

**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, February 15, 2024**, 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.

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Excused:</u>
***Carolyn Torre - RN, MA, APN, FAANP, Chairperson ***Neil Weisfeld, Esq. ***Maureen Lebel – MSW, PhD. ***Timothy Gallagher – Director of HSP Law Enforcement ***Thomas Pyle – MBA, MS	***Dr. Mark Rosenberg – DO, MBA, FACEP, FAAHPM

TPH Staff Attendance:

Maria Christensen, CEO; James Hollen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer -Operations; (DCEO); Faith Johnson – Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Clinical); Julie Van Houten, Chief Nursing Officer; Intikhab Ahmad, M.D. Clinical Director.
Michelle Senni – Executive Assistant to the CEO; Mary Lou Graves – AHA, QI Director.
Dr. Hesham Soliman – Chief of Medicine

Guest:

Angela Wairimu Program Analyst – Middlesex County; Joe Suppers – Public Guest.

Excused:

Sheila Kwoka – Secretary to the Board of Trustees

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL:

Roll call was conducted in-person. The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Minutes from the January 18, 2024, were approved with corrections which Mr. Weisfeld will sent to Ms. Kwoka.

January Monthly Report:

- Dr. Lebel applauded the reduction in total CEPP patients.
- Dr. Lebel points out that the total number of assaults in January on p. 4 don't add up; should be 90, not 88.
- Dr. Lebel notes on p.5 that the average duration in restraints and total time in restraints were reversed in the Restraint chart.
- Dr. Lebel asked for correction of typo in Title of Evening and Weekend Programming on p. 7; numbers reflected service in last month, not last 11 months; additionally, the numbers presented were only for Drake.
- Ms. Torre expressed concern re. 2 assaults involving major injury.
- Ms. Torre asked how many RNs are expected in the Nurse Preceptor course; the course is still in development.
- Under 4 A level incidents reported on p. 10, Ms. Torre was concerned about the patient having a pen (used to strike another patient). Ms. Johnson told the Board that programming does permit pens. TPH has purchased flexible pens which are currently being evaluated for use.
- Mr. Pyle (and Dr. Label) want to know about placement of elderly patients after discharge. A discussion about guardianship ensued. Ms. Johnson explained that patients need time to stabilize before staff can evaluate the need for guardianship or placement; finding appropriate facilities has become easier in the past year.
- Mr. Weisfeld noted that the census was higher than the previous month; he suggested that when census or assault numbers are reported in the month of Jan., it would be helpful to have last year's end of year numbers for comparison.
- Mr. Weisfeld noted that assaults are down for the month of January.
- Mr. Weisfeld noted that we have 10 DDD patients and 1 CEPP. Mr. Weisfeld would like to know if staff are specially trained to handle DDD/CEPP patients. The board was told that we have a unit (Kennedy) where we try to cohort them. Staff are sensitive to these patients' needs, and there is special Psychologists programming on the unit.
- Mr. Weisfeld was pleased with the New Trades Training program. Congratulations!
- Mr. Weisfeld asked for clarification between A and A+ Dr. Ahmad will provide in the March meeting.
- Mr. Weisfeld was concerned about patient to staff assault described on p. 9. (24-530884). He expressed hope that the staff member is doing well.
- Mr. Weisfeld asked the outcome of the PSCU two-day survey; staff reports the information will not be available for several weeks.

- Mr. Weisfeld asked if Trenton Psychiatric Hospital (TPH) has an RSV vaccination campaign. Dr. Soliman reported that RSV vaccine is not on the formulary even though it has been found to be very effective in preventing hospitalizations; Ms. Torre noted that 2 TPH patients were hospitalized with pneumonia associated with RSV. Dr. Soliman says it has not yet become a community standard, but the vaccine is available. TPH staff will make an evaluation about the need to offer RSV vaccination to patients here.
- Mr. Weisfeld was very pleased with the zero (0%) HIM delinquency rate.
- Mr. Weisfeld positively noted that TPH is purchasing 500 new computers for the hospital.
- Mr. Weisfeld discussed complications related to releasing psychiatric patients into a general nursing home population where there are not enough neuropsychiatric placements.
- Mr. Gallagher was encouraged by the smooth rollout of the EMR, to date.
- Mr. Gallagher underscored that females are associated with a higher number of assaults than males at TPS. He posited that if patterns and trends are evaluated, the underlying behavior involved in most assaults should be identifiable. Dr. Ahmad agreed.
- Mr. Gallagher will ask the Human Service Police to do a comparison of TPH assault reports and their investigations.
- Mr. Suppers noted that HIPAA laws are a restriction that impedes families' understanding of what is happening to their family members at TPH.

