

**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, April 20, 2023**, 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.

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Excused:</u></b>
***Carolyn Torre - RN, MA APN Chairperson ***Patricia Carr – Vice Chairperson ***Neil Weisfeld, Esq. ***Maureen Lebel – MSW, PhD.  *** <b>Board Member Via Microsoft Team and Via call in on Microsoft teams</b>	Susan Rubino, MD

**TPH Staff Attendance:**

Maria Christensen, CEO; Intikhab Ahmad, M.D., Clinical Director; James Hollen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer -Operations (DCEO); Faith Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer-Clinical (DCEO); Michelle Senni, Executive Assistant to the CEO; Julie Van Houten, Chief Nursing Officer; Frank Miller, QI Director  
Towana Wilkins, Business Manager; Sheila Kwoka, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

**Guest:**

Chinwe Agba-Eluwa – Complex Administrator, Drake Complex;  
Barbara Ferrick – Social Worker Supervisor  
Steve Hirsch – Director of Social Work

**Excused:**

Mary Jean Weston, DMHAS;

**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 March 16, 2023, meeting were approved with changes.

## BOARD REPORT:

### April Monthly Report:

- Ms. Carr noted assaults have increased. The Lazarus and Kennedy Units in Lincoln have seen an increase.
- Ms. Carr noted that the New Leaf Gardners will be planting the new trees over the next few weeks. Plus, the Patients are learning interview skills for when they are discharged into the community.
- Ms. Carr was very pleased that the Delinquency Rate for the month of March was at 0%.
- Ms. Carr noted the Monthly Discharge for the Month of March was low **(8)**.
- Ms. Carr noted the increase of the Average Census for the month of March **(304)**.
- Ms. Carr would like to see a separate Category on the Boutiqu'd profits on the Welfare Fund Budget.
- Dr. Lebel inquired about the Readiness Check-In. It is to reach out to the patients to make sure they go to Groups, and they take their medications. They check two to 4 times a week on the patients.
- Dr. Lebel noted the Life Skills that are being taught to the patients.
- Mr. Weisfeld positively noted that March is National Nutrition Month
- Mr. Weisfeld inquired do the patients attend church on Sundays? Yes, they do all church masses are now in-person.
- Ms. Torre noted the increased numbers of patients in Restraints.
- Ms. Torre noted that the decreased numbers of Patients going to the Emergency Room.
- Ms. Torre noted Positive Behavior Support Unit. PBSU motivates patients to be kind to one another. The patients get rewarded for their kindness. The patients get to do special activities and go on special trips.
- Ms. Torre inquired about the job fair at Thomas Edison State University. There was approximately 25 people show to the fair. Applications were for Food Service and Housekeeping.
- Ms. Torre inquired about the Nursing Residency Program is for Trenton Psychiatric Hospital Staff to join the program.
- Ms. Torre noted that there was no COVID patients in over a month.

## AUXILIARY REPORT:

- The auxiliary is helping getting magazines for the patients. The magazines are: Good Housekeeping, People, Sports Illustrated, AARP, Essence, Pioneer Woman, and Cars. The Auxiliary is accepting donations for the patients.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### • Incident Committee – Dr. Maureen Lebel

- The Incidents Committee shall report on incidents and issues involving patient health, safety, and other matters, including quality monitoring and violence prevention.
- In this report I will present some of the information presented at the Violence Prevention Committee meetings thus far in 2023 along with some discussion of resolution efforts and interventions. Because regular monthly reports abound with data, I hope in future to deal more with resolution efforts and interventions.
- During January, February and March 2023 restraints were applied 44, 52 and 47 times respective. For January and February 64 and 69 percent of restraint incidents occurred in the Lincoln Complex. Ms. Johnson noted that during January and February some environmental changes in Kennedy and Lazarus may have served as triggers.
- During February medications were given during 79 percent of mechanical restraints while 12 percent of mechanical restraints were applied without medication.
- The bulk of restraints occurred during the day and evening shifts with an average of 1.5 percent during night shift for January and February. Also, for each of January and February 65 percent of patients for whom restraints were applied were women.
- The mean number of assaults per month is down this year (101 in 2021, 98 in 2022 and 85 for the first three months of 2023).
- It is worth noting that any “act of touching or striking a victim’s body to cause physical harm, which may or may not result in actual injury” is defined as physical assault. During the first three months of this year 68 percent of assaults resulted in no injury, twenty-nine percent in minor injuries and 3 percent in moderate injuries. There have been no major injuries in 2023.
- During January, 90 percent of assaults occurred during the day and evening shifts.
- In addressing assaults Dr. Ahmad will continue to review restraint and assault data, Ms. Johnson will continue to implement Personal Safety Plans, Nursing will continue with Broset training, and Chin Agba-Eluwa will continue to review R&R data.

