

New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes,
December 12, 2018 10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Jim Romer (chair) | Michael Ippolliti (p) | Phil Lubitz | Darlema Bey |
| Maryanne Evanko | Tom Pyle (p) | Cheri Thompson | Winifred Chain |
| Shauna Moses | Richard Thompson (p) | Julia Barugel | Suzanne Smith |
| Joe Gutstein (p) | Nick Loizzi (p) | Pam Taylor | |

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD & DMAHS Staff:

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| Geri Dietrich | Stuart Waldorf | Mark Kruszczyński | Shanique McGowan |
| Heather Reid | | | |

Guests:

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| Louann Lukens | Cheanna Irving |
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(p) Indicates participation via conference call.

I. Welcome / Administrative Issues / Correspondence / Announcements

- A. Quorum Reached: 17 out of 43 members (39.5% attendance).
- B. Minutes from November 14, 2018 meeting approved without changes.
- C. Correspondence: The 2018 DMHAS Community Perception of Care Survey was sent out to 6,461 consumers, at 631 service sites/programs. Once the responses are collected, the data will be cleaned, analyzed and reported to SAMHSA in the 2018 DMHAS Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Implementation Report.

II. Synar Report 2018 (Suzanne Borys, DMHAS)

- A. The Synar Report is an annual report mandated to be completed by states through the US Public Health Services Act to examine underage (<18) tobacco sales.
- B. In the State of New Jersey, tobacco sales to individuals under the age of 21 year is prohibited, as per a recent state law, effective 11/1/2017.
- C. New Jersey's submission of its Synar Report is due 12/31/2018.
- D. NJ State Legislature mandated that 1% of tobacco tax revenues are allocated for in-state tobacco prevention / cessation efforts.
 - 1. As a result, there will be a \$7M allocation for tobacco prevention efforts in SF19
- E. The Department of Human Service's Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services works on this in collaboration with the Department of Health's Office of Tobacco Control, Nutrition, and Fitness. DoH does the inspections and provides DMHAS with the data.
- F. Violations: There were 52 citations issued and 16 fines given to vendors for tobacco sales violations.
- G. Synar Survey Estimation System was used for the methodology.
- H. There were 18 youth inspectors who undertook the survey between 7/18/2018 – 9/30/2018.
- I. Challenge in recruiting youth inspectors.

- J. DMHAS received the data from NJ DoH later than usual.
- K. The Retailer Violation Rate (RVR) is reported as 11.9% for 2018. This is lower than last year's rate of 13.6%. Reported violations for prohibited tobacco sales to minors have decreased from 2017 to 2018. (These numbers are not yet official.)
- L. Vape shops are not included in this study. [Comment: Violation rates might have decreased due to the increase of vaping].

III. Planning for CY 2019 BHPC Agenda (Jim Romer)

- A. All agenda items for the Planning Council must fall within the mandates of the Planning Council [from BHPC By-laws, September 2014]
 - 1. To review New Jersey's Federal Community Mental Health Services Block Grant and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant plans each year before submission and to make recommendations for improving the plans to the Assistant Commissioner of the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
 - 2. To serve as an advocate for consumers concerning State policy, legislation, and regulations affecting behavioral health,
 - 3. To monitor, review, and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of behavioral health services in New Jersey,
 - 4. To advise the Department of Human Services (Department) and the Division concerning the need for, and quality of, services and programs for persons with behavioral health disorders in the state,
 - 5. To advise the Assistant Commissioner concerning proposed and adopted plans affecting behavioral health services provided or coordinated by the Division and the implementation thereof,
 - 6. As appropriate, to assist in the development of strategic plans for behavioral health services in the State and advocate for the adoption of such plans to other state departments or branches of government, and
 - 7. To exchange information and develop, evaluate, and communicate ideas about mental health, substance abuse and co-occurring planning and services.
- B. Suggested Agenda Items for BHPC meetings in CY 2019
 - 1. Overview of NAMI's Family Survey (P. Lubitz, January 2019)
 - 2. STAR Team (Addiction Recovery) (S. Borys is contact)
 - a. 10 teams
 - b. SOAR Grant
 - c. Serves consumers with SUD [Sidebar: Desirability of having a SUD Peer Recovery Specialist join the BHPC/CAB]
 - 3. NJ ABLE Act (Maryanne Evanko): NJ ABLE Act is based on federal law that allows consumers to save money and still keep their Medicaid benefits. Children who are disabled prior to their 21st birthday can still be covered on their parents' insurance, beyond their 21st birthday. This issue has great implications for the economic well-being of individuals with mental illness.
 - a. It is vital that this information is made available to all professionals working with consumers with mental illness.
 - 4. BHPC One-Day Resource Training/Fair for Front-Line Behavioral Health Staff (i.e., Clinicians and Case Workers)
 - a. This event would be similar to the NJ Suicide Prevention Conference, with a purpose of letting all mental health providers in NJ have knowledge to the resources, guidelines and policies that effect the delivery of mental health in New

