

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

April 10, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Dial-in Number: +1 609-300-7196, PIN: 306216820#

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:

Donna Migliorino	Francis Walker	Shenal Pugh
Heather Simms	Julia Barugel	Bonnie Price
John Tkacz	Krista Connelly	Diane Riley
Joseph Gutstein	Suzanne Smith	Winifred Chain
Nancy Edouard	Barbara Johnston	Maurice Ingram
Nick Pecht	Robin Weiss	Michele Madiou
Kurt Baker	Harry Coe	Barbara Ferrick
Connie Greene (Vice Chair)	Darlema Bey(Chair)	

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Brittany Thorne	Brielle Easton	MaryJean Weston
Yunqing Li	Mark Kruszczyński	Irena Stuchinsky

Guests:

Danielle Dick	Rachel Morgan	Joseph Cuffari
Filomena DiNuzzio	Matt Camarada	Nina Smuklawsky
Jennifer Rutberg	Ash Harris	

I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Darlema Bey)

- A. Attendance, _23/36, 63.8% attendance, quorum exceeded.
- B. Minutes of March 2024 General Meeting Approved

II. 988 Update & MCORT Overview MaryJean Weston, DMHAS

- A. See PowerPoint displayed for the Council at the time of the presentation
- B. Someone to talk to, someone to respond and somewhere to go.
- C. Someone to call
 - 1. Five contact centers
 - 2. Specialty lines and multilingual: Spanish, Veterans, Youth, LGBTQ, ASL
 - 3. Geo-Routing is planned.
 - 4. NJ posted \$10M RFP for expansion of 988 lifeline center
- D. Someone to respond
 - 1. Mobile Screening

2. Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORTs)
- E. Somewhere Safe to Go
 1. DSC
 2. EISS
 3. Crisis Residential Services
 4. Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics
 5. Crisis Receiving Stabilization Centers (CRSCs): up and coming
 - a. Five CRSCs will be located across the state: Morris, Bergen, Essex, either Middlesex or Monmouth, and Camden County. The RFPs have been submitted; once the awards are announced this summer then the specific locations will be announced.
 - b. Should be in place by the end of CY 2024/Beginning of CY 2025.
- F. Public Awareness Campaign
- G. By the Numbers
- H. The Road Ahead
- I. In Closing: 988questins@dhs.nj.gov
- J. Questions?
 1. Q: JB Monmouth County send letter for certification for peer support specialist; the certification process is different . [Context from MJW: MCORT system is designed to send team of two people into the community to meet someone in crisis A BA level and a certified peer counselor/peer professional with lived experience. The question is are there enough certified peers to staff the MCORTSs/

A: Process for agencies to ask for a 12-month waiver so that the peer counselor can get their certification (without having to wait)
 2. Q: CRSCs: Transportation and walk-ins?
A: (DMM): Walk-ins are available. No wrong door approach. Regarding transportation RFPs are being reviewed. Centers are open 24/7.
 3. Q: (Barb Johnston) Are they any materials, desktop publishing for brochures, hard copy materials, etc?
A: See <https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/initiatives/988/>
 4. Q: (Barb Johnston): When services are advertised there is an increase in service volume, but there is allegedly a \$3M budget cut to advertising.
A: The \$3M was a one time kickoff, but the current budget is \$1M
 5. Q: (R.Weiss) MCORT peers , acceptable certifications?
A: There is a long list of accepted certification is posted in the RFPs
 6. Q: (J. Rutberg): Dementia Patients: Does the Mobile Staff, MCORT Staff, etc. will they have training in dementia patients and their family members?
A: The centers staff are trained on a wide range of issues, but not currentlu Dementia. We will bring that suggestion back for potential inclusion.
 7. Q: (B.Moore): Peer Certification. Tri-annual certification fee. If a peer loses certification they must pay for the certification fees for the years their certifications lapsed. Can this be rethought?
A; There are funds available for certification costs. We were not aware that there was a requirement for having to back-pay lapsed certification years. We look into

this to see if the available funds can be used for those lapsed certification. Contact Chrissy Schayer at MHANJ.

8. Q: (JG): How are people who are already in the system / what has changed for people with prolonged mental illness? Concern that people with existing needs, are allegedly simply told to keep going back to where they get services from.
A: This will be shared with leadership.
9. Q: (S.Smith): What are staff being trained on? Diabetes management?
A; Staff are being trained on a range of subjects, including primary health, but we should also make sure that staff are trained on diabetes management.

III. Using New Advances in Genetics to Prevent and Treat Substance Use Disorders (Danielle M. Dick, Ph.D., Rutgers University, Department of Psychiatry)

A. See PowerPoint presentation shared with the Council today and via email on 4/2/24.

B. Q&A

1. Q: Cost of genetic testing for families? A: Approximately \$99 for an assay.
2. Q (JG): What is the impact on people who are told that they have a propensity for substance abuse? A: The genetics education that most of us have received in school is not the same as “gene outcomes”. We have worked with genetic counsellors to best phrase the communication/how to present the results. What is means to carry the genetic predisposition for substance abuse (and what it doesn’t mean). Accurate education can help prevent deterministic thinking.
3. Q: (KB): What age are you working with? A: Lots of conversations about when is it appropriate to give kids what information--- there lots of different opinions. An approach that gives adolescents general feedback seems positive.
Q: What are you doing to assist them? Working with *parents* to educate then on what works best for their children.
Q: Doing anything with identical twins:

III. System Partner Updates (Darlema Bey)

A. Children’s System of Care (Nick Pecht):

1. Project Connect funding awarded to CSOC by way of DOH, from SAMHSA/Garret Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Grant.
2. Goal is to assist New Jersey hospitals to effectively connect youth to community services following suicide attempts.
3. Regional Care Coordinator works in partnership with identified hospitals to enhance discharge planning for youth with suicide ideation and/or attempts.
4. After youth are medically stabilized, screened, and determined to be safe for discharge, hospital staff will engage in a warm transfer process to connect families to PerformCare and community resources.
5. Project Connect was implemented on March 11th, with two hospitals in the AtlantiCare System. We are actively working to bring on more hospital partners in New Jersey’s central and northern regions. If you have a connection with a hospital or hospital system in those regions and think they would be interested in

partnering with us, please reach out to nicholas.pecht@dcf.nj.gov.
https://www.nj.gov/dcf/project_connect.html.

- B. Division of Developmental Disabilities (Jonathan Sabin)
1. With an increased availability of fingerprinting appointments, the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Office of Program Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) will be returning to normal onboarding requirements for direct support professionals and self-directed employees effective April 15, 2024. OPIA will continue the temporary clearance process until then.
 2. On February 28, 2024 the Division released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop one START (Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Respite and Treatment) Model program to serve the southern region of New Jersey. The program will provide community-based, mobile crisis prevention and intervention services for people with IDD and co-occurring mental health needs who live in covered counties, are enrolled with, and referred by DDD. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) can be found here
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/providers/grants/nofa/NOFAfiles/START-South-NOFA.pdf>.
- C. Division of Aging (Nancy Eduoard)
1. 7th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium
You are invited to attend the 7th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium, a free, virtual event on May 2 from 10:00 to 5:00pm ET. This all-day symposium is sponsored by the National Council on Aging, the U.S. Administration for Community Living, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the E4 Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Disparities in Aging.
 2. The 7th annual symposium will feature leaders in the field who are successfully partnering across sectors to provide equity-focused solutions to improve older adult mental health. Free continuing education credit (5.5 hours) will be offered for dietitians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, physicians, psychologists, and social workers. Register today! <https://bit.ly/OAMHAD2024>
- D. Division of Juvenile (Justice Commission: Francis Walker & Filomena DiNuzzio):
1. The Family Engagement program designed to allow residents an opportunity to interact with their family members at JJC facilities has been successful and is planned to continue. Several Residential Community Programs have provided transportation for family members to attend for those that have difficulty due to lack of public transportation. Residents and families engaged in various activities including ping-pong, cards, and board games. Food, salads, beverages, and deserts were provided. There were many opportunities for family members to interact with staff/residents during these events.
- E. Department of Education (Maurice Ingram): No update this month.
- F. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). John Tkacz
1. An in person six-hour training (4/12/24- 6 CRC credits) will provide participants an opportunity to examine the ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice, fidelity, and veracity, while engaging in interactive

discussions using real-life case examples to deepen their understanding of the ethical principles. The link for registration is in the attached flyer

- a. From navigating ethical dilemmas to maintaining professional boundaries in the digital age and embracing cultural humility, the program equips participants with practical tools and strategies to integrate ethical principles into their daily practice. Through reflective exercises and a commitment to professional integrity, participants emerge empowered to navigate the complexities of their rehabilitation counseling practice with compassion and ethical awareness.
 - b. Space is limited for the in-person training on 4/12/24 and will be held at the Sayreville Fire Academy from 9A-4P. Priority will be given to CRCs but we encourage anyone interested in learning more about ethics to join. If you have any questions, please email John Tkacz at john.tkacz@dol.nj.gov. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!
- G. Department of Corrections (K. Connelly): No update this month.
- H. NJ Div. of Medical Assistance and Health Services (NJ FamilyCare/State Medicaid) (Irina Stuchinsky)
- 1. We will be having a virtual community meeting to provide updates about our Behavioral Health Integration work at the end of this month. It's open to everyone and invitations will be sent soon. If you would like to be added to the email list send an email to our dedicated BH email address at: DMAHS.behavioralhealth@dhsnj.gov
 - 2. DMAHS/Medicaid update above, for BH Integration Stakeholder resources, please visit <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/information/stakeholder/>
- I. Department of Health: Barbara Ferrick. No report this month.
- J. Division of Family Development: No representative present.
- K. Supported Housing Association:
- L. DMHAS (D. Migliorino): See email from Donna for full details
- 1. Crisis Diversion Homes
 - a. Goal is to provide stabilization and reduce ER/psych hospital visits
 - b. Awarded to:
 - Warren County: Center for Family Services
 - Mercer County: Legacy Treatment Services
 - Gloucester County: Legacy Treatment Services
 - 2. Coordinated Specialty Care
 - a. Goal is to implement Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) programs for the population with Early Serious Mental Illness (ESMI) in New Jersey. In addition, the DMHAS will implement a Community Integration Program designed to address the need for the ESMI population along the continuum of care.
 - b. Awarded to:
 - Northern Sub Region 1. Bergen Passaic, Hudson, Essex & Hudson: CarePlus NJ.

- Northern Sub Region 2: Morris, Sussex, Hunterdon, & Warren: CarePlus NJ
 - Southern Sub Region 2: Atlantic, Cape May & Cumberland: Legacy Treatment Services
 - Central Sub Region 2: Middlesex, Somerset & Union: Rutgers
 - Southern Sub Region 1L Burlington, Gloucester, Camden: Rutgers
3. Block Grant Monitoring visit, 6/11/24 6/13/24.
 - a. SAMSHA will meet with some funded programs
 - b. SAMHSA will meet with Planning Council
 - c. Visit agenda will be provided to BHPC at our May meeting.

V. Open Public Comment and Announcements:

- A. Announcements:
 1. Collaborative Support Programs Inc. Heather Simms - Tomorrow April 11th COMHCO Conference “Empowering Tomorrow: Fostering Excellence through Peer Services: Inclusive, Diverse, and Equitable Collaboration” at the Ocean Place Spa and Resort in Long Branch. We still have some peer scholarships available. If you have not yet registered and are interested or know someone interested please feel free to email me at hsimms@cspnj.org with any questions.
 2. (RM): Recent Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), Veterans Response Training
- B. Comments:
 1. Suggestion (JG) for a “clipping service” for BH.

VI. Adjournment (12:05) Darlema Bey

- A. Next meeting: 5/8/24

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- B. Future Agenda Items
 1. NJ State Budget (DMHAS Fiscal Office)
 2. Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): (Connie Greene)
 3. NJ DoE Threat Assessment Protocols
 4. Overview of CSS (Harry Reyes, DMHAS)
 5. Pretrial Services in Camden County (?) (Robin Weiss.)
 6. JJV Discussion (Filomena DiNuzzio)
 8. Psychiatric Advanced Directives (requested by H.Simms, 1/10/24)
- C. May 8, 2024 Subcommittee Meetings

9:30	None
12:00	None