

**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 20, 2025**, pursuant to notice duly given of the meeting to Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health Services, Office of the Commissioner.

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Excused:</u></b>
***Carolyn Torre - RN, MA, APN, FAANP ***Maureen Lebel – MSW, PhD., Co-Chairperson ***Neil Weisfeld, Esq. ***Thomas Pyle – MBA, MS, Chairperson	***Dr. Mark Rosenberg – DO, MBA, CEP, FAAHPM

**TPH Staff Attendance:**

Maria Christensen, CEO; Faith Johnson – Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Clinical); James Hollen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer -Operations (DCEO); Victor Cruz – Acting CON (Chief Nursing Officer); Mary Lou Graves –QI Director; Towana Wilkins – Business Manager/General Support; Michelle Senni – Executive Assistant to the CEO; Intikhab Ahmad, M.D., Clinical Director

**Guests:**

Diane Dooher for Angela Wairimu, Program Analyst – Office of Community Services, DMHAS  
Sonja Myers – Director of Rehabilitation

**Excused:**

Sheila Kwoka – Secretarial Assistant to the CEO and Secretary to the Board of Trustees (for jury duty)

**ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:46 a.m. Minutes from the January 19, 2024, meeting were approved.

## **CEO's December Monthly Report:**

- The Board noted the increase in assaults. Dr. Ahmad explained that several admissions account for the spike. New patients who decompensated or had very high acuity were in Lincoln and Kennedy.
- For better trend analysis, the Board requested that the incident reports hereafter show at least 12 months of data.
- The Board noted that restraints for individuals were higher.
- The Board commended the Wellness Activities. National Nutrition Month is March, and the Board was pleased to see the activities that are planned.
- The Board inquired about the Level A Incident. The patient, a forensic case charged with aggravated assault, came from a community hospital. The corrective Action Plan included: Staff Education, debriefing held for staff. Review of admission packets. The Board questioned why this was not considered an A+ Incident. Ms. Graves, Director of Quality Improvement, presented the parameters to differentiate an A vs A+ incident.
- The Board questioned how Community Resources are integrated with hospital patients. Ms. Johnson reported that the Rehabilitation Department has extensive collaborations with community programs, individualized to the patients' likes/dislikes and abilities.
- The Board asked for clarification about "CEPP". CEPP ("Condition Extended Pending Placement") is a legal designation, pursuant to the 1983 Olmstead Supreme Court decision, of a patient's right to be placed in the "least restrictive environment", but unable still to be discharged into the community. Reasons can include a) lack of a suitable residential option, b) patient's continuing symptom acuity c) patient's insufficient medication stability, c) receiving agency's conclusion of patient unsuitability, and d) patient's "discharge resistance". About 20% of all TPH patients are currently designated as CEPP. A board member noted from the census information that about 60% of the CEPPs currently reside in the longer-term units of Raycroft and Lincoln.
- The Board expressed interest in how the reports and discussion of monthly meetings can be enhanced, particularly to provide more data about patient recovery progress, outcomes, and efficacy of the hospital's applied therapeutic practices. The Board will consider this matter further and dialogue with the CEO how to achieve this, especially to highlight TPH's good work.
- The Board asked about the hospital's Sex Offender Program. Eight patients currently participate in the program.
- The Board noted that patient participation in therapy groups in the Lincoln Complex continues to be low.
- The Board noted that the Delinquency Rate for Physician documentation is decreasing to 22% though not much of a decrease.
- The Board requested that the "Age and Gender" chart be added back into the Monthly Report.
- The Board noted the Intellectual Wellness Event hosted by the Teachers here at TPH. The event had a computer lab, textbooks and manuals and provided patients with information that is offered at the hospital. The event also included education about obtaining a public library card and trips to a local library.

**AUXILIARY REPORT:**

- No report this month.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

- No report for the month.

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

- No Report this month.

- **Schulley Trading Post – Dr. Rosenberg:**

- **Therapeutic Environment – Mr. Pyle:**

- No Report this month

- **Welfare Fund – Ms. Torre:**

- Mr. Hollen reported purchases again were high, sales revenue was low. Prices increased in January for staff. Weather affects usage. The Trading Post was also closed for staffing issues. Trading Post revenue though low remains constant.

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

1. DMHAS is soliciting applications for the **Professional Advisory Committee (PAC)** for the term of from April 2025 through March 2027. PAC makes recommendations to the Commissioner of DHS through DMHAS. Selection criteria are a) individual experience and b),knowledge and ability to liaison with DMHAS on substance use and/or co-occurring disorders. See:

<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/home/councils/pac.html>

2. DHS' **new Office of New Americans** has posted materials on its website to help individuals understand their rights and responsibilities. See:  
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njnewamericans/>  
The DHS's DMHAS intends new rules for codification as N.J.A.C. 10:36, Behavioral Health Program Service Standards. These will set forth further standards for services in outpatient settings licensed by DOH, . See attachment.

3. **Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services Behavioral Health Integration**

For updates about DMHAS' Behavioral Health Integration Stakeholder Information, see:

<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/information/stakeholder/index.html>

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

There were no communications this month.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None at this time

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None at this time

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

None at this time.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 9:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,	
Sheila Kwoka	Thomas Pyle – MBA, MS
Assistant Secretarial 3 to the CEO Secretary to the Board of Trustees	Chairperson

TP/sk



KnowYourRights-Bu  
s\_en.pdf



KnowYourRights-co  
m\_en.pdf



PAC Call for  
Membership Applica



KnowYourRights-b  
us\_sp.pdf



NJAC  
10\_36\_Advance Noti



082824\_BH  
Integration Overview



KnowYourRights-co  
m\_sp.pdf



Integrated Care  
Model, Women's He