

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

June 14, 10:00 am

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

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Notices of the meeting were sent to the Asbury Park Press, The Times (Trenton), Bergen Record, The Press (Pleasantville), and the Courier-Post (Cherry Hill).

Participants:

Darlema Bey (Chair)	Tracy Maksel	Maurice Ingram	Filomena DiNuzzo
Julia Barugel (Vice Chair)	Suzanne Smith	Jennifer Rutberg	Harry Coe
Amanda Kolacy	Heather Simms	Joe Gutstein	Krista Connelly
Shenal Pugh	Connie Greene	Donna Migliorino	Shelley Weiss

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Nicholas Pecht	Brittany Thorne	Jonathan Sabin	Helen Staton
Mark Kruszczyński	Suzanne Borys	Yunqing Li	

Guests:

Kurt Baker	Nancy Edouard	Nina Smuklasky	Matt Camarda	Eric McIntire
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I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Darlema Bey)

- A. Attendance, 15/35, 42% attendance, quorum exceeded.
- B. Minutes of May 2023 General Meeting Approved
- C. Correspondence, n/a
- E. Election of Candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair, each for a two-year term. (Chair of Nominations Committee: Harry Coe)
 1. Nominations Committee:
 - a. Nominated Darlema Bey as candidate for Chair of Council.
 - b. Nominated Connie Greene as candidate for Vice-Chair of Council.
 2. Nominations Committee Announcement of Candidates
 - a. Chair: Darlema Bey
 - b. Vice Chair: Connie Greene
 3. Nomination of Other Candidates
 4. Election for Chair, Two-year term (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025)
 - a. Darlema Bey: 14 Votes, unanimous approval
 5. Election for Vice-Chair, Two-year term ((July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025)

- b. Connie Greene: 14 Votes, unanimous approval

II. Block Grant Update: New Guidance, Gaps in Services

- A. New Guidance received from SAMHSA
- B. Adult Mental Health
 - 1. Critical Needs and Gaps
 - 2. Membership Tables
 - a. 50% < consumers/family members
 - b. Desired constituent groups
 - 3. Three domains of the Crisis Toolkit – required reporting in block grant
 - i. 988 call centers (someone to talk to)
 - ii. Mobile Outreach: Someone to respond,
 - iii. Crisis Receiving Stabilization Centers (somewhere to go)
 - 4. Yunqing Li & Brittany Thorne
 - a. Compare SFY24 guidance with previous guidance
 - i. Not much changes in structure
 - ii. Content- notable emphasis on crisis services
 - b. Components of Block Grant Application
 - i. Four Steps
 - Strengths & Needs Service system
 - Unmet need and gaps
 - Prioritize state planning activities, target populations
 - Develop goals, objectives, strategies and performance indicators
 - ii. Tables
 - Changes in 2 fiscal tables to include reporting for block grant supplemental funds (Covid Supplemental, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA))
 - Table 2 state agency planned expenditures
 - Table 6 Expenditures for System Development/Non-Direct-Service Activities
 - c. Emphasis on Crisis Services: emphasized in all planning steps.
 - d. Priority Populations for mental health block grant
 - i. SMI
 - ii. Children with SED
 - iii. Older adults with SMI
 - iv. SMI/SED rural and homeless populations
 - v. Individuals in need of behavioral health crisis services
 - vi. Individuals with Early Serious Mental Illness
 - e. Environmental Factors, not much has changed except:
 - i. Crisis services used to be requested for MH only, but in this block grant it is required for MH and requested for SUD
 - ii. Early Serious Mental Illness required reporting for Coordinated Specialty Care/First Episode Psychosis.
 - f. DMHAS has extended levels of care to eight levels of care
 - i. Prevention and Early Intervention Services
 - ii. Crisis Stabilization (less than 24 hours)
 - iii. Diversionary services (24 hours or more)

