

New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes,
June 12, 2019 10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

Darlema Bey (Co-Chair)	Phil Lubitz	Winifred Chain	Julia Barugel
Harry Coe (p)	Joe Gutstein (p)	Cheri Thompson	Alice Garcia
Tonia Ahern	Lisa Negrón	Nick Ioizzi (p)	Connie Greene
Suzanne Smith	Tracy Maksel	Robin Weiss	Pamela Taylor
Suzanne Borys	Damian Petino	Maryanne Evanko	Patricia Matthews
Diane Riley			

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Geri Dietrich	Mark Kruszczynski	Donna Migliorino (p)	Heather Reid
Irina Stuchinsky (p)	Chris Morrison		

Guests:

Rachel Morgan (p)	Kurt Baker	Francis Walker	Nina Smuklavskaya
David Vinokurov	Wendy Rodgers		Heather Simms (CSP-NJ)
Anne Smullen Thieling	Tara Lardin		

(p) Indicates participation via conference call.

- I. Welcome / Administrative Issues / Correspondence / Announcements**
- A. Introductions
 - B. Quorum Reached: 21 of 38 member-participants (57.8% attendance).
 - C. Darlema Bey (Co-Chair) ran the meeting.
 - D. Minutes from May 8, 2019 meeting approved (with minor edits)
- II. NJ ABLE Program** (David Vinokurov) [PowerPoint sent via email to all members/associated of the Council on 6/7/19], hard copies distributed at the meeting itself.
- A. The US Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) was signed into Federal Law in December 2014 and are 529-style tax-advantaged savings accounts intended to encourage and assist individuals with disabilities and their families to save private funds to supplement benefits provided through private insurance, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), employment, and other sources.
 - B. Eligibility
 - 1. Onset of disability was before the age of 26.
 - 2. The individual is receiving benefits already under Social Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability (SSDI) OR
 - 3. The individual meets social security's definition and criteria regarding significant functional limitation and receives a letter of certification from a licensed physician
 - C. Benefits
 - 1. Offering tax deferred growth potential that is tax free as long as withdrawals are used for Qualified Disability Expenses (QDEs).
 - 2. Not affecting eligibility for SSI, Medicaid, and other public benefits as long as SSA and IRS conditions are met.

3. Cost of establishing NJ ABLE account should be considerably less than either Special Needs Trust (SNT) or Pooled Income Trust.
4. Account fees and set up minimums are extremely low.

D. ABLE Resources

1. <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/hottopics/able/>
2. <https://savewithable.com/nj/home.html>
3. <https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0501130740>
4. <http://www.ablenrc.org/>

III. Overview of New Jersey SAVE Program (Patricia Matthews, NJ Division on Aging) . [PowerPoint sent via email to all members/associated of the Council on 6/7/19], hard copies distributed at the meeting itself.].

- A. NJSave is an online application to help low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities save money on Medicare premiums, prescription costs, and other living expenses.
<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/services/njsave/>
1. Online access to important benefits and savings.
 2. Create an account and come back later.
 3. Immediate confirmation of application submission.
 4. Allows for electronic upload of documentation required for eligibility determinations.
 5. Online video tutorial takes viewer screen-by-screen through the application.
 6. Family members, friends, social workers can help recipients access the site.
 7. Contains verification tools for income and assets.
 8. Next Steps for NJ Save
 - a. Making the application compatible with mobile phones.
 - b. Translating the online application into Spanish.
 - c. Adding NJSave as the fourth online application on NJHelps.
- B. Background on NJ Division on Aging Services
- C. Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program: Senior Gold is a state-funded prescription program for seniors and individuals with disabilities with annual incomes up to \$37,951 and \$44,268 respectively
- D. Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) provides coverage for prescribed legend drugs, insulin and insulin supplies, and some Part B-covered drugs.
- E. Lifetime Utility Assistance: an annual benefit of \$225 to offset natural gas and/or electric heating Costs.
- F. The Hearing Aid Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (HAAAD) Program offers a \$100 reimbursement toward the recent purchase of a hearing aid.
- G. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides an annual benefit during the heating season averaging \$290.
- F. Universal Services Fund (USF) USF ensures income-eligible New Jersey utility customers pay no more than 6% of their annual income for their natural gas and electric service combined.
- G. Low Income Subsidy (LIS) pays Medicare Part D premiums, lowers co-pay amounts and eliminates the donut-hole and any late enrollment penalties for eligible individuals.
- H. Medicare Savings Programs: The Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) and SLMB Qualified Individual-1 (QI-1) pay full or partial Medicare Part B premiums for eligible for eligible individuals with both Medicare Parts A & B.
- I. Seniors and Technology
- J. More Information
1. NJ SAVE: 1.800.792.9745. <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/services/njsave/>
 2. NJ Save Online Application: <https://njdoas-ua.force.com/njsave/quickstart>

3. Area Agency on Aging, 1.877.222.3737.
<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/saaaa.html>
4. State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) [free, unbiased Medicare Counseling service], 1.800.792.8820, <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/services/ship/>
5. NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, 1.800.792.9745
doas@dhs.state.nj.us

IV. State Partners Involvement

- A. NJ Department of Education (Damian Petino)
 1. Social/Emotional Learning Conference on 5/23/19 had over 350 attendees/
 2. Upcoming Conference on School Equity, 7/31/2019.
- B. Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC), (Alice Garcia & Francis Walker)
 1. Three upcoming “IN Your Own Voice” (Trauma informed care) presentations.
 2. September 2019 JJC will be honoring Recovery Month.
 3. JJC has ongoing focus on trauma (informed care)
- C. NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (Cheri Thompson): DDD is looking for additional vendors.
- D. NJ Children’s System of Care
Movement of FSO providers to State Medicaid: The strategy to move FSO providers over to the Medicaid platform has been reviewed and CSOC requires more time to develop a thoughtful approach to assist transitioning them onto the Medicaid platform. At this time the Department of Children and Families’ Children’s System of Care is currently evaluating several ways to provide support to FSO providers working with our youth and families which could be implemented expeditiously before a transition to Medicaid begins.

V. Subcommittee reports

- A. Block Grant
 1. Deadline to report Block Grant Application 2020-2021 is 9/1/19. However other internal state deadlines are much earlier
 - a. Draft must be vetted with the Planning Council, with DMHAS Assistant Commissioner, then with DHS Commissioner, and then with the Governor’s Office.
 - b. Writing is ongoing,
 2. Input for Draft “Identify Unmet Needs and Service Gaps” section
 - a. Concern about meeting the needs of senior populations, closure of HPH, concerns of MLTSS program, scant amount of behavioral health services geared toward older adults.
 - b. Barrier to MAT for opioid SUD is transportation and homelessness.
 - c. Use of IOC.
 - d. Limited access to hospital diversion programs in southern NJ.
 - e. Apparent lack of uniform training among front link behavioral health workers on the topic of community resources.
 - f. JJC reports a lack of recovery environments to children leaving juvenile detention centers.
 - g. Older Adults with opioid addictions. [A few RFP is being posted to increase services for older adults with SUD in all 21 NJ counties.]
- B. Advocacy (D.Bey)
 1. Working on getting information out to consumers and families; improved dissemination of information.

VI. Announcements, Adjournment & Next Meeting

A. Meeting adjourned

C. Next meeting of the NJ BHPC will be held on Wednesday, July 10, at 10:00 am at DMHAS Headquarters, 5 Commerce Way, Suite 100, room 199a.

1. Subcommittee Meetings on 6/13/19:

a. 9:00 AM, Block Grant

b. 9:15 AM Membership

b. 12:00 PM, Advocacy

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