

# NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

## Minutes

March 10, 2021, 10:00 am

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

### Participants:

Phil Lubitz (Chair)	Darlema Bey (Vice Chair)	Winifred Chain	Harry Coe
John Tkacz	Winifred Chain	Julia Barugel	Pat Matthews
Lisa Negron	Joe Gutstein	Barb Johnston	Tonia Ahern
Suzanne Smith	Suzanne Borys	Rachel Morgan	Kate Brace
Damian Petino			

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

Morris Friedman	Jonathan Sabin	Nicholas Pecht
Mark Kruszczyński		

### Guests:

Nina Smukuluvasky	Kurt Baker	Wendy Rodgers
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### Minutes:

- I. **Administrative Issues/Correspondence** (Phil Lubitz)
  - A. Roll call, Quorum reached 17/39 = 43.5% attendance
  - B. Budget information online: <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/omb/publications/22bib/BIB.pdf>
  - C. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes, accepted by Barb J. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harry C.
  
- II. **Update on Governor's Proposed State Budget** (Morris Friedman)  
**SFY22for DMHAS**
  - A. 15.5M increase in state aid account (state hospitals, county hospitals), increased in per-diem billing rates
    1. County SFY rates still unknown. NJ OMB agreed with DMHAS projections
  - B. Mental Health Community Care increase due to agreed increase in calculation of fair market rents (FMR), so an increase of \$5.2M is expected.
  - C. \$4.8M increase in our ability to transfer funds to state Medicaid (State Community Care line item)
  - D. \$4M added to increase pipeline of psychiatrists, (10 medical professional residency slots for NJ hospitals, for four years).
  - E. \$2.2 for Justice Involved Services (JIS) pilot program. This was in SFY21 proposed budget, but due to Covid19 it was taken out. It has now be included in SFY22 budget. Funds for additional case managers in counties yet to be determined to help consumers leaving jail
  - F. \$2.2M Olmstead increase for new growth in community housing placements for CEPP consumers. A phased number that will annualize in SFY23.
  - G. Monmouth MH Assoc. will get \$250k
  - F. Reduction of Morris County Hope Initiative (substance abuse prevention).

- G. \$500k remains for Fee for Service
- I. Other items remain the same
- J. State of NJ SFY22 Proposed Budget Book is out today and details will be released soon.
- K. Q&A
  - 1. Q: Will there be a Gloucester County, EISS program? A: "I haven't heard anything on this. But budget hearing will be occurring soon. If this is something they will consider it, I can bring this up to Assistant Commissioner Mielke....we (DMHAS) proposed any additional funds for SFY22, but if the legislature wants to, then the legislature (with the Governors approval) can do it.
  - 2. Q: Summary of Morris's bullet points: A: See Office of Management and Budget → Current Publications → SFY22 Proposed Budget. [See <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/omb/publications/22bib/BIB.pdf> ]
  - 3. Q: Fair Market Rent, Bergen County. A: We took an overall statewide approach, the details will be worked out with the NJ DCA Supportive Housing Connection and DMHAS Office of Housing.  
Q: Is there a reason not to use HUD's detailed data. A: DMHAS did an overall analysis, but specifics would be best addressed by DMHAS Housing Office. Morris would be glad to facilitate a question.
  - 4. Statement (PL): HMFA would allow funds to be used to supplement down payments on first time homeowners. This may have implications that the BHPC Advocacy may want to look into.
- L. Request by Chair of Council to do an update on the state budget in July or August of CY21.

### III. Update on State Budget for DCF – Children's (Nicholas Pecht) System of Care

- A. The Governor's FY2022 budget proposal represents an historic investment in making New Jersey a stronger and fairer place to grow up or raise a family.
- B. It fully funds the operational needs of the Department of Children and Families
- C. It also annualizes the investment made during the current fiscal year, to modernize and rebalance rates for the Children's System of Care
- D. DCF is continuing to work with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to approve our rate methodology, so we can get this investment into the hands of the provider community as soon as possible.
- E. For more information, you can access the Budget in Brief document. I posted the link to the chat: <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/omb/publications/22bib/BIB.pdf>
- F. CSOC is producing a Media Took Kit and Public Service Announcement to share with our partners.
- G. CSOC has reached approximately 1000 education professionals via a Town Hall, in collaboration with DOE, and will provide another Town Hall to pediatricians, in collaboration with the AAP.
- H. NJ Child Welfare Data Hub is located ere: <https://njchilddata.rutgers.edu/#home>
- I. The CSOC Data Dashboard (within the hub) is here: <https://njchilddata.rutgers.edu/csoc>

