

# NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

## Minutes

July 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	Heather Simms
Julia Barugel	Debra Wentz	Michael Ippoliti
John Tkacz	Krista Connelly	Tracy Maksel/Chelsa Vietch
Joseph Gutstein	Suzanne Smith	Robin Weiss
Michele Madiou	Barbara Ferrick	Maurice Ingram
Stacey Reh	Kurt Baker	Nancy Edouard
Darlema Bey (Chair)		

### DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Suzanne Borys	Brittany Thorne	Andrea Connor
Yunqing Li	Mark Kruszczyński	Helen Staton
Jonathan Sabin	Shenal Pugh	Clarence Pearson

### Guests:

Krista Klee	Andrea Bakum	Rachel Morgan
Filomena DiNuzzio	Morgan Thompson	Andrea Bakun
Bhoomika Vachhani	Elena Kravits	Margaret Lumia
Leshema Edwards	Bernadette Moore	Noemi Serrano
Serena Zuppardo	Nina Smuklawsky	Serena Zuppardo

### **I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Darlema Bey)**

- A. Attendance, 18/36, 50% attendance, quorum exceeded.
- B. Minutes of May 2024 General Meeting Approved, with minor edits

### **II. DMHAS Site Visit July 10-13, 2024 Update (Donna Migliorino DMHAS)**

- A. A report from SAMSHA won't be available for a couple of months
- B. The first two days were spent on site with DMHAS and CSOC. Information was sent to SAMSHA in advance of the site visit and some of the information that was presented during the visit was sent afterwards as additional information such as data dashboards.
- C. Additionally, there was a Consumer and Family Involvement meeting and a meeting with representatives from the Behavioral Health Planning Council.
- D. On the third day of the site visit, it was a day to visit programs – a 988 Call Center and a Coordinated Specialty Care-Community Integration program. Visit to sites included a program funded by the ESMI set aside and a Crisis Call Center.

- E. A meeting with representatives from BHPC:
  - 1. The SAMSHA representatives interviewed the selected Council members who volunteered: Darlema Bey, Robin Weiss, Julia Barugel, Heather Simms and Connie Greene
  - 2. “It was very positive” – Darlema Bey
- G. Q&A:
  - 1. Q: Were the visits and discussions with families and individuals fairly representative of the state?  
A: There were adults with SMI and Parents of Youth as well as family of adults with SMI.

### **III. BHPC Committees (Darlema Bey).**

- A. Per the Technical Assistance of the SAMHSA/AHP trainers the committees must be restructured to: have consistent involvement/participation and enhanced activity.
- B. The BHPC Committee Membership Interest Survey is at:  
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BHPC\\_Committees](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BHPC_Committees) and should be filled out by all voting members of the BHPC/CAB by no later than 7/12/24.
- C. Based on the results of the survey, the committee assignments will be made.

### **IV. System Partner Updates (Darlema Bey)**

- A. Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) DMHAS (D. Migliorino):  
See above (II. DMHAS Update)
- B. Children’s Systems of Care (Stacy Reh): No update provided
  - 1. Zero Suicide
    - a. A transformational framework for health and behavioral health care systems from the Zero Suicide Institute (ZSI) at the Educational Development Center
    - b. ZSI provides expertise, customized consultation, and training, to present an aspirational challenge to transform systems toward safer suicide care.
    - c. A two-year investment, implemented first with Care Management Organizations, Family Support Organizations, and some Out-of-Home (OOH) treatment providers, and, in year two, with Mobile Response Stabilization Services and additional OOH treatment providers.
    - d. Results: our partners have created and updated policies and protocols regarding suicide prevention and attempts; 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.
    - e. Individuals with lived experience included on some partners’ ZS teams.
    - f. The Zero Suicide EDC website is [zerosuicide.edc.org](https://zerosuicide.edc.org)
- C. Division of Developmental Disabilities: No presentation
- C. Division of Aging (Nancy Edouard)
  - 1. No updates
- D. Justice Commission, NJ Dept. of Law & Public Safety: (Francis Walker)

1. Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit results forthcoming
  2. Recovery walk will be happening soon; details TBD.
- E. Department of Education (Maurice Ingram): No update this month.
1. Question about how funding related to Behavioral Health Services are distributed across the state.
    - a. See: <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/nj4s.html>
    - b. See: [https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/wellness/mh/docs/NJDOE%20MH%20Screening%20Guidance\\_acc.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/wellness/mh/docs/NJDOE%20MH%20Screening%20Guidance_acc.pdf)
- F. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). John Tkacz
1. Mission: Enable eligible people with disabilities to find employment consistent with their abilities, skills, talents.
  2. The Director of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Karen Carroll, has retired. They are pursuing a nationwide search for a new Director.
  3. Contacts:
    - a. For DVRS Field office related matters please contact Asst. Director Helen Liu at: [Hairong.Liu@dol.nj.gov](mailto:Hairong.Liu@dol.nj.gov)
    - b. For Program/contract/vendor matters contact Asst. Director Felicia Hopson at: [Felicia.Hopson@dol.nj.gov](mailto:Felicia.Hopson@dol.nj.gov)
  4. The Interim DVRS Director is Assistant Commissioner Charyl Yarbrough who can be reached at: [Charyl.Yarbrough@dol.nj.gov](mailto:Charyl.Yarbrough@dol.nj.gov)
  5. DVRS and Rutgers (Integrated Employment Institute) have partnered to offer several trainings for the mental health and vocational professionals. See below:
  6. Current IEI Trainings – Integrated Employment Institute ([rutgers.edu](http://rutgers.edu))
    - a. 7/10: Supporting Enhanced Job Matches: Understanding Potential Employers' Diversity and Inclusion Practices
    - b. 7/11: Growing from What Works: Utilizing a Strengths-Based Focus to Promote Successful Career Services Outcomes
    - c. 7/17: Multicultural Perspective in Career Services
    - d. 7/18: Addressing Internalized Stigma and Illness Identity: Empowering Recovery and Self-Advocacy for Job Seekers and Students
    - e. 7/24: Recovery Oriented Cognitive Therapy for Career Service Practitioners
    - f. 7/25: Social Justice and Disability Rights in Employment and Education Services: Strategies for Equity and Advocacy
    - g. 7/31: Applying the 8 Dimensions of Wellness to Career Services Provision
- G. Department of Corrections (K. Connelly):
1. Recruitment of Staff: Serve with Honor, Protect with Pride. [JoinNJDoC.gov](http://JoinNJDoC.gov)
  2. New Women's Correctional Facility:
    - a. To be in Chesterfield NJ
    - b. Interagency working group is formed
    - c. Design/architecture phase
- H. NJ Div. of Medical Assistance and Health Services (NJ Family Care/State Medicaid) (Shenal Pugh)

1. DMAHS in collaboration with DMHAS launched Behavioral Health, Promoting Interoperability Program (BH PIP) on July1,2024.
  - a. The program provides funding to qualifying BH facilities to help them deploy or upgrade their EHR technology and provide more efficient care. The program is operating on a defined budget, so it's on a first come first basis program.
  - b. More details and assistance with signing up visit <https://www.njii.com/healthcare/behavioral-health-bh-pip/>
  - c. Substance Use Disorder Promoting Interoperability (SUD-PIP) | NJII  
The SUD program provides funding to qualifying providers to help deploy or upgrade EHR technology and provide care for addiction.
  - d. Learn More at: <https://www.njii.com/healthcare/substance-use-disorder-promoting-interoperability-sud-pip/>
2. BHI Advisory Hub meeting scheduled date 7.26.24 @11-12:30PM via registration of Zoom. (Included attendees, State Stakeholders, Member Advocates, Providers, Advocates, NJAMHAA). See: <https://chcs.zoom.us/join/95g#/registration>
- I. Department of Health: (Barbara Ferrick): No update provided.
- J. Division of Family Development (Marie Snyder): No update provided
- K. Supported Housing Association (Diane Riley, not present/excused): No report this month.
- L. NJ County Mental Health Administrators:
- M. NJ Hospital Association: No comment.

#### **IV. Open Public Comment and Announcements:**

- A. Announcements:
  1. NJAHMMA
    - a. Fall Conference
    - b. August 14, 2024 Engaging Youth to Strengthen their Mental Health, at Hibernian, Data University
    - c. Building on Advocacy: Increased state budget, increased workforce in DMHAS
  2. NJ Juvenile Detention Association (NJJDA): 9/11/24 – 9/13/24: Conference at the Tropicana in Atlantic City. <https://njjda.org/conference/>

#### **V. Adjournment (11:50) Darlema Bey**

- A. Next meeting: 8/14/24

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- B. Future Agenda Items
1. SAMHSA Monitoring Visit 6/12/24
  2. NJ State Budget (DMHAS Fiscal Office)
  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
  7. JJV Discussion (Filomena DiNuzzo)
- C. July 14, 2024 Subcommittee Meetings
- 9:30 Block Grant
- 12:00 TBD