

**New Jersey Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**October 9, 2013**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**Attendees:**

Damyanti Aurora	Mary Ditri (P)	Eileen Doremus
Maryanne Evanko	Angel Gambone (P)	Connie Greene
Donna Hallworth	Renee Ingram (P)	Michael Ippoliti
Barbara Johnston	Gail Levinson	Phil Lubitz
Chris Lucca	Pat Matthews	Linda Meyer (P)
Lisa Negron	Joanne Oppelt	John Pellicane
Hazeline Pilgrim (P)	Tom Pyle	Irina Stuchinsky
Ellen Taner (P)	Randy Thompson (P)	Karen Vogel Romance
Robin Weiss		

**DMHAS, CSOC & DDD Staff:**

Suzanne Borys	Elizabeth Conte	Geri Dietrich
Mark Kruszczyński	Donna Migliorino	Robin Nighland
Harry Reyes	Dona Sinton	

**GUESTS**

Rod Belle	Jason Berenbery	Harry Coe
Ron Defeo (P)	Virginia Erazo	Jane Lee
Louan Lukens	Rachel Morgan (P)	Frank Picaro
Jody Silver	Greg Valent	Alric Warren

- I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence
  - A. The minutes were approved as written.
  - B. CSP will give to Dona Jack's contact address if you would like to send him a card.
  
- II. Traumatic Loss Coalition (Donna Amundson)
  - A. Donna distributed power point and handouts
  - B. The Traumatic Loss Coalition (TLC) is funded by DCF
  - C. It's been in existence since 2001
  - D. The mission of TLC is to train schools and communities to respond during traumatic loss events at schools. The purpose of the team is to support the work of crisis teams in existence.
  - E. Services
    - i. Assistance to schools
    - ii. Newsletter
    - iii. Home visits for short term psychological first aid
    - iv. Statewide Training
      1. Traumatic Incident Intervention
      2. Classroom Based Psychosocial Intervention

- v. Annual Youth Suicide Prevention Conference
- F. Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act Grant
  - i. A state award for the Coalition
  - ii. Working with Bergen, Passaic, Camden, Monmouth, Hudson and Middlesex counties since they have high rates of suicide
  - iii. It's a 3 year grant (year one for Bergen and Passaic, year two for Camden and Monmouth, year three for Hudson and Middlesex)
- G. Overview of the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Plan
  - i. We're trying to catch the kids who are flying under the radar
    - 1. Case approach
    - 2. EC- SSRS
    - 3. Sources of strength
    - 4. Social media initiatives
    - 5. Connect program
    - 6. CBT
- H. Questions/Comments and Answers
  - i. Q. Jody Silver – Why is the rate so high in Monmouth?
  - ii. C. Robin Nighland – There is a localized group of suicides in Monmouth.
    - A. Yes, there is a contagion in Monmouth.
  - iii. Q. Lisa Negron – The counties you're in have a high population of Spanish speaking youth. What's being done to adapt the program for cultural concerns?
    - A. The Coordinator of the grant is Spanish speaking herself (from Columbia). We're looking to get to the point of the training in their language.
  - iv. Q. John Pellicane – In Camden County we had accidental overdoses by teenagers. We were asked if the county would go out and it's not something we would do directly. Would you?
    - A. If we're invited in we would go.
  - v. Q. Robin Weiss – Has this reduced the number of kids sent for screening at screening centers?
    - A. The CRSS would speak to this anecdotally. The schools are sending students at first indication and then the kids recant because they're not familiar with screening centers.
  - vi. C. Phil – Some say that we need separate screening center for kids. Also, there's no law regarding youth screening.
  - vii. Q.-Randy Thompson – Are you called in for gun violence evaluates?
    - A. Yes. Recently a bus was grazed by gunfire and we were called in. We're also called in for sexual abuse. These are traumatic events
  - viii. C. Connie Greene –We called in George Scott from TLC for an event that happened while we were serving a group of students in Asbury. The task force and this coalition are tremendous.
  - ix. Q. Tom Pyle - Lots of trainings. How large is grant?
    - A. \$1.4M over three years.
  - x. Q. Tom Pyle – I'm trying to research professionals regarding children who are susceptible to suicide because of other Mental Health issues. Where are resources?
    - A. We work with Mental Health Clinicians throughout the State and want people to be well versed about suicide. Let's touch base.

