

**NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**September 9, 2021, 10:00 am**  
**Minutes**

**This meeting was conducted exclusively through MS Teams video teleconference & conference call**

**Participants:**

Phil Lubitz (Chair)	Lisa Negron	Julia Barugel	Winifred Chain
Suzanne Smith	Chris Morrison	Kate Brace	Robin Weiss
Tonia Ahern	Francis Walker	John Tkacz	Rachel Morgan (alt.)
Anne Smullen-Thieling (alt.)	Mark Kruszczyński (alt.)		

**DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:**

Jonathan Sabin	Christina Fulham (NJ SEC)
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**Guests:**

Nina Smukuluvasky	Wendy Rodgers	William Cole	Catherine Albrecht
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**I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence, Review of Previous Meeting Minutes** Phil Lubitz

A. Roll Call, 14 of 39 participants, 36% attendance, quorum met.

B. Announcements

1. Passing of Helen Williams, in August 2021. She was one of the founders of the consumer movement, a founder of the SHC in Trenton, & long term member of the Planning Council. She will be missed.

2. Return of workers to office on 10/18/21, October 13 meeting will be held via videoconference.

3. Passing of Karen Burke, CSP NJ, staunch consumer advocate and well-respected professional. She will be missed.

C. Minutes of August meeting approved without modification.

**II. Ethics Training for Boards of Trustees** Christina Fullam (NJ State Ethics Commission)  
[christina.fullam@ethics.nj.gov](mailto:christina.fullam@ethics.nj.gov)

A. NJ State Ethnic Training for Special State Officers on Conflict of Interest Laws

B. State Ethics Commission is a small agency (10 employees) with a large task

C. Each Agency must have an ELO (Ethics Liaison Officer), DMHAS's is Lynne Alexander ([Lynne.Alexander@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Lynne.Alexander@doh.nj.gov))

D. See PowerPoint presentation that was given to the Council on 9/3/21

1. Recusals

2. Personal and Business Relationships Disclosure Form

3. Financial Disclosure Statements

4. Attendance at Events

5. Gifts

6. Political Activities

7. Outside Activities / Employment

8. Representing Parties Before Your State Agency

9 Contracting with your Agency.

10. Employment Decisions

- a. Casinos
- b. Cannabis Restrictions
- 11. Post Service Restrictions
- 12. Penalties
- 13. Helpful Resources, SEC website: [www.nj.gov/ethics](http://www.nj.gov/ethics)
- 14. When in doubt contact the DMHAS ELO, representative, [Lynne.Alexander@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Lynne.Alexander@doh.nj.gov)

**III. State Partners Involvement** Phil Lubitz

- A. Dept. of Health / State Psychiatric Hospitals (C. Morrison)
  - 1. Vaccination rates increasing.
  - 2. Cases of C19: “overall we are doing pretty well”.
    - a. Comment: (P. Lubitz) Agencies who want to participate in C19 testing of staff and consumers can get a hold of the Division to arrange participation.
- B. CSOC (N. Pecht). – Nothing to report.
- C. DDD (J. Sabin) – Nothing new to report.
- D. Juvenile Justice Commission (F. Walker)
 

Acting Governor Sheila Oliver today signed legislation (S2924/A4663) creating a two-year “Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities” pilot program in the Juvenile Justice Commission at the Office of the Attorney General. This legislation appropriates \$4.2 million in Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023, for a total of \$8.4 million over two years, to the Juvenile Justice Commission to assist with the process of reintegrating young people released from juvenile facilities back into their communities, aiming to prevent initial and/or repeated involvement with the youth justice system.

**IV. Open Public Comment and Announcements** Phil Lubitz

- A. Catherine Albrecht (parent) who wishes to speak on lack of mental health care of young adults (aging out). Ms. Albrecht self-identified as parent of 18 yr old high school senior who received inpatient treatment. Ms. Albrecht raises concerns of issue of parents not able to make legal decisions for 18 yr old children in behavioral health system. Challenge of young adults being placed in adult psychiatric facilities. This was deemed by Ms. Albrecht to be detrimental to the well-being of the young adult consumers.
- B. Discussion / Possible Solutions (P. Lubitz):
  - 1. Ms. Albrecht: The parents need to be able to be involved in the care of young adult children.
  - 2. P. Lubitz: Often misunderstanding of HIPAA among providers. Ms. Albrecht’s child should have been asked if she would permit her parent to be involved in her plan of care.
  - 3. J. Barugel - Question: Was child involved in the CSOC/PerformCare before her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday? A: No.  
J. Barugel: The CSOC is an important resource that is able to keep better continuity of care for children ‘aging out’ of the children’s system of care, into the adult system of care.
  - 4. R. Morgan: Families can still be linked to Family Support Organizations (FSO).

5. W. Rodgers: Intensive Family Support Service, for care givers of parents of children (adult) with SMI.
  6. K. Baker: This challenge has been ongoing for a long time. Why aren't we giving out information at the point of acute care (for 18-26 yrs old)? Why aren't we educating people at that point in time, to help support their loved ones?
  7. W. Cole: NJ Self Help Clearinghouse is a link to help find groups in their area, to find support , <https://www.njgroups.org/>
- C. 2022-2023 Community Mental Health Services Block Grant and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant applications have been successfully submitted to NJSAMHSA. See webbgas for more information.
- D. 10/9/21, NAMI Your Way Walk, this will be a National Day of Hope, [www.naminj.org](http://www.naminj.org)
- E. NJ Submitted its 1115 Medicaid Waiver, it will include changes for behavioral health.  
1. Future agenda item: NJ Medicaid will be asked to present on the Waiver Request.
- F. 988 Hotline: Suicide and Psychiatric Crisis response system, lots of progress made, it should be made available in 2022. (Future Agenda Item).

**VI. Adjournment** Phil Lubitz

- A. The next meeting of the BHPC will be on Wednesday October 13, 2021 at 10:00 am and will be conducted via MS Teams, the login/dial in information is

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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