### IV. State Partners Involvement (Phil Lubitz)

- A. NJ Department of Education (Damian Petino)
  - 1. See <https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/boardops/crrsa.shtml>

2. “Learning Loss” due to the Covid19 pandemic is a real issue. Importance of assessing where students should be if the pandemic did not occur. \$75M will be devoted to this.
  3. \$30M for behavioral health management (DoE Office of Student Support Services), allocated to every LEA in the state, about a minimum of \$45k for each school district. The funds can be used as a catalyst to build out their supports for school based mental health services. Schools are required to provide an “Allowable Use” Plan.
    - a. Three-tiered system for intensive support
  4. On 3/10/20 DOE is having its first Technical Assistance Session to County Offices. On Monday, March 15, 2020 the DoE Portal will go live for school districts to request the funds.
  5. Kudos to Dr. Kim Buxbaum, Director, Office of Special Education
- B. Div. of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
1. “Prevent Drug Overdose (\$850k/yr)” grant, is ending but we are going for additional funds
  2. SPIFRX 5 yr, competitive discretionary grant that we are applying for.
  3. Crisis Stabilization Centers (\$984k, extra \$\$\$ due to SAMHSA 5% block grant set-aside)
  4. Opioid Reduction Act (ORA) RFP will be released on 3/11/21, hospitals in the southern region are especially encouraged to apply.
- C. Division of Developmental Disabilities (J Sabin)
1. Direct Support Professional (DSP) Wages:
    - a. Governor Murphy’s Administration recognizes that a fair wage for DSPs must be higher than the minimum wage.
    - b. The budget proposal builds on previous increases with about \$42 million in new funding to ensure DSPs, and their supervisors, are paid above the state’s increasing minimum wage.
    - c. This funding maintains prior rate increases and, as of January 1st, 2022 will add an additional \$1.25 per hour for DSPs and their supervisors.
  2. Residential Providers:
    - a. Residential providers that operate programs such as group homes have been required to provide additional daytime staffing hours during the public health emergency.
    - b. To support the required staffing level, the DHS increased the residential daily rate by 20 percent.
    - c. While the state is working to achieve widespread vaccination and to safely reopen day programs again as soon as possible, the need for this funding will continue for some time.
    - d. Governor Murphy’s budget includes funding to maintain this enhanced residential staffing through December 2021.

- D. Division of Aging Services (Pat Matthews)
1. Information about Age-Friendly State Advisory Council- Click on the following link to read the EO: <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-227.pdf>
  2. Caregiver Taskforce Listening Sessions today at 12pm and March 18th 5-8pm  
For information or to send written testimony email  
[doas.caregivertaskforce@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:doas.caregivertaskforce@dhs.nj.gov)
  3. Increasing the income eligibility limits for our Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) Program and Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program. Click on the following link to read the DHS press release:  
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/news/pressreleases/2021/approved/20210302.html>

**VI. Open Public Comment and Announcements (Phil Lubitz)**

- A. Monmouth County 3/31/21
- B. RWJ/Barnabas Health has received FEMA Grant for Hope and Healing, emotional support for five critical populations
- C. Burlington County is in the beginning phase of creating a subcommittee of the mental health board to start a Stigma Free initiative in our County.

**VII. Adjournment (Phil Lubitz)**

- A. Requests for Upcoming Agenda items
  1. From DMHAS: Update by Suzanne Borys /PREPO on 5% Block Grant set aside.
  2. From Department of Corrections (DoC): MH Services for Males and Females in DoC Early Release and MH Services at Edna Mahan
  3. From DMHAS: Update on Final State SFY22 Budget and impact on DMHAS-funded services (July or August 2021).
  4. From DCF/CSOC: Update on Final State SFY22 Budget and impact on CSOC-funded services (July or August 2021).
- B. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.