- xi. C. Geri- TLC is also heavily involved in support services for Sandy Survivors.
- xii. Donna – Yes we work with the Disaster and Terrorism Branch and went into shelters and worked with kids immediately after Sandy hit.

### III. Advocacy Subcommittee Report (Louann Lukens)

- A. We are still discussing the discharge of individuals into boarding homes and rooming homes and the conditions of these homes.
  - i. DMHAS has now met with DCA that licenses these facilities. Lynn Kovich will come to this PC meeting next month to discuss.
  - ii. C.- Barbara Johnston – There are pockets of activity going around. The important point is to make the information transparent as a baby step.
  - iii. C.- Robin – The south is really stepping up. DCA and DMHAS are working together. We still need to know what’s going on at higher levels.

### IV. Workforce Development (Elizabeth Conte)

- A. Distributed a power point and reviewed it with attendees, going over DMHAS initiatives that are co-occurring focused.

#### B. Comments/Questions and Answers

- i. Q. John Pellicane – One of the complaints is to bring in interns there is no reimbursement for supervisors. Can that be built into funding to bring staff in? A. Harry-that’s something that we can’t speak to.
- ii. Q. Robin – Can you discuss BRSS TACS? A. Consultants from SAMHSA came to work with us to develop a credential for consumers that would be a reimbursable service. Liz -It’s still being discussed. This question could be posed to the [mbhoinput@dmhas.state.nj.us](mailto:mbhoinput@dmhas.state.nj.us).
- iii. Q. Ellen Taner – Is there training for boarding homes? A. Harry -No, not yet, it’s just been supported housing.
- iv. Q. Tom Pyle – How many peer providers are involved? A. Liz - I don’t have that off hand but can get it for you.
- v. C. Lisa Negron – CSP has new housing. We are in need of expansion of WRAP and IMR, which could go hand in hand. Some of us are getting lots of interns and this could help.
- vi. Q. Phil -With Medicaid Expansion, is the division making projections on the potential increase of people being able to afford services? A. Harry - I’ll get back to you
- vii. Q. Louann – For Trauma Informed Care, who is the target population? A. Kathi Bedard is spearheading this project. C. Harry - Thirty individuals in first round of training. It’s a hands on trainings. You have to conduct 3-4 trainings per year. It’s a train the trainer activity and this is a new initiative.
- viii. Q. John – Is DMHAS able to work with Marriage and Family Board to assist folks in getting licensed? A. Liz -We’ve just met with them actually and we’re advised that there is no backlog. There may be some dead files and those individuals have been notified.
- ix. C - Phil – After rates are set, the Planning Council would be integrated in

the effect of rate setting on the workforce. Can you present at a later date?  
A. Harry – of course.

V. Planning Activities, Announcements and Recommendations

- A. Phil read the Mental Illness Awareness Week Proclamation from the Governor.
- B. Discussion of letter to SAMHSA regarding the Areas of Concern and Recommendations for future Block Grant Applications
  - i. Edit first paragraph from “for” to “to”.
  - ii. Letter was approved to be sent to feds. Dona will send our project officers an email to let them know that something is coming.
- C. Open forum for comments
  - i. Alric Warren introduced Jason Berenberg
  - ii. Irina –Medicaid Expansion Assisters training is upcoming. Dona will send out the invite letter. Open enrollment began October 1 and coverage begins January 1, 2014. If you are a certified assister you can track the applications you helped complete. The trainings are filled right now but there’re opening more.
  - iii. Mark – The 2013 consumer perception of Mental Health Care was sent out recently so be on the lookout.
  - iv. Connie – Distributed Think, Grow and Inspire on Friday’s (TGIF) Training Series brochure
  - v. Bylaws Committee – submit names to Dona if you are interested
  - vi. Ellen – reminder that CAC Linkage Event is Saturday

**Next General Membership Meeting on November 13, 2013- 10:00-12:00, Room 3000**

The Block Grant Subcommittee will meet at 9:30 am on 11/13/13 in room 3052  
The Olmstead Advisory Committee will meet at noon on 11/13/13 in room 3052  
The Advocacy Subcommittee will meet at noon on 12/11/13 in room 3052