AUXILIARY REPORT:

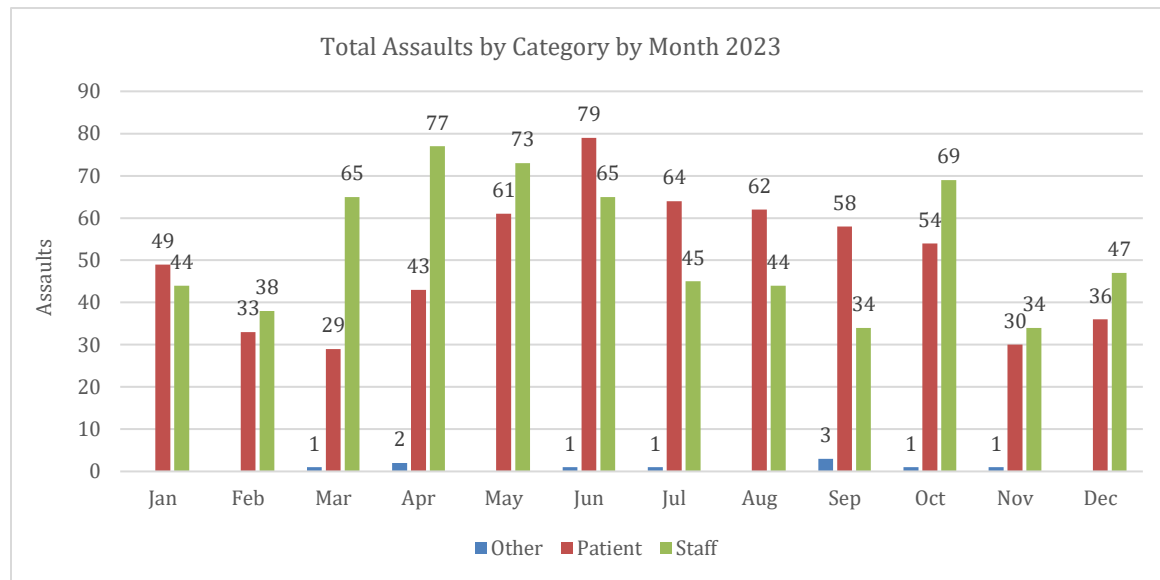
- The Auxiliary continues to take donations. Thank you, Madam Chair, for the donations. The March fashion show is on track.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Incident Committee – Dr. Maureen Lebel

Incident Committee, February 2023:

For technical reasons I was not able to attend the February 2024 Violence Prevention Meeting. However, I did receive the data reports in advance to the meeting. Presented below is a brief summary of the data.



Of the 1,276 assaults reported during 2023:

43% patient to patient

56% patient to staff

Assaults By Complex, 2023:

Lincoln	42%
Raycroft	33%
Drake	25%
Travers	.4%

Assaults by Gender, 2023:

