

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

March 13, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Microsoft Teams meeting

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

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:

Suzanne Borys	Rachel Morgan	Francis Walker
Heather Simms	Julia Barugel	David Moore
John Tkacz	Krista Connelly	Robert DePlatt
Joseph Gutstein	Suzanne Smith	Winifred Chain
Nancy Edouard	Barbara Johnston	Maurice Ingram
Wyndee Davis	Robin Weiss	Regina Sessoms
Kurt Baker	Harry Coe	
Connie Greene (Vice Chair)	Darlema Bey(Chair)	

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Brittany Thorne	Jonathan Sabin	Brielle Easton
Helen Staton	Charlotte Sadashige	
Limei Zhu	Shenal Pugh	
Mark Kruszczyński	Irina Stuchinsky	

Guests:

Joseph Cuffari	Filomena DiNuzzio	Morgan Thompson
Elena Kravitz	Nina Smuklawsky	Jennifer Rutberg

I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Darlema Bey)

- A. Attendance, 22/36, 61% attendance, quorum exceeded.
- B. Membership Changes
 - 1. Appointment of Curt Baker to BHPC
 - 2. Retirement of David Moore, NJHA/Inspira (Dina Tampi will be his replacement)
- C. Minutes of February 2024 General Meeting Approved

II. Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC) Charlotte Sadashige, DMHAS

- A. See PowerPoint Shared with the Council on 3/11/24
- B. Years 5 – 6 will be primary focus of slides.
- C. Background of CCBHCs
- D. Future of CCBHC
- E. Questions?

1. Q: When do you think that Depression remission at 12 months data will be collected and why does NJ not collect it even if other states do? (JG)
A: NJ has been collected that data (12 months) but unfortunately many facilities do not have that data. The outcome measure is changing from depression remission at 12 months to 6 months.
2. Q: Why does the level for clinical depression plateaued at around 70% (KB)
A:
3. Q: What were the general demographic profiles of people that were in the program? Locations of CCBHCs? (RS)
A: There are 17 CCBHCs in NJ in 6 counties in: Bergen, Atlantic, Mercer (2) Middlesex, Monmouth, Essex.
4. Q: Is there follow up on consumers who don't return?
A: It varies by the CCBHC
5. Comment on demographics: Why are there female more than male(Limei Zhu)
6. Question on staff licensing at CCBHCs: MH and SUD. (Elena Kravitz)
7. Q: Will there be an action plan for CCBHCs who are not doing well.
A: All CCBHCS must submit CQI plans.
8. Q: How do we know what agencies have CCBHCs?
A: Currently only 7 agencies are the demonstrations agencies. They are listed on the website.
Conversation on promoting CCBHCs
9. Request for SAMHSA Clinic Lead Measures for CCBHCs (JG)
10. Comment: Challenge of consumers not knowing where to go for behavioral health services (CG)
- F. Comments of CS.
 1. Updated outcomes measures to be stratified by race.

III. Committee Reorganization (Darlema Bey and Connie Greene)

- A. Committee Participation and Responsibilities
- B. Ask for members to Step Up to join committees, report regularly. Send email to Darlema, Mark, Connie, Donna
 1. Nominations
 2. Membership
 3. Block Grant
 4. Ad-Hoc Committees
 - a. Advocacy
 - b. Equity
 5. Bylaws
- C. Possibility of creating an Ethnic/Multicultural Committee
- D. Option for soliciting Council Member feedback on Committee participation via SurveyMonkey

III. System Partner Updates (Darlema Bey)

- A. Children's System of Care (Wyndee Davis): No report given.
- B. Division of Developmental Disabilities (Jonathan Sabin)

1. March 28, 2024 is National Choking Prevention Awareness Day. The Division has dedicated March 2024 to raising awareness about this important issue. More information is available on the DDD Health and Safety webpage (Division of Developmental Disabilities | Important Health & Safety Information (nj.gov)).
 2. Annual National Core Indicators (NCI) State of the Workforce Survey – This survey collects comprehensive data on the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce providing direct supports to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The resulting data helps our state developmental disabilities systems examine workforce challenges, identify areas for further investigation, benchmark their workforce data, measure improvements made through policy or programmatic changes, and compare their state data to those of other states and the NCI-IDD average. The NCI process will include:
 - a. In-Person Survey – face-to-face conversation with a minimum of 400 randomly chosen individuals 21 and older who are receiving at least one DDD service in addition to Support Coordination.
 - b. Adult Family Survey – online survey for family members who have an adult (21 or older) with IDD who lives in the family home and receives at least one DDD service in addition to Support Coordination.
 - c. Family/Guardian Survey – online survey for family members/guardians who have an adult (21 or older) with IDD who lives outside of the family home and receives at least one DDD service in addition to Support Coordination.
- C. Division of Aging (Nancy Eduoard)
 NJ Division of Aging Services report: The new 2024 booklet of all services and supports has been published: [NJ Division of Aging Services 2024 Program Guide](#) in English, [Guía de Programas 2024 de la División de Servicios para el Adulto Mayor de NJ](#) in Spanish
- D. Division of Juvenile (Justice Commission: Francis Walker & Filomena DiNuzzio):
 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)
1. New guidance from DoE for MH Screeners in Schools.
https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/wellness/mh/docs/NJDOE%20MH%20Screening%20Guidance_acc.pdf
 2. Learning Institute concluded two weeks ago. More webinars to be developed. All the Power Point presentations will be placed on the DoE website.
 3. <https://ccsmh.rutgers.edu/statewide-trainings/>
- F. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). John Tkacz

