

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

January 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	Harry Coe	Filomena DiNuzzio
Heather Simms	Barbara Ferrick	Julia Barugel
John Tkacz	Krista Connelly	Robert DePlatt
Joseph Gutstein	Rachel Morgan	Winifred Chain
Jennifer Rutberg	S. Robin Weiss	Regina Sessoms
Suzanne Smith	Connie Greene (Acting Chair)	

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Irena Stuchinsky	Brittany Thorne	Jonathan Sabin
Brielle Easton	Mark Kruszczyński	Suzanne Borys
Yunqing Li		

Guests:

Anne Smullen-Theiling	Nancy Edouard	Shenal Pugh
Diane Litterer	Elena Kravitz	Morgan Thompson
Joseph Cuffari	Ann Denton (AHP)	Ellen Radis (AHP)

I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Connie Greene)

- A. Attendance, 17/35, 48% attendance, quorum exceeded.
- B. Minutes of December 2023 General Meeting Approved

II. Planning Council Technical Assistance, Donna Migliorino, (State Planner, DMHAS)

- A. Overview of intended agenda. However due to absence of key BHPC Members, the two presentations “Block Grant 101” and “BHPC Operations and Considerations” which were to have been presented today by Ann Denton & Ellen Radis (Advocates for Human Potential (AHP)) will be presented at our next public meeting on 2/14/24.
- B. Introduction of Ann Denton and Ellen Radis
- C. Overview of what comes Next (February 2024)
 - 1. Rejuvenation of the Council
 - 2. Ideas for Structures, Restructuring and Efficiency

3. Look at SAMSHAs requirements for the Council, how can the NJ BHPC meet/exceed those requirements
4. Looking at duties
 - a. Reviewing BG
 - b. System monitoring
 - c. Systems advocacy
5. It will be a conversation, not a lecture.

III. System Partner Updates (Connie Greene)

A. Children's System of Care (Nicholas Pecht): Not present.

B. Division of Developmental Disabilities (Jonathan Sabin)

1. DDD offers an online Provider Search tool to assist individuals, families, and Support Coordinators in identifying DDD/Medicaid Approved service providers. Please visit the search tool at <https://irecord.dhs.state.nj.us/providersearch>.
 - a. DDD service providers are reminded and encouraged to review their agency's information within Provider Search and update it as needed.
2. The Department of Human Services and The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities collaborated on and are pleased to announce the launch of Jobs that Care New Jersey (visit - Jobs that Care New Jersey | (nj.gov)). People can use this new website to find jobs as:
 - a. Direct support professionals who support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to participate in home and community life while promoting well-being; and
 - b. Certified home health aides who assist adults age 60 and older, and children and adults with disabilities or chronic medical conditions, to live in their homes by supporting daily activities.
3. Reminder - Minimum wage in New Jersey increased to \$15.13 per hour on January 1, 2024. Any employer of staff in the DDD system, including individuals/families who employ Self-Directed Employees, must ensure that employee hourly wages are at or above the \$15.13 minimum.
4. DDD is pleased to report a wage increase for Direct Support Professionals (DSP) and DSP Supervisors. Due to the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Appropriations Act, the January 1, 2024 wage increase will be about \$0.50 higher (about \$1.75 per hour as opposed to about \$1.25 per hour).

C. Division of Aging (Jennifer Rutberg):

1. Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs (PAAD) income eligibility benefits have gone up \$10k. Single \$52,149, married \$59, 202
 - a. Covers MH and SUD prescriptions for individuals not on medicad
 - b. NJSAVE Application
2. Q&A: Q: Is there still a \$5k deduction for people married, filing jointly? A: Jennifer will get back to you with a response.
3. <https://nj.gov/humanservices/doas/services/l-p/paad/>

D. Division of Juvenile (Justice Commission: Filomena DiNuzzio): Nothing to report.

- E. Department of Education (Maurice Ingram). Not present
- F. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRs). John Tkacz
 - 1. Felicia Hopson has accepted the position of Assistant Director of Administrative Services
 - 2. Dept. of Labor Deputy Commissioner Hugh Bailey passed away. Services are this weekend. Mr. Bailey was Assistant Commissioner when DVRs was under Workforce Development.
- G. Department of Corrections (K. Connelly).
 - 1. Edna Mahan Facility public meeting will be March 1, 2024.
 - 2. MK will send out slides presented by Krista Connelly at the December 2023 meeting
 - 3. Q&A: Q: "Rehabilitation vs. Retribution"? A: The DoC (Prison System, not county jails) is trying to transform the system
- H. State Medicaid
 - 1. State Medicaid started meeting with Stakeholders in October 2023 and had two Advisory Hub meetings with a larger group of stakeholders that included BH providers, members, MCOs, advocates. Anyone who is interested in joining the Stakeholder meetings, please send the request with your information to dmahs.behavioralhealth@dhs.nj.gov
 - 3. Member focus groups will be meeting in the Spring (Advisory Hub).
 - 4. The general mailbox for BH Integration related questions/concerns: dmahs.behavioralhealth@dhs.nj.gov

V. Open Public Comment and Announcements (Connie Greene)

- A. Announcements
 - 1. NJPN Annual Addiction Conference will be held on May 16 & 17, 2024 at the Atlantic City Convention Center. NJPN.Org for more details and registration. This is the largest addiction conference in NJ with over 1,000 attendees. Hope you can come!
- B. Questions/Comments
 - 1. Request for Update for the Council on State 988 program.
 - 2. Q: What is MCORT? A: Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORT)
 - 3. S-42520
 - 4. Ann Denton (AHP): "In general, system issues fall into two categories: Things that are being worked on by other advocacy groups and there may be new system changes or pending legislation. Then, Council can get report on the issue and perhaps weigh in. For EMERGING issues, when the Council reviews information about how the system is working (relevant and focused on BG), and questions emerge, then that issue might be referred to an ADVOCACY committee for further investigation or to a DATA/EVALUATION committee. It is rare that the investigation would occur for the full council - it is more of a committee role"
 - 5. Concerns that BHPC represents populations being served. Concern that there are services/resources that have been successful (with education, career, housing, etc.).
 - 6. Changing the "prophecies of doom", so that consumers receiving service for longer periods of time.

VI. Adjournment (11:04 am) Connie Greene

A. Next meeting: 2/14/24

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B. Future Agenda Items

1. “Block Grant 101” and “BHPC Operations and Considerations” (Ann Denton & Ellen Radis (Advocates for Human Potential (AHP)), 2/14/24
2. Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers, (Charlotte Sadashige)
3. Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): (Connie Greene)
4. NJ DoE Threat Assessment Protocols
5. Overview of CSS (Harry Reyes, DMHAS)
6. Pretrial Services in Camden County (?) (Robin Weiss.)
7. JJV Discussion (Filomena DiNuzzio)
8. Overview/Update on 988 (DMM)
9. Psychiatric Advanced Directives (requested by H.Simms, 1/10/24)

C. February 14, 2024 Subcommittee Meetings

9:30 TBA

12:00 TBA