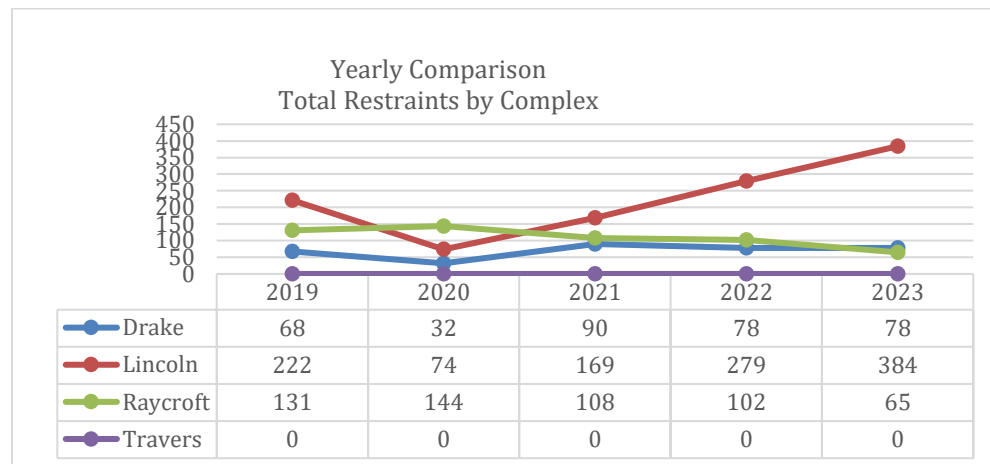
Female	55% (24% of patient population)
Male	45%

Assaults by Shift, 2023:

Evening 48%
 Day 44%
 Night 8%

Assaults by Severity, 2023:

Major .2%
 Moderate 3%
 Minor 31%
 No Injury 66%

**1/1 Observation, 2023:**

The mean number of patients on 1/1 observation per month in 2023 was 27, with 26 in December.

Restraints Applied, 2023:

Restraints were applied a mean number of 43 times per month during 2023 with a peak of 65 during October.

Of 527 instances when the application of restraints was required during 2023, physical holds accounted for 10% and EMRC 90%.

Restraints by Shift, 2023:

Evening 53%
 Day 38%
 Night 9%

Restraints by Gender, 2023:

Female 68% (24% of total patient population)

Male 32%

During December 2023, restraints were needed for female patients for an average of 2 hours each instance, for male patients an average of 1.7 hours.

Restraints by Age Range, 2023:

18-22 10%

22-30 36%

31-45 39%

46-60 14%

60+ .5%

Outliers, December 2023:

Four patients were identified as outliers in December with 3 or more restraint events for the month. The average duration of a restraint event for this group of outliers in December was 1.83hours. Together they accounted for 68% of the hospital's total restraints.

Sexual Assault Allegations, Fourth Quarter, 2023:

There were three (3) sexual assault allegations for the fourth quarter of 2023: One allegation was reported in November and two were reported in December. All three allegations were made by the same alleged victim. The alleged perpetrator(s) is/are unknown. All three cases were investigated by HSPD and State Police. As per Sergeant Martinez of the Human Service Police, all three cases were unfounded.

- **Legislative Committee – Mr. Neil Weisfeld**
 - None at this time.
- **Schulley Trading Post – Mr. Rosenberg:**
 - None at this time.
- **Therapeutic Environment Committee – Mr. Pyle:**

Recent Accomplishments

New curbs on the roadways on grounds

Paving of roads

Removal of diseased/dying trees

Additional tricycles

Received books for patients' book exchange areas.

Currently in Progress

Indoor murals are being worked on in Complexes.

Outdoor Theater preparation to be used when weather is appropriate for Twilight Movies - HSP are willing to attend and support!

COMING SOON...

Working on recommendation to have an on-grounds mini arboretum.

Have someone come in and identify our trees and label with a handout and map.

What is the purpose of an arboretum?



An arboretum is a botanical garden specializing in trees or woody plants. Arboreta across the globe conduct scientific research and conservation, engage in public outreach and education, and manage beautiful and diverse tree collection.

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

The outdoor awnings Lincoln Complex (Budgeted! Awaiting certifications & permits)

Wish List

Potting shed roof with insulation.

Lower panels in greenhouse four should be replaced (they are getting brittle and developing holes)

An additional greenhouse - Raycroft Complex

A new classroom building for more patients and training.

Swimming pool

Outdoor kitchen for outdoor activities

• Welfare Fund – Ms. Torre

After discussion a motion was made and approved to increase the Budget to \$60,000 from the current \$47,250 appropriation. The Schulley Trading Post made a profit of \$6,611.33 in January.

Report from Ms. Angela Wairimu, Program Analyst
Office of Community Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS)
(February 15, 2024)

- 1. NJ Human Services has provided more than 132,000 doses of Opioid Overdose Antidote during its first year of Free Naloxone at participating pharmacies.**
 - a. This program has allowed New Jerseyans to get life-saving medication free and anonymously at the participating pharmacies.
 - b. Combined With other Opioid Overdose Antidote efforts, Human Services during the Murphy Administration has provided about 614,000 naloxone doses to first responders, libraries, schools, colleges, public institutions, harm reduction entities and the general public.
- 2. NJ Human Services Opens Communication Access Grants to Help Make Communities More Inclusive for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Individuals**
 - a. NJ DHS Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced counties could apply for grants to promote better communication and language access for the deaf, hard of hearing and def-blind residents of all ages. The \$600,000 program is funded by Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing; awarded counties can receive a maximum award of \$70,000. Announcement date of selected respondents to the RLI is TBD. More information provided here [DDHH RLI - FINAL.pdf \(nj.gov\)](#)
- 3. New Jersey Human Services Enhancing Emergency Services Programs for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities**
 - a. NJ DHS Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced that DHS awarded contracts to Community Options, Inc., Community Access Unlimited and Oaks Integrated Care to operate emergency capacity services (ECS) programs throughout NJ. ECS programs support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) including those with acute behavioral needs. This funding will enable emergency, short term support to be available for admissions 7 days a week with 24-hour coverage provided.
 - b. As a part of this program, DHS is requiring providers to accept admissions 24/7 and adhere to a "no reject" policy.
 - c. Each program will hire a board-certified behavior analyst to develop behavioral support strategies that require special attention.
- 4. Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Expand Access to Crucial Harm Reduction Supplies**
 - a. Gov. Murphy signed legislation (S3957) to expand access to life-saving harm reduction supplies to end the opioid epidemic through a comprehensive approach. Specifically, the bill elaborates on the legality of products such as test strips for xylazine, a sedative for animals that has been increasingly present as an adulterant in the illicit drug supply.
- 5. Notice of Funding Availability: Crisis Receiving Stabilization Center (CRSC)**
 - a. This RFP is seeking creation of new CRSC's to provide services to those in need of immediate in-person crisis intervention and stabilization for a behavioral health crisis. This initiative is to create a program that utilizes the best practices for interventions in behavioral crisis intervention and produce cost savings by mitigating the use of the Emergency Departments (Eds) and also prevent inappropriate hospitalizations, reduce police engagements, arrests, incarcerations and 911 calls.
 - b. DMHAS anticipates making up to 5 awards up to \$7,447,057 per awardee inclusive of up to \$400,000 in one time startup funds and up to \$166,666 in Capital Funds, per award. Funding will support CSRCs for a term of 15 months and ends September 2025, unless otherwise extended if additional funding is available. Total funding is \$37,235,284, inclusive of one-time startup finds in the amount of \$2,000,000. For more information, click the link [NOFA - CRSC.pdf \(nj.gov\)](#).

COMMUNICATIONS: – There were no communications this month.

OLD BUSINESS:

No report currently

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Therapeutic Wish List will be discussed at the March 21 Board of Trustees Meeting.
- Dr. Lebel acknowledged the following Wellness Events:
 - Fashion Show
 - Pet Therapy
 - Line Dancing
 - March Madness
- Family/Hospital Communications suggestions to facilitate.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Trading Post – how can the public assist?
- Family Involvement:
 - Needs for glasses: Clinic available on site.
 - Dr. Appointments: Coordinated by the clinic; many services are on site.
 - Establish an internal committee to review family involvement.

ADJOURNMENT



The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., on Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Kwoka
Assistant Secretarial 3 to the CEO
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Carolyn Torre RN, MA, APN, FAANP
Chairperson

CT/sk

 
Trenton Psychiatric Integrated Care
Hospital WPV Prever Model, Women's He

[NJ hospital sets up special unit for behavioral health crisis patients | NJ Spotlight News](#)