

**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, September 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
***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; Michelle Senni, Executive Assistant to the CEO; Towana Wilkins, Business Manager; Dr. Heshman Soliman, Director of Medicine; Julie VanHouten – Associate Hospital Administrator 1
Sheila Kwoka, Medical Services Assistant/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

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 July 21, 2022, meeting were approved as corrected.

BOARD REPORT:

July Monthly Report:

- Ms. Carr noted the lack of funding for the Cell Phone Program. It was noted that the Cell Phone program is being reinstated.
- Mr. Weisfeld favorably noted that approval was given to start Wellness Clinic support for women's health screenings. The physician visits women patients on the units and in the clinic on Tuesdays.
- Dr. Lebel noted patients' graduation from the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Clinic. Dr. Lebel asked whether the patients demonstrate continued engagement with the program. Rigorous attention and follow-up take place.
- Dr. Lebel inquired about the recent increase in the numbers of patients experiencing Close Observation (1:1 and 2:1). The increase is due to the acuity in the hospital.
- Dr. Lebel inquired about the specific nature of cognitive deficits and how they are addressed. A successful example is artistic disorders therapy in the Kennedy Unit to enhance patients' cognitive skills.
- Dr. Lebel inquired about the Stepping Stone Clinic. Dr. Ahmad will ask Sonja Myers for more information about this.

August Monthly Report:

- Dr. Lebel noted errors in the numbers pertaining to Clinical Analytics and Violence Prevention initiatives. Ms. Kwoka will make the corrections.
- Ms. Torre noted the Close Observation (1:1) Reduction. Dr. Ahmad said the numbers are starting to come down this month. The number in the Lincoln Complex is higher than elsewhere due to the need for suicide precautions.
- Ms. Torre noted that the census declined in the Month of August.
- Ms. Torre also noted an increase in restraints in the month of August.
- Ms. Torre was pleased that the IDDSI (International Dysphagia Diet Standardization Initiative) was approved and is going well.
- Ms. Torre asked about activity of the New Leaf Gardiners, and Ms. Carr was pleased that patients are tilling the garden.

- Ms. Carr noted the increase in admissions. The increase is largely due to an increase in the number of forensic patients, which may suggest a change in the nature of the hospital.
- Mr. Weisfeld noted that the next complex to get the Stepping Stone Clinic is the Raycroft Complex. There are some clinical issues to be ironed out. SUD Clinic is working on obtaining a license for the program. The program has graduated 10 patients and those patients are being monitored for sobriety. In the next couple of months, we can report more on the program. Mr. Weisfeld suggested that ultimately the program could serve as a national model.
- Mr. Weisfeld noted that assaults in July were down but in August the assaults went up.
- **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. The Auxiliary is preparing to put together the holiday gifts for the patients and they are expecting donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Dr. Lebel went over the information that was sent to the Board. Please refer to the end of the minutes for that information.

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

No report at this time.

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

The Schulley Trading Post is being remodeled. The remodeling should be completed shortly and is expected to encompass new furniture, new flooring, and new equipment, including a new ice cream machine and slushy machine.

Funding was provided by the State to do the remodeling. Ms. Torre is very happy that the remodeling is taking place. It was discussed that the Board would like a tour of the Schulley Trading Post and of the TPH Campus. The tentative tour date is Thursday, October 20th.

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

Ms. Senni has sent photos to the Board on the new furniture and Adirondack chairs. The Board requested a "wish list" of desired items.

- **Welfare Fund – Mr. Weisfeld**

Mr. Weisfeld noted that the Board is pleased that revenues are coming into the Welfare Fund.

It was noted that TPH is looking into a POS (Point of Sale) system for the Schulley Trading Post, because many staff members prefer credit to cash transactions.

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

1. **Opioid Summit** – Please join us for the annual DMHAS Virtual Opioid Summit, The Evolving Opioid Crisis: A Collaborative Approach on Wednesday, September 21st. <https://njopioidsummit2022.vfairs.com/en/registration>.
2. **Partial Care Payments by Medicaid (Update)** - The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) made a decision to extend the termination date for PC/PH and APH Telehealth, Per Diem, billing from 7/1/2022 to 8/15/2022, in order to align with the Medicaid termination date for the same services. DMHAS is pleased to announce that the MH-FFS program will also allow for continued PC/PH and APH Telehealth billing in NJMHAPP for those instances in which it is not practical or medically appropriate for an individual to return to face-to-face services.



PC Telehealth
Provider Communicat

3. **Justice Involved Mental Health Pilot Program (Update)** – The goals of this program include: Identifying individuals with a likelihood of a serious mental illness as early as possible after an Order for Pretrial Release is issued by the judge; Ensuring defendants are linked to community-based treatment and support services as soon as possible; Assisting defendants with seeking admission to/successful completion of a voluntary MH diversion program integrated with the County Prosecutor’s office and the courts.
4. **Public Input re: Opioid Settlement funds** – The State of New Jersey is seeking public input on how the opioid settlement funds should be used. Please see the link below, provide your thoughts, and share with your contacts. https://www.nj.gov/opioidfunds/?utm_campaign=20220902_nwsltr&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
5. **988 Update** – The transition to 988, the new 3-digit dialing code for suicide prevention, mental health and substance use crisis, occurred on July 16th. Since then, NJ’s five Lifeline centers have been receiving and handling an increasing volume of calls (in July, approximately 35% over the previous year). Plans include additional expansion of the network capacity as 988 also responds to chats (<https://988lifeline.org/chat>) and texts (to 988). DMHAS will be issuing a monthly update on 988 which will be available on its website at <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/initiatives/988/index.html>.
6. **NARCAN Training (Update)** – The NJ Department of Health has a website dedicated to Naloxone (Narcan ®), access, training and use. <https://www.nj.gov/health/integratedhealth/home/naloxone.shtml#2>. Halfway down the page is a section titled Opioid Overdose Prevention Program which lists agencies in the 3 regions of the state (North, Central, South) that provide individuals at-risk for overdose, their family members, friends, and loved ones with naloxone rescue kits, and educate and train them on how to prevent, recognize and respond to an opioid overdose.

7. Recent RFPs –

- a. Prevention Services for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered or Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) youth in New Jersey middle or high schools. DMHAS anticipates making two \$225,000 awards - one in the central, and another in the southern region of the state as indicated below. DMHAS currently funds a program that serves LGBTQ youth in northern New Jersey.
- b. Expansion of Community Peer Recovery Centers (CPRC) to Mercer and Salem counties. The CPRC will be a place where individuals can access peer support, information about substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, recovery support services, and information about other community resources in a supportive substance free environment.
- c. Additional RFPs listed at <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/>

COMMUNICATIONS – There were no communications this month.

OLD BUSINESS –

- Ms. Carr had asked for data on the gender and age distribution of patients and implications for care. Ms. Johnson provided the information in detail. Please refer to the end of the Minutes.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Ms. Monica Kelly, the new Travis Complex Administrator, updated the Board on the Travers Complex. The Stepping Stone Clinic is running very smoothly, and she is learning a lot about the CA position.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Kwoka
Secretary Board of Trustees

Neil Weisfeld
Chairperson

NW/sk

Please take note: Dr. Ahmad's presentation on Violence Prevention has been moved to October 20, 2022, Board of Trustees Meeting.