

# NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

## Minutes

**May 8 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	Robert DePlatt	Winifred Chain
John Tkacz	Krista Connelly	Harry Coe
Joseph Gutstein	Suzanne Smith	Robin Weiss
Jennifer Rutberg	Rachel Morgan	Barbara Ferrick
Stacey Reh	Connie Greene (Vice Chair)	
Darlema Bey (Chair)		

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

Suzanne Borys	Brittany Thorne	Andrea Connor
Yunqing Li	Mark Kruszczyński	Irina Stuchinsky
Helen Staton	Jonathan Sabin	Robert Eilers

### Guests:

Anne Smullen-Thiling	Joseph Cuffari	Krista Klee
Filomena DiNuzzio	Morgan Thompson	Andrea Bakun
Bhoomika Vachhani	Elena Kravits	Margaret Lumia
Leshema Edwards	Bernadette Moore	Noemi Serrano
Serena Zuppardo		

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

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

### **II. DMHAS Update (Donna Migliorino DMHAS)**

- A. COVID Supplemental Initiatives
- B. MHBG Site Visit (6/11/24 - 6/13/24)
  - 1. 6/11-6/12 SAMHSA review team will be on site at DMHAS at 5 Commerce Way in Hamilton.
  - 2. 6/13/24 SAMHSA will be visiting a 988 call center as well as a

- 3. Coordinated Specialty Care – Community Integration program.  
Last visit was 2016.
- 4. Live-in person Day One 6/11/24
  - a. They will meet with DMHAS leadership to discuss any major changes. Priorities, Workforce development, State Financing of the MHS System, Medicaid Waivers and Grant.
  - b. Decision supports, data systems; USTF+, URS reporting, SRC, etc.
  - c. QI Plan.
  - d. Adult Services including EBPs
- 5. Day Two: 6/12/24
  - a. Children’s System of Care and best practices
  - b. Consumer and family meeting
  - c. Meeting with BHPC (1 – 2 pm).
    - i. Meeting with five representatives from BHPC  
Darlema Bey (Chair/Family Member),  
Connie Greene, (Vice Chair, SUD Provider),  
Heather Simms (CMHBG Committee, Consumer),  
Robin Weiss (BHPC Member, Consumer)  
Julia Barugel (BHPC Member, Family Member)
    - ii. YL will send CMHBG
  - d. Crisis Services, Coordinated Specialty Care
  - e. Projects funded by Supplemental Funding

C. Program Updates:

- 1. Coordinated Specialty Care-Community Integration
- 2. Crisis Receiving Stabilization Centers (“A Place to Go”)
  - a. The RFP is for five programs across the state.
  - b. CRSCs will be open for referrals, walk-ins, and drop-offs by first responders 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, every day of the year.
  - c. Crisis Receiving Stabilization Centers CRSCs are a key component of the NJ crisis continuum based on the National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care: Best Practice Toolkit.
  - d. The target population to be served is individuals 18 years of age and older with a primary SMI who are experiencing acute psychiatric symptoms that could interfere with community tenure.
  - e. DMHAS will be using the “no wrong door” concept and partnering with community crisis responders.
  - f. The goal is to develop an appropriate alternative to the use of local hospital emergency services and in-patient psychiatric hospitalization by providing crisis services and placement support for those in need of permanent housing.
  - g. At a minimum, services will include access to trained staff who can provide intensive supports, including assessment, crisis stabilization, engagement, psycho-education, identification of strengths, collaborative problem solving, and individualized crisis planning.
  - h. Services will be offered in a safe, clean, home-like environment conducive to the recovery process. Medication management, administration, and education will also be offered.
  - i. The program will offer continuity of care promoting continued stability and ensuring linkages are arranged that meet the needs of the individual.

