

**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, July 21, 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 (ADCEO); Faith Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer-Clinical (ADCEO); Intikhab Ahmad, M.D., Clinical Director; Donald Pattershall, Director of Nursing (DON); Michelle Senni, Executive Assistant to the CEO; Frank Miller, QI Director. Towana Wilkins, Business Manager; Dr. Heshman Soliman, Director of Medicine; Sheila Kwoka, Medical Services Assistant/Board Secretary

Guest:

Mary Jean Weston-DMHAS

Excused:

Frank Miller – QI Director
Julie VanHouten – Associate Hospital Administrator 1
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 June 16, 2022, meeting were approved.

BOARD REPORT:

- Mr. Weisfeld noted that the Substance Abuse Clinic is off to a great start, and the new name of the clinic is “**Stepping Stone.**” The 1st Graduation will take place on July 27, 2022. Dr. Christensen will present each Patient with a diploma. A luncheon will be served to the graduating patients.
- Mr. Weisfeld noted, under Hospital Wellness Programming, a trip to the Cape May County Zoo. A contingent of 40 patients and staff traveled to the zoo in air-conditioned buses, and a large number of photographs were taken. Also, Infection Prevention held a Vaccination Celebration Event with ice cream sundaes.
- Mr. Weisfeld noted 128 assaults took place in June. The hospital has mechanisms in place to try to prevent assaults. Board members and staff discussed the persistent nature of these incidents.
- Mr. Weisfeld favorably noted that information was being handed out concerning men’s health.
- The HIM Delinquency Rate of 317% in June was noted with concern. Physicians have two weeks to complete transcriptions.
- Ms. Carr inquired about evening and weekend programs. The Board would like to see data on program participation.
- Ms. Carr inquired about the availability to the general public of produce from the New Leaf Gardeners program. Staff members purchase most of the available products.
- Ms. Carr noted a relatively low number of discharges in April. It was explained that discharges tend to trend low during the Spring.
- Ms. Carr inquired about the Reward Store. Patients obtain token rewards for meeting expectations.
- Ms. Carr also noted a relatively low number of discharges in June. The reason stated for the low number was that several units were under quarantine.
- Ms. Carr inquired the general impact on care based on the distribution of patients by age and gender. Board members would like specific information about this.
- Dr. Lebel noted there were 29 1:1 observations in June. It was suggested the July number will be better.
- Dr. Lebel noted that new patients should get an initial base line assessment.

- Dr. Lebel noted that Ms. Mary Jane Inman of Pastoral Services did a great job on her presentation to the Board in June.
- Dr. Lebel inquired about the return of patients to jail. Courts send patients to TPH for evaluation, and those found competent to stand trial are returned to jail. Patients found incompetent typically remain at TPH.
- Dr, Lebel noted the numbers of incidents in June by type A+, A, B, and C.
- **Auxiliary Report:**

Ms. Senni reported that the Auxiliary currently is accepting donations. Items are requested to be clean and in good condition. Large Items also being accepted. They can be dropped off at the Guard House so they can be taken to the Auxiliary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

No report at this time.

- **Legislative Committee – Ms. Carolyn Torre**

New Statutes Signed by the Governor related to Mental Health in June 2022

- A2008/S352 - Requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for treatment of mental health conditions and substance use disorders through collaborative care.
Passed Assembly 77-0 and Senate 40-0;
Signed 6/29/22: P.L. 2022, c.33 Link in Leg. Report
- A2036/S311 - Establishes Statewide behavioral health crisis system of care. This law provides appropriations to cover cost of pilot program for new 988 number (mental health/suicide emergency call number) which is being rolled out on 7/16/22.
6/30/22: Signed by the Governor: P.L. 2022, c.35. Link: <https://pub.njleg.state>.

S722/A785: S: Codey/A: Pou: Codifies and expands ARRIVE Together Pilot Program to make certain mental health services available to police responding to certain emergencies; appropriates \$2 million. ** This mental health-related policing bill went quickly through the legislature in June 2022.

Passed both houses, 6/29/22: Signed by

Gov. on 6/30/22: P.L. 2022, c. 36 Link:

https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S1000/722_R1.PDF

- A4399/S2872 - Establishes Behavioral Healthcare Provider Loan Redemption Program within Higher Education Student Assistance Authority; appropriates \$5 million. These bills were JUST introduced on 6/27 and went immediately to committee with no public notice and no information or language of the bill available to the public.