Jersey. (A recurring theme of the BHPC is that not all providers/front line staff are aware of the resources, policies and guidelines that are important for the effective delivery of mental health services in NJ).

- b. Interested organizers include: J. Barugel, D. Bey, M. Evanko, and M. Ippoliti.
 5. Overview of DMHAS First Episode Psychosis FEP/ Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) Program & new Prodromal Phase component (Dr, Y Li is contact)
 6. Budget
 - a. Ask DMHAS Fiscal Staff to address the Council on the state budget in March (which is the month after the State Budget Address)
Presentations to be given by Fiscal Representatives of: DMHAS, DoH, & DCF.
 - b. Review of Approved Budget Overview (July 2019)
 7. Review of Block Grant Implementation Report. BHPC should have ample time to review this before it is submitted to SAMHSA in December 2019.
 8. CMHSBG/SAPT Block Grant Reports. BHPC should have ample time to review this before it is submitted to SAMHSA.
 9. Suicide Prevention Council Update (2x/year), with specific regard to youth and elderly.
 10. Update on DoH's recommendation Plan about State Psychiatric Hospitals
 11. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Presentation
 12. DMHAS Consumer Perception of Care Survey Results
 13. Parity of Medicaid and Medicare. Medicaid provides less for those with MH issues, relative to the benefits given to Medicare beneficiaries.
 14. Mortality Rates of Persons with Mental Illness Incarcerated in State Prisons
 15. Bail reform and individuals with mental illness. [Sidebar: At Systems Review Committee (SRC) meetings are representatives from County Jails in attendance?]
 16. Overview/Update of DMHAS Justice Involved Services (JIS) Program
- C. Ideas & Requests for Other Presentations at the BHPC meetings should be forwarded to the Chairman Jim Romer and Mark Kruszczyński (DMHAS)

IV. State Partners Involvement

- A. Division of Aging (Patricia Matthews)
 1. Issue of senior parents with adult children still living at home who exploit their elderly parents.
- B. NJ Medicaid (S. McGowan): No developments to Report
- C. NJ DoE: No representatives present.
- D. NJ DoH: No representatives present.
- E. NJ DDD: No representatives present
- F. Errata
 1. Seizure of Firearms based on reports of mental health professionals.
 - a. NJ Assembly Bill n 1181: An act that requires firearms seizure when mental health professional determines patient poses threat of harm to self or others. (https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/A1500/1181_I1.HTM)
 - b. NJ Assembly Bill n 1217, an act authorizing gun violence restraining orders and firearm seizure warrants and supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes. (https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/A1500/1217_I1.HTM) Law enforcement (and on petition of family) can remove firearms from home of

individual if that individual has made a recent threat or act of violence to others, or one's self.

- c. Aspects of these laws are vague about criteria.
- d. Suicide prevention is a larger piece.
- e. Issue of 600+ police departments in New Jersey.

