

New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes,
August 8, 2018 10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

Jim Romer (Chair)	Phil Lubitz	Harry Coe	Darlema Bey
Joe Gutstein (P)	Winifred Chain	Pamela Taylor	Michele Madiou
Barbara Johnston (P)	Christopher Lucca	Marie Verna	Susan Brocco (P)
Damian Petino	Cheri Thompson	Michael Ippoliti	Marie Snyder (P)
Diane Riley	Alice Garcia	Suzanne Smith	

DMHAS, CSOC & DDD Staff:

Mark Kruszczyński	Suzanne Borys	Jonathan Sabin	Geri Dietrich
Maria Kirschner			

Guests:

Julia Barugel	Walter Glassner	Judy Thoffner	Wendy Rodgers
Alex Smuklavsky			

(P) Indicates participation via conference call.

- I. Welcome / Administrative Issues / Correspondence / Announcements**
 - A. Quorum Reached: 19 out of 46 members (41% attendance)
 - B. The BHPC (at the request of the Chair and Membership subcommittee) sent out a letter to Members of the Planning Council and Citizens Advisory Board who have not been consistently attending the meetings.

- II. Participation in Department of Mental State Planning**
 - A. Representative from Dept of Health Office Certificate of Need Unit reports that no applicants for additional psychiatric beds have submitted applications to create additional beds.

- III. Mental Health Training from DCPD Consumer- Jim Romer**
 - A. Training for case workers on topics:
 1. Substance Abuse
 2. Abuse
 3. Mental Illness
 - B. Training under auspices of Rutgers University and Stockton State University
 - C. Purpose is NOT to turn DCPD case workers clinicians; focus is to recognize where mental illness is an issue.
 - D. Later in the daily training workers are trained on what to do if Mental Illness is an issue.
 1. How do you determine if care giver is stable?
 2. Discuss interaction of Mental Health and social services.
 3. Discuss screening, they have obligation to make sure care giver is safe.
 4. DCPD case workers are instructed to call their local Screening Center's supervisor to introduce themselves.
 - E. Discussion
 1. Importance of WRAP Plan; the larger root cause of tragedy is communication (or lack thereof).
 2. Issue of STIGMA

3. Jim Romer invites The Planning Council to take part in the training.
4. Training occurs 1-2x a month to 30-40 students per training.

IV. State Partners Involvement

A. NJ Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS), Cheri Thompson

1. Director & Assistant Director of Field Operations search in ongoing
2. Pre-Employment Transition Services Grants recently awarded to 16 vendors statewide for high school students aged 14-21 to provide employment readiness training to aid with the transition process.
3. DVRS is recruiting additional vendors to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services on a Fee for Service basis. Vendors especially needed in Salem & Cumberland counties. Vendor instruction letter found at:

http://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/document/plan/pre-ets_vendor_letter.pdf

B. NJ Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC), Alice Garcia

1. Recovery walk in Bordentown, NJ, 9/21/18, 9:30 am at Johnstone Campus, 400 West Burlington Street, Bordentown NJ 08505.
2. Focus on rehabilitation: Integration Treatment of Complex Trauma (ITCT)
3. Additional federal and state money
4. Clinical supervision to staff 2x a month
5. 95% of JJC consumers have complex trauma.

C. Pending Bill: Staffing ratio regarding nurses; NJ Hospital Associate is against it, Nurses Association is in favor of it.

1. Behavioral Health is unique, but staffing” isn’t just regarding nurses-Concern is the that agencies will cut staff in the other important areas (social workers, peers)
2. Comment, “Ratios don’t work”; national nursing groups recommend that each hospital determine its own needs via a mandated staffing committee.

D. NJ Department of Education, (NJ DoE), Damian Petino

1. Goal is to be more accessible to schools and stakeholders.
2. Reorganization for DOE is in the works, more information is forthcoming; updates will be given to the Council as information becomes available, possibly in November 2018.

V. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Membership

1. Two new members announced (Erica Westman and Suzanne Smith)
2. Mandate for the Council is to have a majority of its members as family members and consumers.
3. Communications sent out on 8/6/18 on behalf of the Council Chair (and Membership Subcommittee) to members who have not been consistently attending. It is hoped that these communications will re-engage members who have not been recently active in Council proceedings.

B. Housing Subcommittee (Chris Lucca)

1. Linking BHPC’s Housing list to SHA website
2. Looking for issue to improve things related to housing
3. Issue of creating more housing in south Jersey to fight “not in my backyard “sentiments.
4. Concern of getting online information into the hands of those that don’t have internet access

5. SHA NJ has new “civic membership” category (less expensive) for county administrators.
6. SHA can activate booklet of SHAs website anytime.
7. CSOC offered to try to get information for housing information posted on DCF website.
8. SHA has resource bulletins containing of general advice (regarding vouchers) on its website <http://www.shanj.org/>

VI. NJ Suicide Prevention Conference, Dr. Maria Kirchner, DMHAS (Agenda and flier emailed to Planning Council members on 8/3/18)

- A. Suicide rate in 2016 was 7.2% (per 100,000), the lowest rate within the last ten years (8.5% in 2015).
- B. Contrary to decline in suicide rates, death by drug overdose was 22.4% in NJ in 2016 compared to 7.5% in 2007.
- C. The New Jersey Department of Health, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)’s annual Suicide Prevention Conference will be held on Sept. 13, 2018 between 8:30a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the War Memorial in Trenton. This year’s conference, *Suicide Prevention, A Community Effort – “Working Together to Prevent Suicide,”* will provide a forum to continue shared efforts to reduce suicide deaths and attempts as well as focus on prevention strategies. It is offered in collaboration with the Department of Corrections, Department of Children and Families, and Department of Human Services.
 1. More than 500 attendees are expected
 2. DMHAS started four years ago to commemorate National Suicide Prevention Week with 20 people, 3yrs ago 80 people, last year 300 people, this year 500 + people.
 3. Agenda Review (see agenda emailed to Planning Council members on 8/3/18)
 4. Free Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available for several professional affiliations.
 - a. Comment: CEU’s for peers and screeners? / re-certification credits (Randy Chadwick, UBHC)
5. Discussion
 - a. Initial considerations on if this event should be geared towards behavioral health professionals, or laypersons? It is designed for laypersons.
 - b. Engaging discussions about communication regarding suicide.
 - c. Letting consumers know that there are alternatives to DSC / STCF. One can reach out for help without being civilly committed.
 - d. Items for success: reduction of stigma, increased role of peer advocates, online training, long term follow up.
 - e. Zero Suicide Academy (program) is trying to get established in NJ.
 - f. Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs) are good, but there are both correct ways and incorrect ways to create/use them.
 - g. Discharge planning for consumers should begin on admissions for suicide identification.
 - h. Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders: Ambiguity among some first responders if Narcan can be administered to overdose victims who have a standing DNR order.

VII. Meeting Adjourned

- A. Next meeting of the NJ BHPC will be held on Wednesday, September 12, at 10:00 am at DMHAS Headquarters, 5 Commerce Way, Suite 100, room 199.
 1. Subcommittee Meetings on 9/12/18:
 - a. 9:00 AM, Block Grant Subcommittee

b. 12:00 PM, TBD