Passed Assembly 75-1-2 and passed Senate

40-0 on 6/29/22; signed by Gov. 6/30/22: P.L.

2022, c. 34. Link:

https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S3000/2872_R1.PDF

Regulatory Update:

June 20, 2022: The following amended regulation was adopted and published in the NJ.

Register: Board of Nursing: Adopted N.J.A.C. 13:37-7.9A: Limitations on Prescribing, Administering, or Dispensing of Controlled Dangerous Substances, and Special Requirements for Management of Acute and Chronic Pain (Co-Prescribing Opioid Antidote): This is an explanation of the amended rule in the BON's language; I have bolded the most relevant additions:

The New Jersey Board of Nursing (Board) is changing N.J.A.C. 13:37-7.9A upon adoption to implement P.L. 2021, c. 54, which establishes the circumstances and conditions under which a health care practitioner must issue a prescription for an opioid antidote. In accordance with the new law, a certified advanced practice nurse must co-prescribe an opioid antidote whenever the advanced practice nurse issues a prescription for an opioid drug that is a controlled dangerous substance and one of the following conditions exists: the patient has a history of substance use disorder, the prescription for the opioid drug is for a daily dose of more than 90 morphine milligram equivalents (MME), or the patient holds a current, valid prescription for a benzodiazepine that is a Schedule III or Schedule IV controlled dangerous substance.

The statutory provisions differ from the Board's original notice of proposal by requiring the prescription for an opioid antidote whenever an opioid drug is prescribed, instead of when the practitioner continuously prescribes a controlled dangerous substance for the management of chronic pain. Additionally, the new law requires the co-prescribing of an opioid antidote if the patient has a history of substance abuse and modifies the threshold for the morphine milligram equivalents to require the co-prescribing of an opioid antidote where the MME exceeds--rather than equals or exceeds--90 MME. To implement the new law, the Board is removing proposed new paragraph (f)8 (and the attendant technical change at paragraph (f)7) and to add new subsection (i). In addition, the Board is recodifying subsections (i) and (j) as new subsections (j) and (k), and to change recodified subsection (j) to reflect the addition of subsection (i). The Board is also changing subsection (a) to include a definition for the term "opioid antidote."

Schulley Trading Post – Mr. Neil Weisfeld

The Schulley Trading Post will be remodeled, with new appliances, flooring, furniture, painted walls, and pictures. The remodeling should be completed by next April.

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

No report this month.

- **Welfare Fund – Mr. Weisfeld**

The Schulley Trading Post experienced a slight deficit in June. Nevertheless, a \$4,000.00 contribution was made to the Welfare Fund.

**Report from Ms. Mary Jean Weston, MSW, Regional Coordinator
Office of Community Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
(DMHAS)
(July 21, 2022)**

1. **The Overdose Prevention Statute** (amended by 2021, c. 152, § 1, effective August 31, 2021) provides that when individuals are reversed with naloxone, first responders are required to leave information, resources, and naloxone kits (2 doses) with them. To support this requirement, DMHAS has distributed naloxone kits to law enforcement, municipalities, county prosecutors' offices and EMS. Other sites may also receive these kits as well. Funding for this program are from the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant.
2. **Mental Health Pilot Program for justice involved defendants** who are subject to the Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) Act and identified with a serious mental illness is in development. Counties targeted include Camden, Middlesex, and Essex.
3. **Cultural Competence** and the ability to address diversity within the populations we serve is an essential ingredient in decreasing disparities in behavioral health. Each agency is expected to develop a formal plan for cultural and linguistic competence. Toward that end, DMHAS has offered Cultural Competency training for all contracted agency leaders.

988 will become the 3-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) on July 16, 2022.

This nationwide number will serve as an easy-to-remember way to contact the NSPL by phone or text. A chat option is available at <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat>.

FAQs about the Lifeline and 988 can be found at [988 Frequently Asked Questions | SAMHSA](#). Please send questions to 988Questions@dhs.nj.gov.

The NJ State Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) was passed and signed by Governor Murphy on June 30th. A summary of highlights related to Department of Human Services programs was provided.

COMMUNICATIONS – There were no communications this month.

OLD BUSINESS – None at this time

NEW BUSINESS - None at this time

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Kwoka
Secretary Board of Trustees

Neil Weisfeld
Chairperson

NW/sk

Following the meeting, the 2021 TPH Annual Report was publicly presented by James Hollen, DCEO.