- **Legislative Committee – Mr. Neil Weisfeld**

## **BILLS AFFECTING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The Committee continues to monitor the following bills. **Actions taken since the Committee's last report appear in boldface (thus).**

### **A2764/S1068**

Increases Medicaid reimbursement for certain evidence-based mental health services

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Sterley S. Stanley (D), Sadaf F. Jaffer (D), Daniel R. Benson (D); Senators Joseph F. Vitale (D), Vin Gopal (D)

Approved by Assembly Human Services Committee 9-0 on February 9, referred to Assembly Health Committee. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee January 31 (2022).

### **A4275/S3461**

Establishes ombudsman for mental health and addiction services

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Angela V. McKnight (D), Benjie E. Wimberly (D), Daniel R. Benson (D); Senator James Beach (D)

**Approved by Assembly Health Committee 12-0 on February 13, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.** Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee January 12.

### **A4615/S3591**

Requires state to help develop graduate medical education programs in behavioral health care

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Louis D. Greenwald (D), Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D), Ellen J. Park (D); **Senator Andrew Zwicker (D)**

Approved by Assembly Higher Education Committee 12-0 on February 13, approved by Assembly Appropriations Committee 10-0 on February 23, passed by the Assembly 78-0 on February 27, referred to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

**A4755/S3261**

Permits behavioral and mental health providers to operate in homeless shelters

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Yvonne Lopez (D), William F. Moen (D), Shanique Speight (D); Senator Renee C. Burgess (D)

Approved by Assembly Housing Committee 6-0 on October 13, approved by Assembly Human Services Committee 9-0 on December 8, passed by the Assembly 77-0 on December 15. Approved by the Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee 8-0 on January 19, **amended (to broaden the definition of qualified providers) and passed by the Senate 36-0 on March 20. Modified Senate version passed by the Assembly 74-0 on March 30.**

**A3514/S704**

Prohibits mental health professionals from disclosing mental health notes to health insurers

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Clinton Calabrese (D), Angelica M. Jimenez (D), Reginald W. Atkins (D); Senators Richard J. Codey (D), Anthony M. Bucco (R)

Approved by Senate Commerce Committee 4-0 on May 16, passed by the Senate 38-0 on June 16. Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee June 16.

**A508/S2668**

Establishes annual cost-of-living adjustment for mental health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Daniel R. Benson (D), Carol A. Murphy (D); Senators Linda R. Greenstein (D), Joseph F. Vitale (D), Vin Gopal (D)

Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee January 11 (2022). Approved by Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee 7-0 on October 6, referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

**A1700/S524**

Creates mental health diversion program to divert eligible persons from criminal justice system

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Annette Quijano (D), Raj Mukherji (D), Reginald W. Atkins (D); Senators M. Teresa Ruiz (D), Sandra B. Cunningham (D)

Approved by Assembly Judiciary Committee 4-0 on September 29, referred to Assembly Human Services Committee. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee January 11 (2022).

**A1924/S3031**

Mandates reimbursement of mental health treatment for domestic violence by health insurers

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Lisa Swain (D), Daniel R. Benson (D); Senators Vin Gopal (D), M. Teresa Ruiz (D)

Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee January 11 (2022). Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee September 22.

**A4604/S682**

Mandates suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners

*Sponsors:* Assembly rep. Kevin J. Rooney (R); Senators Anthony M. Bucco (R), Vin Gopal (D)

Referred to Assembly Health Committee September 22. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee January 11 (2022).