3. Community MH Law Project (funded by ARPA)
4. Crisis Diversion Home
  - a. Crisis Diversion Homes (CDH) prioritize referrals from Crisis Receiving Stabilization Centers (CRSC) and Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORT), serving individuals who have recently experienced a crisis and are in need of further crisis stabilization.
  - b. The goal is to provide stabilization, to divert hospital admissions and reduce emergency department (ED) visits.
  - c. Crisis diversion can “promote access to less restrictive settings for residential crisis intervention and more effective utilization of scarce resources and expensive psychiatric beds.
  - d. CDHs offer recovery-oriented temporary transitional housing for up to 30 days, within a 24-hour supervised setting that includes therapeutic and social supports in a warm and safe environment to individuals who do not need further hospitalization.
  - e. The CDHs serve individuals 18 years of age or older; adults with SMI and who are voluntary and can live in a transitional residential setting with therapeutic support; as well as adults with a history of co-occurring disorders including substance use disorders, intensive behavioral challenges, legal involvement, co-occurring developmental disability, and co-occurring medical needs.
  - f. Three awards have been made for Crisis Diversion Homes.
5. Wrap funding for CRSCs and Crisis Diversion Homes
6. Older Adult Outpatient initiative: North, Central and South (ARPA funding)
7. Law Enforcement Crisis Diversion Initiative: Warren County and DMHAS collaboration.

D. Q&A

1. Q: Is MCORT for 18 and Older? A: Yes.

III. **Psychiatric Advance Directives** (Presented by Dr. Robert Eilers. Medical Director, DMHAS, Prepared by Dr. Eilers and Lisa Ciaston, Legal Counsel, DMHAS).

- A. See PowerPoint distributed to Council via email 050724
- B. Last six months DMHAS promoting Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs)
- C. DMHAS wants to advocate for consumers to create their own PADs
- D. Powerful, as they help consumers provide for their own crisis management with their own interests and values.
- E. Presentation (See PowerPoint)
  1. New Jersey Law: P.L. 2005, c 233, became effective on March 21, 2006
  2. See <http://www.nrc-pad.org/> for nationwide information.
  3. What are Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs)?
  4. Uptake and Implementation of Psychiatric Advance Directives.
  5. The Benefits of PADs
  6. Practitioners’ Concerns and Legal Formalities/Proper Witnesses
  7. Decision-Making Capacity
  8. Modifications, Clinical Overrides, and Dispute Resolutions
  9. Civil and Criminal Penalties for Not Following a PAD.
  10. Summary

- a. While PADs can promote patient autonomy and shared decision making, and assist in crisis planning, these are underutilized.
- b. Many practitioners do not have adequate knowledge of PADs and are not aware of their purpose and use, or how to assist clients with developing a PAD. DMHAS will be conducting trainings in the near future to increase awareness and access to the internet registry for clinical staff.
- c. Greater understanding of the legal and clinical requirements for PADs in N.J. will enhance practitioners' capabilities in serving individuals with serious mental illness

F. Q&A:

- 1. Comment of support from CSP NJ on PADs. (H. Simms)
- 2. Q: Is every form of crisis response required to check if a PAD is on file? (JB)  
A: Currently law applies to state hospital and traditional crisis response (DSC), but new community response services are not yet covered in the law.
- 3. Q: Is there expectation for agencies to have PADs for their consumers?  
A: No. Agencies are not obligated to do so. The role of providers is to educate and support the development of PADs by the people they are serving.
- 4. Q: Getting people competent to stand trial, how would attorneys know if someone has a PAD?  
A: Technical a prison setting does not activate a PAD.
- 5. Q: CSP NJ, DRNJ and other entities have been working with/supporting PADs. Areas needing tweaking, (Elena Kravits, DRNJ).
- 6. Comment: feel free to reach and contact [ekravitz2disabilityrights@nj.org](mailto:ekravitz2disabilityrights@nj.org) with any questions about PADs and training or legal actions