1. The NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Career Connection Employment Resource Institute and the Integrated Employment Institute are pleased to invite you to a CRC ethics training, receiving up to 10 CRC credits the week of April 8th.
2. Navigating Ethical Dilemmas in Rehabilitation Counseling. The 10-hour training program offers a comprehensive exploration of ethical principles and considerations in Rehabilitation Counseling (CRC) practice.
 - a. The first two hours will be an asynchronous self-study (4/8/24-2 CRC credits) with an overview of the recent code revisions followed by an additional two hours of a synchronous remote (4/10/24 10A-12P-2 CRC credits) discussion of ethical dilemmas and boundary concerns. The link for registration is in the attached flyer.
3. 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).

1. The most recent public meeting regarding Edna Mahan Correctional Facility occurred on March 1st. A recording can be accessed at this link (<https://tinyurl.com/bp8xavp9>) or on the NJDOC homepage. The first phase of closure is now complete. The minimum-security facility has been closed and the women now reside at a temporary satellite facility that is fully operational. A Female Facility Working Group consisting of several State entities such as the Department of Treasury and Department of Environmental Protection has been organized to guide the new facility project through planning and building phases. The next step in the process is the publication of the RFP for the architect and engineer.

H. State Medicaid: (Irina Stuchinsky)

Medicaid BH Integration Update. We are proceeding with the Integration (integrating behavioral health into Medicaid MCOs). As part of the process, there are 2 upcoming

provider subgroups (March 21 and March 26th). We are also in the process of planning 4 member focus groups (3 regional in-person meetings and 1 virtual) that will start in May 2024. Please email (dmahs.behavioralhealth@dhs.nj.gov if you are interested in participating.

- I. Department of Health: No representative present.
- J. Division of Family Development: No representative present.
- K. Supported Housing Association: No representative present.

V. Open Public Comment and Announcements: Nothing, due to time for Technical Assistance

A. Announcements:

1. Elena Kravitz: Deadline for Public Comment for Upcoming ISMICC Meeting March 13, 2024 11:51 AM
See: <https://samhsa.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d0780dc94825e65acd61c17dc&id=4cd53cf528&e=f0178543be>
2. New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council
Update – 3/13/24
Items of interest for the Behavioral Health Planning Council and the Citizen’s Advisory Council. This is intended as an update and may not be comprehensive.
Website developed under the Garrett Lee Smith (GLS Grant)
Prevent Suicide NJ - Suicide Prevention Resources & Training
New guidance from the CDC regarding the response to Suicide Clusters.
CDC Guidance for Communities Assessing, Investigating and Responding to Suicide Clusters, United States, 2024
Recent Article in NJ Spotlight News.
Working to prevent suicide among Black youth in NJ | NJ Spotlight News
Recent AAP Journals Blog regarding the accuracy of teen suicide screening tools currently in use. 8211.pdf (silverchair-cdn.com)
3. Pledge to Connect (Rachel Morgan)
 - a. Is a short-term case management program that provides in-community support to individuals. They will assist with linkages to behavioral health outpatient services, primary and specialty care, as well as general case management.
 - b. Referrals are made by providers (doctors, nurses, social workers, etc.) in an emergency department for individuals who are being discharged back to the community who would benefit from in-community support for case management and linkages to behavioral health and primary care outpatient services.
 - c. This program is open to Burlington and Camden County residents who are being discharged to the community. Pledge to connect is accepts referrals from Cooper Camden, Jefferson Cherry Hill, Jefferson Stratford, Virtua Memorial (Mt. Holly), and Virtua Willingboro. Ineligible referrals are those who are out of county, going to inpatient, going to jail/prison, and/or are a better fit for an OORP (Opioid Overdose Response Program) or Crisis referral.

- d. More information about Pledge to Connect can be found on the Camden Coalition website. <https://camdenhealth.org/work/pledge-to-connect/>
OR Pledge to Connect history.
<https://camdenhealth.org/resources/demonstration-pilot-pledge-to-connect/>

VI. Adjournment (12:07) Connie Greene

- A. Next meeting: 4/10/24
Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer or mobile app
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Or call in (audio only)
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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)
 - 7. Overview/Update on 988 (DMM)
 - 8. Psychiatric Advanced Directives (requested by H.Simms, 1/10/24)
- C. April 10, 2024 Subcommittee Meetings
 - 9:30 TBA
 - 12:00 TBA