**A4540/S1153**

Mandates mental health evaluation of all adult and juvenile animal cruelty offenders ("Shyanne's Law")

*Sponsors:* Assembly rep. Angelica M. Jimenez (D); Senator Joseph F. Vitale (D)  
Referred to Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee September 22.  
Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee January 31 (2022).

**A4618/S3122**

Creates online job portal for behavioral health care workers and online externship and internship portal for health care students

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Roy Freiman (D), Carol A. Murphy (D), Louis D. Greenwald (D); Senator Andrew Zwicker (D)

Approved by Assembly Labor Committee 9-0 on December 8, approved by Assembly Appropriations Committee 10-0 on February 23, passed by the Assembly 78-0 on February 27. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee February 28.

## **II. ADDITIONAL BILLS AFFECTING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The Committee has added the following bills to the list of those it is monitoring.

### **A1336/S1965**

Creates Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board in Department of Human Services

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Gabriela M. Mosquera (D), Gary S. Schaer (D), Pamela R. Lampitt (D); Senator Kristin M. Corrado (R)

Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee January 11 (2022). Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee March 3 (2022).

### **A2286/S1522**

Eases practice restrictions for advanced practice nurses

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Nancy F. Munoz (R), Mila M. Jasey (D), William W. Spearman (D); Senators Joseph F. Vitale (D), Troy Singleton (D)

Referred to Assembly Health Committee February 7 (2022). Approved by Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee 7-0 on December 15.

### **A2875/S528**

Creates Behavioral Health Services Task Force

*Sponsors:* Assembly rep. Daniel R. Benson (D); Senator Joseph F. Vitale (D)

Referred to Assembly Health Committee February 28 (2022). Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee January 31 (2022).

### **A1847/S255**

Allows diversion from criminal prosecution of some people affected by mental illness

*Sponsors:* Assembly rep. Ellen J. Park (D); Senators Shirley K. Turner (D), Brian P. Stack (D)

Referred to Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee January 11 (2022). Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee January 11 (2022).

**A1950/S1950**

Includes substance use disorder among conditions sometimes justifying involuntary commitment

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Raj Mukherji (D), Gabriela M. Mosquera (D), Angelica M. Jimenez (D); Senator Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez (D)

Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee January 11 (2022). Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee March 3 (2022).

**A3675/S3574**

Creates START pilot program for people with dual diagnoses

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Anthony S. Verrelli (D), Raj Mukherji (D), Daniel R. Benson (D); Senator Jean Stanfield (R)

Approved by Assembly Human Services Committee 9-0 on June 9, referred to Assembly Health Committee. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee February 9.

**A3750/S143**

Enhances suicide prevention and treatment

*Sponsors:* Assembly reps. Kim Eulner (R), Marilyn Piperno (R); Senators Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr. (D), Linda R. Greenstein (D)

Referred to Assembly Health Committee May 2. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee January 11 (2022).

**A4604/S682**

Mandates suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners

*Sponsors:* Assembly rep. Kevin J. Rooney (R); Senators Anthony M. Bucco (R), Vin Gopal (D)

Referred to Assembly Health Committee September 22. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee January 11 (2022).



### III. NOTE ON GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

As noted in our report last month, Governor Murphy's proposed state budget for fiscal year 2024 includes ". . . over \$8 million in increased State funds for the first-in-the-nation statewide expansion of the Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation – the ARRIVE Together program – which pairs police officers and State Troopers with mental health professionals when responding to a person who is experiencing a mental health crisis." (Source: <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562023/20230228c.shtml>) This is in addition to the \$2 million previously authorized by the Legislature for the ARRIVE Together pilot program. The budget is pending before the Legislature.

### IV. NOTE ON PENDING LEGISLATION AFFECTING SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE

The New Jersey chapter of the National Association of Social Workers is promoting the following bills:

- **A5349**, sponsored by Assembly representative Louis D. Greenwald (D), to enter New Jersey into the proposed Social Work Interstate Licensing Compact
- **A5283**, sponsored by Assembly representatives P. Christopher Tully (D), Gabriela M. Mosquera (D), and Louis D. Greenwald (D), to determine national average processing times for professional licensure applications and ensure New Jersey boards' adherence to normal processing times, and
- **A4619**, sponsored by Assembly representatives Herb Conaway, Jr. (D), Sterley S. Stanley (D), and Louis D. Greenwald (D), to make temporary emergency social work licenses, as established during the COVID pandemic, a permanent option.

