disorder: Funding has been offered to implement an initiative that will enable agencies to provide low-threshold medication services to people with a substance use disorder (SUD) on a regular basis in their communities. This initiative is designed to increase access to medications for SUD for those who encounter obstacles to receiving services at traditional "brick-and-mortar" treatment agencies. Services include medical referral services, case management, and recovery support services.
- c. 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:

- Ms. Carr sent tickets to the patients at TPH to attend the Hopewell Valley Choir concert. The Rehabilitation Department sent Ms. Carr a thank you card with a handmade ornament.

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, January 19, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Kwoka
Secretary Board of Trustees

Neil Weisfeld
Chairperson

NW/sk