- iv. Acute care services
 - v. Peer recovery Supports
 - vi. Family Support services
 - vii. Treatment and rehab supports
 - viii. State and County psychiatric hospitals
 - g. Planning Tables
 - i. Covid 19 relief funds
 - ii. American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA)
 - iii. Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)
5. Comments:
- a. JB: Staffing gaps across the system of care. “In Monmouth County there are concerns about the development of the 988 crisis response. We have a very strong PESS/EISS model, we are concerned that we will be competing in contracts for other entities, and we already cannot staff existing positions. There is a concern that we will be competing for crisis response.
 - b. JB: 988 updates would be valuable at each meeting.
 - c. JB: Concerns regarding Family Support and concern of decreasing the numbers of families to less than a quarter of the families supported by CSOC.
 - d. JB: Concern of Threat assessment at schools, adequate resourcing
 - e. JG: The time spent in ER is horrible, looking at other patients receive care while one still waits. Concerns of [lack of] follow-up for people in ERs. Follow-up is a duty [of the system of care]. There is a real need for follow-up. “You just walk out, and no-one cares...” Concerns about dignity and respect for consumers in psychiatric care.
 - f. Comment of Joe Cuffari: Offered to speak offline with JG. The NJ Senate will be listening to a bill about expanding 72-hour commitment time frame to 144 hours. The bill is due to: no beds in certain areas, (so unfortunately judges discharge people who do have not received care). What is supposed to happen when someone is in crisis, they are not being linked with someone they can see on regular basis.
 - g. DMM Comment: We are working to bring additional crisis services on board including mobile outreach and Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Centers.
 JB: Is the plan still for 5 centers?
 DMM: Yes, the plan is still for 5 programs. The goal of these centers is to reduce the number of admissions to emergency rooms and inpatient settings and to provide linkages to services and supports in the community.
 JB: Are the Crisis Receiving Stabilization Centers for youth as well?
 DMM: These centers will be for ages 18 and older.
 - h. HSimms: Comment on NJ State Senate hearing. Respite facilities are not used while EDs are filled. Why aren’t referrals coming into peer-run respite centers? We go to all SRC meetings and announce our services. They offer a high level of care, but there are few referrals.
 - i. Comment of Joe Cuffari: Challenge of homeless consumers.
 - j. Question of DB: How do we deal with housing? Answer of Suzanne B: SAMHSA is not paying for rent, case closed. Case management can be

supported however.

k. SSmith: Do we have end dates of the funding sources?

DMM: Yes, the Covid Supplemental funds expire 3/14/23 and the ARPA funds end 9/30/25. Many of the initiatives that have started with Covid Supplemental funding will continue with ARPA funding.

C. SUD SUPTRS Grant

1. Guidance received this morning
2. Opioid settlement portal
3. Comment: Connie Greene has some recommendations she will email us, that went into the Opioid settlement portal,

III. System Partner Updates Chairs of Subcommittees

A. Dept of Education (M. Ingram):

1. 7/10/23, 9:00 – 12:00 : Rethinking School Safety Panel, Burlington Township High School Performing Arts Center, 610 Fountain Avenue, Burlington, NJ, 08016.

<https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts/2023/june/8/SchoolSafetySpeakerSeriesRethinkingSchoolSafetyAParentsPerspective.pdf>

B. Children's System of Care (Nick Pecht)

1. As a result of increases in suicides and suicide attempts and the advocacy of our system partners, the Children's System of Care was granted the opportunity to work with the Educational Development Center (EDC) on Zero Suicide.
2. The foundational belief of Zero Suicide is that suicide deaths for individuals under the care of health and behavioral health systems are preventable. For systems dedicated to improving patient safety, Zero Suicide presents an aspirational challenge and practical framework for system-wide transformation toward safer suicide care.
3. Our partnership with EDC is a two-year investment, that started with the implementation of Zero Suicide within our Care Management and Family Support organizations as well as a handful of our out of home treatment programs. Year 2 looks to include teams from additional OOH organizations as well as the organizations that oversee our Mobile Response Stabilization Services.
4. As a result of working with the EDC to implement the Zero Suicide Framework, our partners have created and updated policies regarding suicide prevention, attempts, and protocols and some have engaged in agency-wide staff training, policy consultation, workforce readiness surveys, and piloted screening projects that regularly assess a youth's potential for suicidal thoughts or ideations, and, if identified, guide the youth onto a pathway that will build their resilience and coping skills, reducing risk and helping them to thrive. Some of our partners have also included individuals with living experience on their Zero Suicide teams. The Zero Suicide EDC website is zerosuicide.edc.org
1. CSOC observes increase in suicide and attempts.