#### • **Schulley Trading Post – Mr. Weisfeld**

The Schulley Trading Post should be able to open by Memorial Day. The seamless floor will be done by the end of April. The new food line will be installed shortly, and painting and the electricity will also be done shortly.

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

**Recent Accomplishments**

Purchase of trees to replace removals

**Currently in Progress**

Avante Garden Day Planning: planting, arts and crafts, music poetry readings

**Projects Waiting in the Wings (depending on timing/funding)**

Outdoor awnings Lincoln Complex

Driveway paving parking lot to storage sheds

Smart tv hookup to view educational horticultural videos

**Wish List**

Insulate potting shed roofing

Replace lower panels greenhouse four

Additional greenhouse

New classroom building

- **Welfare Fund – Ms. Torre**

Mr. Holland reports that the budget for 2024 should be ready for presentation at the May Board meeting. Ms. Torre noted that we have a larger balance in the Welfare fund than usual. Mr. Holland explained that more money from the Welfare fund will be spent as bands are hired and other events and festivities occur throughout the summer. Several special projects were covered by monies from the Division (repair to a greenhouse roof, for example), so funds from the Welfare fund were not required.

**Report from Ms. Mary Jean Weston, MSW, Regional Coordinator**  
**Office of Community Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS)**  
**(April 20, 2023)**

**1. Governor's Proposed Budget**

Includes continued and ongoing investments in the services and supports provided by the Department of Human Services to families and children, individuals with disabilities, older adults, those with substance use and mental health conditions, new Americans, and, individuals in need of health care, social services and other assistance.

**2. FDA Approves Over-the-Counter Naloxone Nasal Spray**

Naloxone is a medication that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose and is the standard treatment for opioid overdose. The [FDA's action](#) paves the way for the life-saving medication to be sold directly to consumers in places like drug stores, convenience stores, grocery stores and gas stations, as well as online.

**3. DEA Drug Take Back Day – April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Locations around the state will be participating in collecting unused and expired medications. Visit <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday> to find your nearest collection site.

**4. 988 Update**

**a. 988 Managing Entity**

Carelon Behavioral Health will serve as New Jersey's 988 Managing Entity. Carelon will be responsible for coordination and oversight of New Jersey's 988 Lifeline crisis centers, data collection and reporting, maintaining a Resource and Referral Database, and dispatching Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams.

**b. Report to NJ Legislature**

As required by P.L.2022, c.35. (S-311 of the 2022-2023 session), the Department of Human Services has completed a Report on 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and NJ Crisis Care Continuum. The Report is attached.



DHS Report to  
Legislature.988 Suicid

**5. Social Work Licensing**

**a. Social Work Interstate Licensing Compact**

Legislation to enter New Jersey into the proposed Social Work Interstate Licensing Compact (A5349) was introduced this week by Assembly Majority Leader Greenwald. NASW-NJ will be working to obtain additional sponsors and to have a companion bill introduced in the Senate, with the hope of passing the bill into law by the end of this legislative cycle.

**b. BSWE/DCA Improvements**

Legislation (A5283) was introduced this week that would require the BSWE and other professional licensing boards to determine the national average processing time for professional licenses and to ensure that NJ can process licenses within that time frame.

**c. Temporary Emergency Graduate Licenses**

Majority Leader Greenwald and others have sponsored legislation (A4619) that would make the Temporary Emergency Graduate License, created during the COVID-19 pandemic, a permanent licensure option to help newly graduate Masters level social workers enter LSW practice more quickly.

**6. RFPs from DMHAS**

- a. SUD Peer Recovery Specialists for Residential Treatment
- b. Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers
- c. Programs to Provide Medications for Substance Use Disorder
- d. Residential Services for Individuals with a SMI and an IDD

More Information on these funding opportunities and other RFPs is available at:

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/>

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

**OLD BUSINESS:** Ms. Carr asked if the letter of commendation for the New Leaf Gardners which she had sent for approval to Dr. Christensen, in March, was sent. Staff will follow-up.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

No New Business currently

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

**Post-meeting Presentation:** Olmstead issues and post-hospitalization placement.

Ms. Barbara Ferrick - Assistant Director, Social Services

Mr. Steve Hirsch – Director of Social Services.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted,	
Sheila Kwoka	Carolyn Torre RN, MA, APN, FAANP
Secretary Board of Trustees	Chairperson

CT/sk

**Olmstead – Status Report** - Barbara A. Ferrick, MSW, LSW, SWS1  
Assistant Director, Social Services

- Revised Social Skills Groups are now being offered in all complexes and the Treatment Mall on a weekly basis, and facilitators are required to participate in fidelity supervision monthly.
- Social Work staff were available to provide information and respond to questions and concerns about discharge placement options at a decentralized Wellness Event in August of 2022, as we continued to observe covid mitigation strategies which prevented the co-mingling of consumers from various complexes. A theme-based activity book, crayons, and refreshments were made available to participants.
- TPH expanded the number of “on site / in person” visitation slots available throughout the hospital, and now has included availability for visits on weekend afternoons. Virtual visits continue to be offered as a convenience for those who prefer that option.
- The Olmstead Unit is providing additional weekly reports / statistics needed by CEO staff, DRNJ, and the Division related to our consumer census, legal status, source of admissions, discharges, and discharge barriers, while our patient care unit staff are encountering higher acuity and an increasing number of legally involved consumers.
- The Olmstead Unit has continued to increase services available to the patient care unit social work staff related to entitlements, guardianship, DDD matters, insurance application processing, procurement of identification documents (including birth certificates, social security cards, local county identification and NJ MVC id's). Finding ways to procure the necessary documentation to secure such ids has become increasingly challenging as agencies (including NJ MVC) have further restricted the types of acceptable documentation required to obtain identification and most of our consumers do not have bank accounts or even healthcare insurance cards. We continue to explore potential options to fulfil the requirements. As an example, we requested that our consumers be able to temporarily obtain an institutional Medicaid id card for this purpose and we continue to attempt to obtain potential leasing documents in advance of discharge, to allow us to use those as a “point” with NJ MVC, enabling us to get a consumer the government issued photo id, which many landlords require to complete a rental / leasing application.

In addition, this unit continues to process immigration related requests to enable consumers to apply for or replace citizenship documents. A more recent requirement has been to secure Naturalization paperwork (US Citizenship) for consumers, who in the past could often be eligible for some entitlements once they had secured a legal permanent residence card (green card). More recently, however, most consumers are required to pursue naturalization to qualify for entitlements such as Social Security Disability or Insurance benefits, for example.

Thus, this unit has begun to pursue citizenship for more consumers and even to secure passports once naturalized, so that future loss of a naturalization certificate can be addressed with a passport replacement should future proof of citizenship be needed. Passport replacements are available at a lower cost and with a reduced turn-around time for replacement, allowing for a more expedient discharge.

Following our initial success in obtaining naturalization papers for one of our consumers who was challenged in passing the citizenship test, we have learned that filing a physician's request for medical exemption and waiver of oath paperwork has been successful recently for a few more of our consumers and this may become a more standardized approach in the future as our consumers are often challenged to express themselves well or respond to citizenship related questions. Learning of this potential option when a "guardian" is willing to take the oath on their behalf has potentially opened a pathway for more consumers to become eligible. We continue to explore this.

Another recent development related to identification documents is the establishment of a protocol for requesting birth certificates from Puerto Rico with the assistance of our Public Defender / Mental Health Advocates Office. For many years these documents were not available by mail due to the high rate of forgery that the government discovered. Thereafter, the destruction by subsequent hurricanes required Puerto Rico rebuild their infrastructure and revise their processes to restore fulfillment requests by mail. In addition, having an attorney submit these requests reportedly results in an expedited response and improved outcomes. Thus, we will be submitting our initial test application thru the PD's Office as soon as we receive requested records from another hospital, as PD has advised that while we likely have sufficient information to enable Puerto Rico to respond, providing the additional information requested may improve our chances of obtaining the document.