V. Subcommittees

A. Membership Subcommittee (J.Romer)

1. The BHPC is looking to add a member who is a family member of a young child with SED. This has been requested by our SAMHSA Project Officer. The Membership Subcommittee is authorizing the following plan to encourage membership among family members with young children with SED:
 - a. The NJ Department of Children and Families' (DCF), Division of the Children's System of Care (CSOC) will be reaching out to the Family Support Organizations (FSOs), Care Management Organizations (CMOs), and county-based Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACCs) within the next 30 days to solicit membership to the Council among families with young children with SED. Outreach will be conducted via both mailings to families receiving services from CSOC, as well as through face-to-face interactions between CSOC staff and prospective families.
 - b. DMHAS and its contracted providers will be actively soliciting family members of individuals of its Coordinated Specialty Care (also known as First Episode Psychosis)
 - c. The Membership Subcommittee of the Behavioral Health Planning Council will continue to meet on a monthly basis regarding this (and other issues related to increase the diversity of its membership).
 - d. [Addendum, from G. Dietrich, DCF, CSOC]: The CSOC Administrative Services Organization, PerformCare, has an active parents/family group that meets quarterly. The DCF/CSOC Representative to the Planning Council (G. Dietrich) will attend their next meeting on January 12, 2019 to generate interest and solicit participation on the Planning Council.

B. Election of Vice-Chair of the BHPC

1. Darlema Bey was nominated for position of Vice-Chair, by the BHPC Membership Subcommittee on the morning of 12/12/18. No other nominees were selected by the Membership subcommittee, nor by the General Meeting of the Council.
2. After a vote by the voting members of the Planning Council/CAB, Darlema Bey was unanimously elected to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Council. Her term (which finished out the uncompleted term of R. Schwartz) expires on 6/30/18. After which time a new election for Vice-Chair will occur.

C. The NJ Citizens Advisory Board (CAB): The CAB is fully integrated into the BHPC (see NJ BHPC By-laws, Section III – Sections 1 & 2). Members of the CAB are appointed by the Governor's Office. The members of the Planning Council are appointed by the Assistant Commissioner of DMHAS.

1. The CAB Currently has six vacancies (3 consumers, 2 providers, 2state psychiatric hospital representatives, and one member recommended by the Chairperson of the NJ Assembly and Senate Committees on Human Services).
2. In addition, there are three expired appointments that must be re-appointed (2 consumers, and 1 provider).

VI. Announcements

A. NAMI's Consumer Family Forums

1. 4/1/19: 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Morris County Library
2. 4/4/18: 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Burlington County Library

B. Jim Romer (Chair, NJ BHPC)

1. Jim will be retiring from his full-time job at RWJ/Barnabas, Monmouth, effective 2/1/19, he will still be working as a consultant and will continue his work on the State Suicide Prevention Task Force.
 2. Jim will complete his term as Chairman of the NJ Behavioral (which expires 6/30/19)
 3. Jim's 30-year + career in mental health was largely inspired by his deep experience as a family member of a loved one with serious mental illness. Jim shared with the Council his personal story of his favorite Uncle (Ben Romer), a combat veteran of WWII, who had undiagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). As a result of his mis-diagnosis (as there was a lack of awareness of PTSD at the time) he was: committed at the now-closed Marlborough State Psychiatric Hospital, subjected to seclusion and restraint (S/R), and electroshock therapy. He was eventually subjected to partial lobotomization. Ben Romer was eventually discharged from inpatient psychiatric care, and went on to live a long, productive and successful life in the community, until his death in 2007. Jim's story of his Uncle Ben serves to remind us of: the importance of compassionate care, the value of family members, and the realization that recovery from mental illness is possible.
- C. The Planning Council wishes its members, and (most importantly) those it serves, Happy Holidays and a healthy and safe new year

VII. Meeting Adjourned

A. Next meeting of the NJ BHPC will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 10:00 am at DMHAS Headquarters, 5 Commerce Way, Suite 100, room 199.

1. Subcommittee Meetings on 1/9/19:
 - a. 9:00 AM, Membership
 - b. 12:00 PM, Housing & Advocacy