- a. CSOC granted opportunity to work with EDC on “Zero Suicide Initiative” a transformational approach that suicide is preventable. Presents an aspirational challenge and practical framework. Training and consultation is available. CSOC has two year partnership with ZSI. zerosuicide.edc.org

C. DDD (Jonathan Sabin):

- 1. Medicaid Unwinding
 - a. From April 2023 through March 2024, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) is required to conduct redeterminations for everyone enrolled on Medicaid/NJ Family Care. This is due to the end of the Federal Public Health Emergency.
 - b. Monthly, DMAHS sends DDD a list of individuals enrolled in its programs (e.g.: Supports Program, Supports Program Plus Private Duty Nursing, or Community Care Program) who are due for their redetermination.
 - c. When the Division receives each monthly list from DMAHS, Waiver Unit staff notify the assigned Support Coordinator of the impacted individual. The entire DDD Waiver Unit is involved in this project.
 - d. General questions about the Unwinding can be sent to the Medicaid Eligibility HelpDesk (DDD.MediElighelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov).
- 2. The NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey 2022 (formerly called the Staff Stability Survey) In April 2023, provider agencies who employ direct support professionals received an invitation along with instructions from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to participate in the National Core Indicators (NCI) State of the Workforce Survey for Calendar Year 2022 (<https://idd.nationalcoreindicators.org/staff-providers/>). Provider agencies can take part in the NCI State of the Workforce Survey through June 30, 2023. It is critical that we hear from as many members of the DDD Provider Community as possible to ensure valid results.

Employee On-Boarding Extension: The Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Program Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) will provide expedited approval of emergency hiring requests until further notice.

D. Division of Aging (Jennifer Rutberg)

- 1. Ready Seniors Workshop by FEMA: registration <https://bit.ly/ReadySeniorsPassaic> July 26th, 2023 9:00AM—4:00PM at Passaic County Police Academy, 214 Oldham Road Wayne, NJ. This in-person workshop is for emergency planners for nursing homes, mental and behavioral health services, assisted living facilities, senior community centers, senior housing, adult day care centers, home meal delivery services, charitable organizations, and others who provide services to senior citizens and those with disabilities, access and functional needs. Contact: deborah.costa@fema.dhs.gov

E. Division of Juvenile Justice Commission (Philomena DiNuzzo)

F. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRs). No presentation

G. Department of Corrections (K. Connelly)

1. Adding DOC to list of agencies who find housing to be an issue and barrier for our patients who are released that receive MH and/or SUD services. All visitation guidelines have returned to pre-pandemic levels; however, visits still need to be scheduled in advance.
2. NJDOC has partnered with a local Trenton Starbucks to offer a barista training program. The program takes place within a restaurant on Central Office Headquarters grounds, Mates' Inn, which is part of the culinary training program and provides lunches and special events. The first group of men are currently in training, which lasts 8 weeks.
3. Under the Covid Public Health Emergency, there was an extensive decarceration effort, including several large-scale releases from DOC in a single day. Researchers from Rutgers and Johns Hopkins recently published a study showing that the risk of overdose and SUD-related death did *not* increase after these releases.

IV. Open Public Comment and Announcements Darlema Bey

- A. COMCHO meeting to be rescheduled to 6/28/23. Looking to increase membership.
- B. Concern of School-based threat assessment program putting undue stress on the children's acute mental health care.

V. Adjournment Darlema Bey

- A. Next meeting: 7/14/23
- B. Future Agenda Items
 1. Needs and Gaps: SUD, Connie Greene
 2. Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): Connie Greene

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- C. Future Agenda Items
 1. Housing
 2. 988 Update
 3. Covid Supplemental Grant Initiatives Update

July 2023 Subcommittee Meetings

9:00	TBD
9:30	MHBG Subcommittee
12:00	Advocacy