

**NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Minutes**  
**October 12, 2022, 10:00 am**

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

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

+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:**

Darlema Bey (Chair)	Connie Greene	John Tkacz	Winifred Chain
Joseph Gutstein	Damian Petino	Julia Barugel	Krista Connelly
Mary Abrams	Donna Migliorino	Michelle Madiou	Robin Weiss
Tonia Ahern	Patricia Matthews	Francis Walker	Irina Stuchinsky

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

Mark Kruszczyński   Filomena DiNuzzio   Yunqing Li   Jonathan Sabin  
Nick Pecht

**Guests:**

Rachel Morgan	Nina Smuklawsky	Monica Hannah
Wendy Rodgers	Michael Olshansky	Kurt Baker

**Minutes**

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

- A. Attendance, 16/35, 45.7% attendance, quorum reached
- B. Minutes of September 2022 General Meeting Approved (with minor edits)
- C. Correspondence
  - 1. Updated 988 video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iySDD\\_oa2i8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iySDD_oa2i8)

**II. More Than a Bad Habit: Nicotine Addiction Through Behavioral Health**

(Monica Hanna, RWJ/Barnabas Health)

[See PowerPoint Presentation shared with council via email 10/11/22, and shared in today's video conference]

- A. Overview
  - 1. Tobacco leading cause of preventable death in the US
  - 2. RWJ/Barnabas tries to partner up with treatment centers
  - 3. Why isn't tobacco cessation being prioritized within the Mental Health (MH) community?
  - 4. 40% of adult smokers are dealing with MH and other substance use disorders (SUD)
  - 5. See PowerPoint Presentation

- B. Q&A
1. Discussion of Nicotine as a “functional addition”.
  2. Discussion: It is important that we are expanding resources. Just because someone says “you don’t qualify” doesn’t mean the consumer shouldn’t get the assistance.
  3. Q: What do you tell people what to replace smoking with?  
A: Some “coping strategies are nearly impossible”, but try to focus on withdrawal management rather than the coping strategies. A challenge with nicotine treatment meds (patches, lozenges, etc.) is that it is the wrong dosage and/or the consumer uses it incorrectly.  
Q: How does this work with CHOICES?  
A: We don’t work directly with CHOICES. We refer consumers to them if necessary. We are a treatment focused NRT  
Q: Outcomes?  
A: 1-month success rate is 40%, 7 month success rate is 70-80%
  4. Comments (CG): we should not separate tobacco cessation from mental health recovery.
  5. Q: The nicotine substance use isn’t usually associated with the severity of traditional SUD. Do you think that nicotine abuse should be raised in severity level?  
A:

## II. Burlington Adults Society (Winifred Chain, & Michael Olshansky NAMI NJ)

- A. Overview
1. Originally called “Young Adult Society” created by parents and participants, 20 years ago to help foster improved social lives.
  2. Lots of trips, board games, dinners, etc.
  3. Current groups begins at age 25, has members up to age 60.
  4. Used to be involved in lots of NAMI Walks.
  5. Participants must have a mental health concern and must be stable.
  6. More members are always welcome.
  7. Winifred Chain: 609.265.0746
- B. What we do
1. Board games, we celebrate birthdays,
  2. Transportation is Important.
  3. Guest Lecturers (Head of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), 988 Crisis Hotline, Covid-19 safety presentations)
- C. PowerPoint Presentation (Shared with Council)
- D. Q&A
1. Q: Funding? How is this Funded?  
A: Donations and support from NAMI NJ.

**/IV.**

**System Partner Updates Darlema Bey**

- A. DMHAS (Donna Migliorino)
1. CMHSBG Implementation Report will be due in December.
- B. Children's System of Care (Nick Pecht)
1. The NJ DCF Social Services Labor and Workforce Issues Webinar was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and was an opportunity for CSOC and our providers to come together and review what data and research are telling us about the labor market, and begin a dialogue that we hope will be the start of ongoing conversations about our collective short- and long-term strategies to navigate the challenges associated with this new labor market, including wages, remote work, gig work, work-life balance and more.
  2. Supporting youth with I/DD challenges and their families:  
An RFP has been released to bring IMTS to our service array. IMTS stands for Intensive Mobile Treatment Services, which will meet the unique needs of youth with significant I/DD challenges and complex co-occurring disorders and their families by bringing intensive specialized services and supports into a youth's home and keeping the youth from having to enter out-of-home treatment. As this service is currently in the RFP process, questions should be directed to [DCF.ASKRFP@dcf.nj.gov](mailto:DCF.ASKRFP@dcf.nj.gov)
  3. Family Support Organizations will receive some additional funding to enable them to better support the family system and caregivers of youth with I/DD challenges. This funding will support their efforts in designing and creating community and family-centered activities for youth with IDD and their families, inclusive of all children and families, to support social inclusion and provide opportunities for youth and families to engage in their communities. The activities they hold will be for families who are connected to their local Family Support Organization and Care Management Organization, and youth who are receiving respite services or who are I/DD eligible, but not receiving services, and their families. FSOs will collaborate with local partners such as the Regional Family Support Planning Councils (RFSPC) and will engage with families to identify what will work best for them, in their communities.
  4. CSOC has brought on Sheri Gallo as our new I/DD Liaison. She will collaborate with internal and external system partners to help ensure CSOC provides a comprehensive, evidence-based, and equitably accessible service array for all children and youth with I/DD challenges and their families. Sheri will lead efforts to improve cross-systems coordination of services and promote effective systems navigation practices to support informed, meaningful, and effective decision-making by families.
  5. Deputy Director Melinda Carnassale continues to collaborate with the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) and the Regional Family Support Planning Councils (RFSPC) to understand how