Challenges with apartment searching and contracted housing placements available to our consumer population continued throughout 2022 (and to present) due primarily to:

- covid costs and restraints and consumer concerns such as legal and credit history and
- contracted housing providers establishing more challenging criteria for entry into their programs / facilities

But SW staff has increasingly sought private resources (such as boarding homes and RHCF's) for discharge whenever other options may not be readily available and we have continued to work with families for reunification when appropriate. Some Public Defenders, who had become significantly more aggressive during the pandemic (in their attempts to protect consumers from contracting covid while hospitalized), have continued to be aggressive in seeking discharge -- even to the extent of suggesting shelter placements when families and significant others were unable to be located or later recanted their agreement to accept these consumers into their homes, reporting that they felt coerced by the PD's. And as you will note in the below discharge table, in some instances they have resorted to suggesting that some consumers be discharged to hotels, which does not typically provide the permanency recommended for discharge placement. While we respect the protective instinct, this has resulted in increased court ordered discharges (which may impact our ability to comply with SSPRC /CARP reviews in advance) and may impact the consumers ability to remain in the community, though every attempt is made to comply with all requirements.

**2022 Discharges by Placement Type**

Private Residence with Friend, Family, Other	48
Jail	39
Group Home	23
Supportive Housing	22
AKFC	14
Out of State	9
Own Private Residence	7
Boarding Home/Rooming House/ SRO	6
DDD Housing	5
RHCF (Registered Healthcare Facility)	4
SNF (Skilled Nursing Facility)	3
Hotel	3
Died	2
Eloped (1 from intended placement)	2
VA Housing	1
Repatriation	1
Hospice	1
Total	190 Discharges



In addition, SW staff continued to work on reducing length of stay for NGRI consumers in an effort to make beds available for consumers awaiting admission. (See below table)

Calendar Year	D/C's	NGRI Admissions	NGRI Discharges	Net Change (beds freed up)	Average Length of Stay for Active TPH Census 12/31/22	Number of Days Reduced
2018 (pre-covid)	314	3	9	6	1575	N/A
2019 (pandemic identified)	300	9	8	-1	1459	116
2020 (full yr. of pandemic)	234	7	9	2	1448	11
2021 (post vaccine availability)	221	4	10	6	1269	179
2022 (bivalent vaccine)	190	9	7	-2	1233	36
2023 YTD (March 2023)	34	1	2	1	1179	54/TBD

Total Days Reduced (Thru 12/31/22) from *Average* Length of Stay, During This Period: 342 days; > 11 months)

2023 included on chart for comparison to date but, are not counted in the total number of days reduced since pre-covid.

## **New Highlights:**

- Due to proximity, TPH has recently requested and been granted access to the New York City housing application system in order to assist consumers who originate from NYC and wish to return to subsidized housing in NYC. We will be learning how to navigate this system and enter the requisite information to determine which subsidized housing programs specific consumers may be eligible to apply for.
- Social Services assisted in TPH successfully re-establishing the consultant contract for virtual PASRR screening following the repeal of covid waivers for this requirement.
- Social Services assisted in TPH establishing a relationship / agreement with University Hospital in Newark, NJ to provide specific types of specialized care that may be needed for our consumers, when it is not readily available thru CHS, in non-emergent situations, expanding access to specialized surgeons and cancer care, for example, largely under institutional Medicaid coverage.
- Most recently Social Work has been tasked with coordinating the potential distribution of cell phones (notifying CEO staff and coordinating scheduling and participation in training with CSP NJ representative) for patients being discharged. It is our hope that this will result in improved community reintegration and allow aftercare providers (with patient's permission) to be in contact with these individuals post discharge for follow up in the community when scheduled appointments may be missed, etc.
- Specific Social Services supervisory staff have been tasked with participating in Intern Field Instructor Training in anticipation of working with Social Work student interns in the future. The intent is to train future successors and to provide some relief for existing staff when we experience staffing shortages.
- TPH Social Services initiated research on procurement of end-of-life care at the state psychiatric hospitals and is now sharing that information with the OAC (Older Adults Committee) with members from all hospitals and other state agencies.