

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

October 13, 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)	Connie.Greene (Vice Chair)	Harry Coe
Laura Richter	Jennifer Rutberg	Maurice Ingram
Heather Simms	Mark Kruszczyński	Thomas Pyle
John Tkacz	Krista Connelly	Winifred Chain
Joseph Gutstein	Robin Weiss	Diane Riley
Steven Hirsch	Suzanne Smith	

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Nick Pecht	Brittany Thorne	Helen Staton
Brielle Easton		

Guests:

Nancy Edouard	Ellen Radis (AHP/SAMHSA)	Ann Denton (AHP/SAMHSA)
Damian Petino	Eric McIntyre	Bernadette Moore
Rachel Morgan	Nancy Edouard	Morgan Thompson

I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Darlema Bey)

- A. Attendance, 17/35, 48.57% attendance, quorum exceeded.
- B. Minutes of September 2023 General Meeting Approved
- C. Introduction of Ann Denton and Ellen Radis (AHP/SAMHSA) Upcoming Technical Assistance (TA) from SAMHA/Advocates for Human Potential
 - 1. Review of issues including: Roles and Responsibilities, Creating a diverse membership, Meeting protocols, etc.

II. Climate Change – Behavioral Health Nexus

- A. This presentation given to US DoE, US State Department
- B. See PowerPoint presentation shared with BHPC via ListSERV on 10/11/23
 - 1. Climate change is a scientific question, not a political one
- C. Q&A:
 - 1. Comment (TP): Caution on over-reliance on models

III. System Partner Updates

A. Children's System of Care (Nicholas Pect)

1. Request for Proposal for Youth Assertive Community Treatment

- a. Evidence-based and promising practices provide flexible, comprehensive, in-home treatment, rehabilitation, and support services to those youth ages 5 to 20 who are likely to experience psychiatric crises, and their families.
- b. Service goals include stabilizing youth so they may remain in their home, reducing the likelihood of inpatient psychiatric hospitalization and residential placement, and preventing youth from further decompensation and presentation at emergency rooms, psychiatric screening centers, and psychiatric inpatient units.
- c. DCF will fund one award to provide holistic care through two treatment teams, serving a total of 40 male and female youth and young adults in Cape May and Atlantic Counties. The multi-disciplinary treatment teams will be comprised of licensed therapists and psychiatric experts, supported by a team of other professionals, including those with lived experience as a family member
- d. In vivo community based and telehealth services will be available 7 days a week with a staff member on call 24/7, including outside of normal business hours, to address and stabilize emerging crises.
- e. Research demonstrates that the ACT model effectively reduces hospitalization, is no more expensive than traditional care, and is more satisfactory to youth and families than standard care.
- f. Responses to the RFP are due November 1, 2023. For more information on the bidding process, you can go to: <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/notices/requests/>
- g. Questions should be directed to the dcf.askrpf@dcf.nj.gov e-mail.

B. DDD: No presentation given

C. Division of Aging (Jennifer Rutberg)

1. Be aware of how difference in temperature can effect the efficacy and recommended dosages of medications
2. Impact of temperatures on individuals with Alzheimer's Disease
3. Open Enrollment season for Medicare
4. SHIP Program: <https://NJ.gov/humanservices./doas/services/ship/>
Hotline: 1.800.792.8820
5. Recent award of three year grant, for Stressbusters for Family Caregivers"

D. Division of Juvenile Justice Commission: No presentation given

E. Department of Education (Damian Petino)

1. <https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts>
2. DoE was awarded \$8.6M federal grant of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 - a. Goal of grant is to work closely with system partners around transition for students with disabilities into adulthood, competitive integrated

- employment, integrated employment, jobs with at least the minimum wage, jobs integrated with non disabled persons.
 - b. Joann Johnson is the lead with the grant, assisted by D. Petino
 - c. Five year grant, many state partners involved
 - i. Transition related “hub”, one-stop shop that holds information for all partners.
 - ii. Located in several parts of NJ (Edison, Pinelands, etc.)
 - 3. BH Toolkits, Society for Prevention of Teen Suicide
 - 4. <https://sptsusa.org/behavioral-health-toolkit/>
- F. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). John Tkacz
- 1. October is Disability Awareness Employment Month (DEAM), to celebrate the accomplishments of individuals with disabilities in the workplace as well as those employers hiring people with disabilities
- G. Department of Corrections (K. Connelly)
- 1. The most recent public meeting regarding Edna Mahan Correctional Facility was held Sept 22nd. A recording of the meeting can be found on the NJDOC website or at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T5cQg43r6I>.
 - a. The first phase of the closure of the facility is expected to be complete by the end of October. About half of the women have been or will shortly be relocated to a satellite facility nearby.
 - b. Once this is complete, approximately half of the existing Edna Mahan Facility will be closed. The budget signed by Governor Murphy includes \$90 million for phase one of the construction of a new centrally located facility.
 - c. Working groups with incarcerated women, several state agencies, and other stakeholders are ongoing to ensure progress is being made.

V. Open Public Comment and Announcements Darlema Bey

- A. Announcements
 - 1. (Rachel Morgan) 988 awareness campaign.
 - 2. (R Morgan) Ride-along, \$60M for two person teams, 24/7, 365 availability. Funding is through DMHAS.
 - a. ARRIVE Together is a co-responder law enforcement and behavioral health professional co-responder model. It is a transformative and powerful model, de-escalating situations without use of force with a dramatic decrease in transport to the emergency department/room. The initiative is led by and directed by the NJ Attorney General’s office in partnership with DHS the program has continued to expand since initiated and will be available in select municipalities in all 21 counties municipalities before the end of SFY2024.
 - 3. SHA Conference, 11/3/23 (D.Riley), www.SHANJ.org Open to public (with registration), at the Palace, in Somerset NJ.
 - 4. Autism NJ Conference in October
 - 5. NAMI Walk, 10/20/23, 10am 2:00 pm, Middlesex Community College. www.Namiwalk.org

VI. Adjournment (11:44 am) Darlema Bey

- A. Next meeting: 11/8/23
- B. Future Agenda Items

1. 2024-2025 Community Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grants, Fiscal Tables, (Morris F)
 2. Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): (Connie Greene)
 3. NJ Dept of Corrections: Criminal Justice System Overview, October 2023 (Krista Connelly)
 4. NJ DoE Threat Assessment Protocols
 5. Ride Together Presentation (see Rachel Morgan for details)
- C. November 2023 Subcommittee Meetings
- 9:30 Membership
- 12:00 Advocacy