we can better meet the needs of IDD youth and their families. The councils have provided feedback which has been incorporated into updates for the PerformCare website and the work begin done to further simplify the eligibility application.

- C. Department of Education (Damian More – had to leave meeting early due to work situation)
  - 1. NJ DOEW The NJ School Climate Improvement Survey Platform is up and running for districts to utilize:  
<https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts/2022/aug/17/NJDOERelasesNewSchoolClimateImprovementSurveyPlatform.pdf>
- D. Juvenile Justice Commission (F. Walker)
  - 1. College classes, credits
  - 2. Work Study program, / EASLE participants are housed, given job placement assistant, work readiness training, support, etc.
- E. Dept of Corrections (K. Connelly)
  - 1. Public meeting regarding Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women NJDOC Public Meeting on Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7u3L1o\\_Hsdc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7u3L1o_Hsdc)
  - 2. Facility will be closing eventually
- F. NJAMHAA (Mary Abrams)
  - 1. 10/13/22, 1:00 Discussion on serving Justice Involved Individuals, CCBHC, Reentry Services, and JIS Contracts, Pilot Diversion Programs
  - 2. Spring Conference April 25 – 26, 2023, Edison Pines
- G. Division of Development Disability (J. Sabin, NJ DDD)
  - 1. 9/2/22: Directive for Vaccination Exemptions. Please visit <https://nj.gov/health/legal/documents/covid19/2nd%20revised%20ED%2021-011.pdf> for details.
  - 2. Continued partnership with Wal-Mart for C19 vaccinations
  - 3. 9/19/22: Updated manual released for community care programs, Summaries of these changes are found in:
    - a. Community Care - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/community-care-program-policy-manual.pdf>
    - b. Supports - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/supports-program-policy-manual.pdf>
  - 4. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services has released statewide transition plan for public comment.
    - a. See the link ([https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/info/hcbs\\_trans.html](https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/info/hcbs_trans.html)).
    - b. Alternatively, the link to the public notice and current Statewide Transition Plan can be found here (<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/public/p>

[ublicnoticefiles/HCBS%20Setting%20Rule%20STP%20Public%20Comment%20Announcement%2010.5.22.pdf](#)).

- c. Public comment can be submitted to [DMAHS.HCBS-Settings-Rule@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DMAHS.HCBS-Settings-Rule@dhs.nj.gov) through November 7, 2022.

5. Other helpful links:

- a. The DDD HCBS Website - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/providers/federalrequirements/hcbsplan/>
- b. DDD’s NJ Statewide Transition Plan “At a Glance” - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/providers/DD-STP-At-A-Glance.pdf>

**V. Subcommittee Reports Darlema Bey**

- A. Advocacy (J. Barugel):
  - 1. September 2022 meeting with Advocacy Subcommittee, DCF Assistant Commissioner, DMHAS Assistant Commissioner, and DoH Assistant Commissioner.
    - a. A thank you letter to all three commissioners would be a positive follow-up.
- B. Membership: To better align/comply with the SAMHSA Community Mental Health Block Grant, the representative from NJ Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (NJ FamilyCare, a.k.a. “Medicaid”) is officially included as a voting member of the Planning Council.

**VI. Open Public Comment and Announcements Darlema Bey**

- A. (JG) Consumers with SSI only get about \$840 a month. Individuals who qualify (especially tenants) should qualify for anchor rebates (\$450). See [NJ Division of Taxation - ANCHOR Program](#)

**VII. Adjournment D. Bey**

- A. Meeting adjourned, pm.
- B. Future Agenda Items
  - 1. 11/9/22:
    - a. Block Grant Implementation Report
    - b. NJ Supportive Housing Association Overview (D.Riley)
- C. Next General Meeting November 9, 2022, 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

+1 609-300-7196, 306216820#

- 1. Subcommittee Meetings
  - a. Block Grant