

**New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council**  
**Meeting Minutes,**  
**March 14, 2018 10:00 A.M.**

Attendees:

<b>Jim Romer (Chair)</b>	<b>Rocky Schwartz (Co-Chair (P))</b>	<b>Phil Lubitz</b>	<b>Harry Coe</b>
<b>Darlema Bey</b>	<b>Michael Ippoliti (P)</b>	<b>Winifred Chain</b>	<b>Robin Weiss (P)</b>
<b>Diane Riley</b>	<b>John Calabria</b>	<b>Pamela Taylor</b>	<b>Joe Gutstein (P)</b>
<b>Cheri Thompson</b>	<b>Barbara Johnston</b>	<b>Christopher Lucca</b>	
<b>Irena Stuchinsky</b>	<b>Ellen Taner</b>	<b>Tracy Maskel</b>	<b>Damian Petino</b>
<b>Mary Abrams</b>			

DMHAS, CSOC & DDD Staff:

<b>Mark Kruszczyński</b>	<b>Suzanne Borys</b>	<b>Jonathan Sabin</b>	<b>Stuart Waldorf</b>
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Guests:

<b>Rachel Morgan</b>	<b>Julia Barugel</b>	<b>Louann Lukens</b>	<b>Nick Loizzi (P)</b>
<b>Wendy Rogers</b>	<b>Suzanne Smith</b>	<b>Erika Westman</b>	<b>Walter McCarthy</b>
<b>Amanda Lewis</b>			

(P) Indicates participation via conference call.

**I. Welcome / Administrative Issues / Correspondence / Announcements**

- A. Quorum not reached (17 out of 47 members participated, 36% attendance,  $\leq 33\%$  needed for quorum)
- B. The February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Planning Council will meet at DMHAS Office, 5 Commerce Way, Hamilton NJ 08611, Suite 100, at 10:00 am. Going forward, all subsequent meetings will be held at this location unless otherwise indicated.
- C. Minutes from February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting approved, with minor edits

**II. Subcommittee Reports**

- A. Substance Abuse (L. Lukens)
  1. Four recommendations (from previous white paper) Detox resource expansion:
    - a. Need to educate emergency room physicians on adjusting medication protocols to reduce distribution and expansion of opioid addiction.
    - b. Need to Expand Opioid Overdose Recovery Programs (OORPs); IMD Exclusion will allow Medicaid funds to be used for detox services.
    - c. Training on medication assisted treatment (MAT) interventions to be expanded.
    - d. Expansion of MATI
  2. Substance Abuse Subcommittee wants Planning Council to support any and all reasonable efforts to facilitate publically-funded patient's admission to withdrawal management treatment in New Jersey.
    - a. Comment: There should be data available on where/when Narcan is administered. SB will look into the specific information that is collected on that form.
      - i. Specifically data on disposition
      - ii. 18% of Narcan reversals end in refusals for additional treatment.

- iii. SB: SAMHSA is not in favor of withdrawal management/detox, so certain suggestions of the white paper are circumscribed by federal preferences.
- iv. *“The NJBHPC supports any and all efforts to facilitate publically-funded patient’s admission to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment in New Jersey”* - This statement was voted and approved by the BHPC.
  - Work with Emergency Rooms on linkages to OORPs.
  - Implement OORPs in all counties
  - Training for EMTs/Police for tracking of Narcan reversals, for purposes of linkage to treatment services
  - Expand Education about MATI, to facilitate increased statewide access.

- 3. Questions regarding specifics of state funding.
- 4. SA Subcommittee to meet on 3/14/18 at 12:00
- 5. Plan for SA Subcommittee is to make full, official statement that includes the four aforementioned bullet points.
- 6. PL: In favor of making general recommendation (of the approved statement and four points) to Asst. Commissioner Mielke.

**B. Housing Working Group**

- 1. Issue of DoH Website linking to SHA resource guide (and related issue of DMHAS website not being posted onto DoH website).
- 2. Importance of sharing housing resource information with social workers and other front line staff.

**III. Screening Practices (Jim Romer)**

- A. Issue of Designated Screening Centers (DSCs) putting up barriers to service. Standard bad/unacceptable responses of DSC: “Its not a crisis”, “Go to hospital”, “Go to police”.
  - 1. Screening Should be an early intervention.
  - 2. At screening directors meeting Rutgers provided training on this.
  - 3. Concern that screeners refers to act unless consumer threatens to hurt self or others.
  - 4. Legal Context of New Jersey (c. 1989)
    - a. NJ mandates all screening centers to investigate and take action to protect public safety.
    - b. All DSC must respond.
    - c. Not all DSCs have resources necessary to respond to all calls, so if the DSC has all of its staff out on other calls, then that DSC is excepted from responding to a specific call.
    - d. In ‘the bad old days’ DSC had to have families sign release forms authorizing the DSC to screen and admit the consumer.
  - 5. RS: Relayed personal bad experience at a screening center.
    - a. Why didn’t the screener ask the consumer’s name?
      - i. JR: Screener should have solicited information about the consumer’s background/prior history.
  - 6. DMHAS Response ( Jenna Caccesse)
    - a. Recent experiences reported by RS are not acceptable.
    - b. Consumers and families should reach out to DSC coordinators, DMHAS Program Analysts, and [John.Verney@doh.nj.state](mailto:John.Verney@doh.nj.state) and

- [Jenna.Caccese@doh.nj.state](mailto:Jenna.Caccese@doh.nj.state) to report any ongoing concerns.
7. Comment on consumer/family experience: Issue of non-successful discharges from state hospitals, not being followed-up on; lack of continuity across state system of care.
  8. Role of Systems Review Committees (SRCs)
  9. Role (importance) of training of screening centers and screeners.
  10. Professionals must have a consciousness of what parents/families go through.
  11. Use of SRC data to improve the performance of the acute care system.
  12. Comment: Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) law without ‘teeth’.
    - a. IOC should be another discussion for another BHPC meeting.

#### **IV. State Partner Involvement**

- A. Department of Education (DoE), [D. Petino]
  1. Link of relevant DoE websites to be shared with BHPC
  2. Dr. Lamont Leporrie is the new DoE Commissioner, he is well regarded.
  3. Carolyn Romano, New Assistant Commissioner, originally from Asbury Park, NJ
  4. Upcoming Trauma Informed Care & Social Emotion Learning Training
  5. Educational Partnership is recommended in every county, between NJ DoE and Children’s Services.
  6. Overview of “Nurtured Heart”.
  7. Challenge of inter-departmental partnerships.
- B. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) [ Cheri Thompson]
  1. 3/21/18: General Public Forum.

#### **IV. Meeting Adjourned & Announcements**

- A. Next Meeting of the Planning Council: Wednesday, April 11, 10:00 am, DMHAS Office, 5 Commerce Way, Hamilton NJ 08611, Suite 100

#### **B. Planned Subcommittee Meetings (4/11/18):**

- 9:00:
- 12:00: