

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

December 11, 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	Heather Simms	Julia Barugel
Jennifer Rutberg	John Tkacz	Krista Connelly	Elisabeth Marchese
Maurice Ingram	Winifred Chain	Barbara Johnston	Harry Coe
Darlema Bey (Chair)	Connie Greene	Joe Gutstein	Kurt Baker
Suzanne Smith	Lisa Federico	Gena Ansell-Lande	

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Suzanne Borys	Clarence Pearson	Jonathan Sabin	Helen Staton
Limei Zhu	Nicholas Pecht	Jessica Han	Brittany Thorne
Diana Salvador	Brielle Easton	Mark Kruszczyński	

Guests:

Nina Smuklawsky	Andrea Zapcic	Rachel Morgan	Bernadette Moore
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I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Darlema Bey)

- A. Attendance, 18/33, 54% attendance, quorum exceeded.
- B. Minutes of November 11, 2024 General Meeting Approved.
- C. Updating of Members Emails: Please email Mark.Kruszczyński@dhs.nj.gov for corrections, updated email addresses.
- D. Presentations by Members in CY 2025
 1. DVRS (John Tkacz)
 2. Start Services Award (Jonathan Sabin, DDD)
 3. Arrive Together - Alternative Responses to Reduces Instances of Violence and Escalation - through the Attorney General's Office (in partnership with DMHAS Housing/Harry).
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/news/pressreleases/2024/approved/20240304.shtml>
 4. Family Member Perspectives
 5. Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) (Suzanne B.)
 6. AIR , Youth Suicide Prevention (kurt@air.ngo)
 7. SUD and the JJC (Francis Walker, JJC)

8. Experiences of Consumers in SUD Crisis
9. State Mental Hospitals (Department of Health, annmarie.flory@doh.nj.gov)
 - a. Service Questions
 - b. Appropriateness of Services, Outcomes.

II. FFY 2025 Annual Synar Report (ASR) (Limei Zhu, Suzanne Borys)

- A. Due 12/31/24, represents compliance report for SFY25, a retail violation rate must be >20% (tobacco product sales under the age of 21).
- B. See PowerPoint presentation: Synar Inspection Report 2019-2024.
 1. Synar amendment
 2. Synar inspection report
 3. Synar requirement: Field Inspections random samples must demonstrate >20% tobacco sales under age 21
 4. SFY 2025 Results: 19.6%

III. Fiscal Presentation of Block Grant Implementation Report, URS Data Tables (Prerak Patel, DMHAS Fiscal Office)

- A. URS Tables
 1. Table 7a
 2. Table 7b
 3. Table 8
 4. Table 10
- B. Block Grant
 1. “C State Agency Expenditure Report: MHBG Table 3 Set aside for Children’s MH services”
 2. Table 6 Maintenance of Effort for State Expenditures in MH Services
- C. Q&A:
 - a. Impact of national elections

IV. BHPC Membership, Attendance & Committees (Darlema Bey, Connie Greene)

- A. Members
 - Heather Simms (Consumer & CSP NJ) hsimms@cspnj.org Chair
 - Connelly, Krista (Department of Corrections) Krista.Connelly@doc.nj.gov
 - Shelley Robin Weiss (Consumer) s.robin.weiss@me.com
 - Rutberg, Jennifer (Division of Aging) Jennifer.Rutberg@dhs.nj.gov
 - Ingram, Maurice (Department of Education) Maurice.Ingram@doe.nj.gov
 - Darlema Bey (Consumer) darlemabey@gmail.com Ex-officio
- B. Increased involvement on the BHPC
- C. The importance of the Council and Participation

III. System Partner Updates (Darlema Bey)

- A. Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) DMHAS (D. Migliorino)
- B. Children’s Systems of Care (Diana Salvador).

1. CCIC Building Capacity Project: CSOC secured ARPA MHBG funding to implement the CCIS Building Capacity project designed to increase capacity of child and adolescent state subsidized inpatient units to more effectively treat a more diverse population including, but not limited to, youth with I/DD needs and LGBTQ+ youth. In doing so, CSOC partnered with Rutgers UBHC to conduct a training needs assessment of each unit and mobilize training and technical assistance in targeted areas. A Family Advisory Board of caregivers with lived experience was established to support the integration of youth and family voice in the offerings. Lastly, the project enabled the establishment of a reoccurring CCIS Medical Directors Meeting to support direct communication between unit and CSOC leadership.
 2. Child & adolescent inpatient capacity: Although the number of available inpatient beds may seem insufficient, monthly census data reflects that units are rarely at capacity. However, the data does not account for daily and weekly trends that may impact access to beds at the time they are needed.
 3. IDD Friendly child and adolescent inpatient units: SAMHSA Transformational Training Initiative funding was secured for CSOC to support the development of a training and toolkit for inpatient units that would increase their capacity to more effectively treat youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities and acute behavior challenges. In doing so, CSOC will create optional IDD Friendly Designation criteria for inclusion in the biannual CMS Biannual Redesignation process.
- C. Division of Developmental Disabilities (Jonathan Sabin)
1. On October 23, 2024 DDD, The New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities announced the release of an updated Request for Proposals (RFP), To Support the Development of Homes for People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities Transitioning from Nursing Facilities and Other Qualified Institutions. Successful bidders will develop new residential opportunities to support people to move from nursing facilities into community-based residential homes. Funding may be used to develop new sites or enhance existing locations (update accessibility and/or complete other modifications to facilitate appropriate support for a person who is moving from a nursing facility or other qualified institution).
 2. The Notice of Funding Availability can be found here:
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/providers/grants/nofa/NOFAfiles/Updated%20SNF%20NOFA.pdf>.
- D. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (John Tkacz)

1. DVRS provided an overview of their services. Any individual with a physical, mental, cognitive, or other form of disability who has a substantial impediment to employment may qualify for the following services through the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS).
 2. The mission of the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services is to enable eligible individuals with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome consistent with their strengths, priorities, needs, abilities, and capabilities.
 3. The law requires that we keep all paperwork and information about clients, including conversations, private, with a few exceptions. If a client chooses to disclose to their employer their disability it is their choice, DVRS respects the person's privacy. DVRS is allowed to release information about a person only when they get written permission from the client (or the person's parent, guardian, or designated representative).
- E. Division of Aging (Nancy Edouard)
The NJ Division of Aging Services has funded organizations in every county to assist hands-on with NJSAVE applications. NJSAVE is one application for pharmaceutical, energy, Medicare, and hearing aid assistance. NJSAVE is available for anyone who is 65+ or younger and disabled. Find your organization: [Senior Save Navigators by County Flyer.pdf](#)
- F. Justice Commission, NJ Dept. of Law & Public Safety: (Francis Walker)
NJ JJC is expanding educational and vocational opportunities to better prepare residents for the future, while also ensuring that family engagement remains a priority. Additionally, we are implementing social-emotional learning initiatives and providing staff with training on restorative justice practices to foster a more rehabilitative and supportive environment.”
- G. Department of Education (Maurice Ingram): No updates.
- H. Department of Corrections (K. Connelly): No updates.
- I. NJ Div. of Medical Assistance and Health Services (NJ Family Care/State Medicaid) (Shanique McGowan): Not present
- J. Department of Health: (Barbara Ferrick): Not present
- K. Division of Family Development (Marie Snyder): Not present
- L. Supported Housing Association (Kate Kelly): Not present. Excused.

- M. NJ County Mental Health Administrators Association (Elisabeth Marchese), No updates.
- N. NJ Hospital Association (Deena Tampi), Not Present.

IV. Open Public Comment and Announcements:

- A. Comments/questions: None
- B. Announcements:
 - 1. DMHAS is looking for a family of a child with SED to join the Planning Council. Family recruitment flyer sent out to CSOC for comment, review, edits and dissemination.
 - 2. 12/17/24: Medicaid Carve-In Presentations (NJ State Medicaid)
- C. Accessing the CMHBG <https://bgas.samhsa.gov>, Username: **citizennj**, Password: **citizen**

V. Adjournment: Darlema Bey 10:02

- A. Next meeting: 1/8/25 10:00 am –noon.

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- C. Future Agenda Items:
 - 1. Ride Together (Harry Reyes)
 - 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
 - 6. JJC Discussion (Filomena DiNuzzo)
 - 7. DVR (John John Tkacz)
- D. January 8, 2025 Subcommittee Meetings
 - 9:00 TBD
 - 9:30 TBD
 - 12:00 TBD