

New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes,
August 14, 2019 10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

Darlema Bey (Co-Chair)	Phil Lubitz	Winifred Chain	Julia Barugel
Cheri Thompson	Tonia Ahern	Thomas Pyle (p)	Suzanne Smith
Tracy Maksel	Robin Weiss (p)	Pamela Taylor	Suzanne Borys
Damian Petino	Patricia Matthews	Cindy Aviles	Joseph Guttstein (p)
Marie Snyder (p)	Heather Simms	Regina Sessoms (p)	

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Geri Dietrich	Mark Kruszczyński	Donna Migliorino	Stuart Waldorf
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Guests:

Kurt Baker	Anna Guida	Wendy Rodgers	Rachel Morgan (p)
Denise Cushmaney	Anne Smullen-Thieling		

(p) Indicates participation via conference call.

- I. Welcome / Administrative Issues / Correspondence / Announcements**
 - A. Introductions
 - B. Quorum Reached: 17 of 39 member-participants (44% attendance).
 - C. Darlema Bey (Co-Chair) ran the meeting.
 - D. Minutes from July 10, 2019 meeting approved (with minor edits)

- II. Review of Community Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse Block Grant Applications 2020-2021:** The Public can view the Block Grant Applications via <https://bgas.samhsa.gov/Module/BGAS/Users>, Username: CitizenNJ, password: citizen
 - A. Mental Health Block Grant (Donna Migliorino).
 1. At the July 10th meeting the following sections were reviewed: Planning Step1: Assess the strengths and organizational capacity of the service system to address specific populations, Planning Step 2: Identify the unmet needs and critical gaps within the current system, and Selection sections for Planning Step 3.
 2. Planning Step 3, Environmental Factors, Sections About the Planning Council (Mark Kruszczyński),
 - a. “21. State Planning/Advisory Council and Input on the Mental Health / Substance Abuse Block Grant Application “– Required by MHBC. Reviewed. See WebBgas.
 - i. Advisory Council Composition by Member Type:
 - Total Individuals in Recovery, Family Members & Others = 61.5%.
 - Total State Employees & Providers = 38.5
 - ii. “Is the membership representative of the service area population?” No.
 - DMHAS realizes that the composition of the Planning Council does not yet adequately reflect the demographic variation of the

state of New Jersey. It makes efforts to correct this through the recruitment and membership selection processes of the BHPC.

- The BHPC makes efforts to increase the diversity among its members.

b. “22. Public Comment on the State Plan – Required”. Reviewed. See WebBGas.

III. Substance Abuse Block Grant (Suzanne Borys, DMHAS). [At the July 10, 2019 meeting of the BHPC this material was reviewed].

A. Priority Areas and Performance Indicators [not covered on 7/10/19]

1. A 1% increased use of medication assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders.
 - a. Creation of New Jersey “Centers of Excellence” at Rutgers University and Rowan College for MATI innovation.
 - b. Medicaid OBAT program.
2. Reduced tobacco use (including e-cigarettes, vaping, etc.) from 4.64% to a target of 4%.

IV. Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Application 2020-2021: Children’s Services (Geri Dietrich, NJ Division of the Children’s System of Care (CSOC)) [The Public can view the Block Grant Applications via <https://bgas.samhsa.gov/Module/BGAS/Users>, Username: CitizenNJ, password: citizen]

A. Performance Indicators

1. Aligning Early Childhood & Medicaid Initiatives
 - a. Screening, ages 0-3
 - b. Identify best practices in pediatric medical homes; expanded care coordination; connecting newborns and mothers with nutrition, childcare, and primary health services.
2. Pilot: In-Home Recovery Program (RFP); Nicholas Foundation/Yale Child Study Center
 - a. Ages 0-3
 - b. One award, two implementation sites
 - c. Ocean County, NJ, 36 families
3. Increase in Integrated Care: Increasing behavioral health homes (bhhs), and providing services in innovated ways.

V. Presentation of the Family Support Organization (J. Barugel) [Originally scheduled for July 10, 2019]. [PowerPoint presentation emailed to Council on 8/15/19]. In addition to the content presented in the actual presentation document the following commentary was provided:

- A. Personal background
- B. Brief history of FSO & CMO. Unification of FSO with CMO.
- C. Importance of the ‘aging out’ process (i.e., whereby children receiving services from the children’s system of care begin services with the adult system of care)
- D. About 33% of families enrolled with the Monmouth County FSO have involvement with the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P).
- E. Each county’s FSO has slightly different operations and approaches.
- F. FSO staff are recruited among families with lived experience of having children/loved ones with serious emotional disturbance (SED). It is difficult to recruit such families to work for the FSOs, due to the added commitments and obligations of families with children who have SED.
- G. Review of anecdotal positive comments of families served by the FSO.

VI. State Partners Involvement

- A. NJ Department of Education (DoE), (Damian Petino)

1. New state law that requires the NJ DoE to add mental health to middle and high school health curriculum.
2. Recent conference on School Equity was organized by DoE on 7/31/2019. This was a successful and well-attended event.
3. DoE will launch a pilot study of five districts to have alternate (later) daily school start/school end times. Issues such as transportation, extra-curricular activities and academic performance will be examined.
4. DoE is looking at the University of Maryland's National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH) <https://csmh.umaryland.edu/>.
5. NCSMHA offers the The School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation (SHAPE) System- which is a free, web-based portal designed specifically for school and district teams to assess and enhance their school mental health services. (See <http://csmh.umaryland.edu/The-SHAPE-System/About-The-SHAPE-System/>)
6. DoE's use of the "Every Mind Matters" campaign
7. Comment: Concern of schools prematurely sending children to screening centers when "acting out" behaviors are exhibited.

B. NJ Department of Health (as reported by P. Lubitz): The NJ Public Defender's Office and the NJ Department of Health have agreed upon a mediation process to examine/resolve potential issues at the Greystone Park State Psychiatric Hospital

VII. Subcommittee reports

A. Block Grant

1. Met on 7/10/19, and 8/15/19. See minutes from the General Meeting on 8/15/19 (see above) and 7/10/19 for more information on the 2020-2021 CMHBG and SABG Applications. The federal deadline is 9/1/19. However other internal state deadlines are much earlier
 - a. The full membership of the Council unanimously agreed to approve the current draft of New Jersey's 2020-2021 CMHBG and SABG Applications.
 - b. As sections are vetted, revised and approved by DMHAS Executive Management the information will be loaded into the WebBGas federal website (see above for login information and credentials).

B. Advocacy

1. Still working on draft letter from the Council to Assistant Commissioner Mielke to Advocate for improved, consistent knowledge base of all front line staff at behavioral health agencies contracted by DMHAS.

C. Membership (P. Lubitz / M. Kruszczyński)

1. Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council will be at the September 11th General Meeting of the Council. Candidates must be voting members of the Planning Council / Citizens Advisory Board in good standing.
2. Elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council will be at the October 9th, General meeting.

VIII. Announcements, Adjournment & Next Meeting

- A. Next meeting of the NJ BHPC will be held on Wednesday, September 11, at 10:00 am at DMHAS Headquarters, 5 Commerce Way, Suite 100, room 199a.
 1. Anticipated Subcommittee Meetings on 8/14/19:
 - a. 9:00 AM, Membership
 - b. 12:00 PM, Advocacy

B. Meeting Adjourned.