**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
- C. Division of Developmental Disabilities (Jonathan Sabin)
  - 1. DDD would like families and state partners to be aware that updates have been made to the Community Care Program and Supports Program Manual. A listing of changes can be found on page two of the respective manual.
  - 2. On Friday, May 10, 2024, the DDD Office of Education on Self-Directed Services is collaborating with the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Family Development (DFD) to host a webinar about programs available through DFD, including NJ SNAP and WorkFirst NJ. While the information is geared toward individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families, all are welcome to attend. Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7994971696801538135>
  - 3. The National Core Indicators State of the Workforce Survey is open through June 30, 2024 and participation by as many eligible providers as possible is critical to ensure valid results. The data collected through this annual survey helps us examine and respond to challenges in New Jersey's Direct Support Professional

workforce serving adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. To learn more, visit

<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/news/nci-workforce-survey-overview.pdf>.

- C. Division of Aging (Jennifer Rutberg)
  - 1. May is Older Americans Act Month. This year's theme is "Powered by Connection", which brings attention to how interpersonal connections make the lives of every person rich and vital. Every county is holding special events to foster connectivity. For information on events in your area, call the county office on aging (AAA/ADRC) at 877-222-3737.
- D. Division of Juvenile (Justice Commission: Francis Walker & Filomena DiNuzzio):
  - 1. Several JJC Residential Community Housing programs are preparing for their bi-annual audit of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). This audit is to rate compliance with the requirements of the Act. The audit is scheduled to occur in June.
- E. Department of Education (Maurice Ingram): No update this month.
- F. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). John Tkacz
  - 1. Personnel Updates
    - a. The Director of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Karen Carroll, has retired. They are pursuing a nationwide search for a new Director.
    - b. For DVRS Field office related matters please contact Asst. Director Helen Liu at: [Hairong.Liu@dol.nj.gov](mailto:Hairong.Liu@dol.nj.gov)
    - c. For Program/contract/vendor matters contact Asst. Director Felicia Hopson at: [Felicia.Hopson@dol.nj.gov](mailto:Felicia.Hopson@dol.nj.gov)
    - d. The Interim DVRS Director is Assistant Commissioner Cheryl Yarbrough who can be reached at: [Charyl.Yarbrough@dol.nj.gov](mailto:Charyl.Yarbrough@dol.nj.gov)
  - 2. The Statewide Ethics Training facilitated in conjunction with NJ DOL Div. Vocational Rehab Services, the Mental Health Association Career Connection Employment Resource Institute and Rutgers Integrated Employment Institute was well attended and tremendous success. The partnership was most beneficial in imparting the most current resources and information to the service field.
- G. Department of Corrections (K. Connelly):
  - 1. "Legislation went into effect May 1st to institute a mandatory 10-minute overlap between custody shifts. This overlap is intended for a debriefing between officers during shift change. NJDOC is looking forward to the benefits of increased communication within the facilities.
  - 2. NJDOC produced a documentary titled "Be Not Afraid" about an immersive music theory educational program at Garden State Correctional Facility. It premiered at the Annual Garden State Film Festival, and received the Broader Vision Award. The documentary can be viewed at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WN6b8OF59Uk>. You can also google NJDOC Be Not Afraid and it'll pop up."

- H. NJ Div. of Medical Assistance and Health Services (NJ Family Care/State Medicaid) (Irina Stuchinsky): No update provided.
- I. Department of Health: Barbara Ferrick: No update provided.
- J. Division of Family Development (Marie Snyder)
- K. Supported Housing Association (Diane Riley, not present/excused): No report this month.

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

- A. Announcements:
  - 1. Oaks Integrated Care has announced that in June 2024 they will be recognizing, Attitudes in Reverse (AIR) (<https://air.ngo/> the youth mental health organization founded by Kurt and Tricia Baker) their “Rooted in Community Award”. Congratulations Kurt!
- B. Comments: None.

**V. Adjournment (12:05) Darlema Bey**

- A. Next meeting: 6/12/24

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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 DiNuzzio)
- C. June 12, 2024 Subcommittee Meetings
  - 9:30 Block Grant
  - 12:00 TBD