

New Jersey Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC)  
Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2011

Notices to announce the date, time and location of this meeting were sent out to the following news outlets: *Newark Star-Ledger*, *Asbury Park Press*, *The Times* (Trenton), *Bergen Record*, *The Press* (Pleasantville), and the *Courier-Post* (Cherry Hill)

**Attendees:**

Jacob Bucher	Mr. Chain (rep. Winifred)	Lisa Negron
Helen Williams	Damyanti Aurora	Angela Romano-Lucky
Karen Carroll	Patricia Dana	Gregory Karlin
Maryanne Evanko	Angel Gambone	Marilyn Goldstein
Barbara Johnston	Phillip Lubitz	Robin Weiss
Harry Coe	Marie Verna	Joseph Delany (Phone)
Joseph Gutstein (Phone)	J. Michael Jones (Phone)	Jim Romer (Phone)

**DHS, DAS, DCBHS & DDD Staff:**

Roxanne Kennedy	Geri Deitrich	Julie Caliwan
Celina Gray		

**Guests:**

Louann Lukens	Peggy Reiff	Rachel Morgan (Phone)
Pat Rossi (Phone)		

- I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence/Review of Previous Minutes and Subcommittee Minutes
  - a. The Council reviewed and approved the Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2010.
  - b. The Council received the Wellness and Recovery Transformation Action Plan Review Subcommittee Minutes from the December 8, 2010 meeting.
  - c. The Council received the Membership Subcommittee Minutes from December 8, 2010.
  - d. Helen Williams thanked the group for their support during her illness and is glad to be with the Planning Council.
  
- II. Update regarding the merger between DAS and DMHS - Marie Verna (MV) attended the DMHS and DAS Merger Advisory Committee on:
  - a. There is a merged website on the DHS site for the Division of Mental Health and Addictions Services.
  - b. Marie passed out a list of the Advisory's committee's membership and reported that there seems to be a balance of representation for mental health, addictions and co-occurring services and consumers.
  - c. The merger is not just administrative but also clinical. Currently working on more administrative issues i.e. licensing and fiscal.

- d. The next step is to work on core competencies for the system of the merged Divisions so there is a competent workforce in mental health, addictions and co-occurring services.
- e. There was a survey on the website where contracted providers, consumers, families and other constituency could respond and give their thoughts about how to make the merger successful.
- f. There have been and continues to be forums at the County levels directed by the County Mental Health Administrators to get feedback from the County level.
- g. There are also scheduled Mental Health and Addictions Consumer and Family forums and the dates are included in the handouts. This is an opportunity for consumers and families to provide feedback to the NJ Department of Human Services about how we can improve services in the State.
- h. Comment by Jim Romer: Ocean County had the county forum that was well attended and went very smoothly. There were 50-60 people in attendance and the representation was diverse and included consumers.
- i. Comment by Lisa Negron: At the SCAC meeting, the question was asked how would the merger affect you? DMHS provided 5 specific questions about the merger and the press was present.

### III. Announcements

- a. The Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Fair is looking for organizations, including State hospitals, to submit their quality improvement projects for the fair through UBHC
- b. There will be a statewide conference on behavioral health challenges in long term care on March 8, 2011 at NJHA. There is a waiting list for this conference but contact Marie Verna if you are interested in attending.
- c. A schedule of the Mental Health and Addictions Consumer and Family forums was included in hand outs. This is an opportunity for consumers and families to provide feedback to the NJ Department of Human Services about how we can improve services in the State.
- d. The State Mental Health Facilities Task Force was issued to the Governor on February 1, 2011 and there will be a hearing on February 10, 2011 regarding the report and potential closure of a State hospital. The report is available through the following link: [http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/home/HPH\\_TF\\_Final\\_Report\\_feb\\_1\\_2011.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/home/HPH_TF_Final_Report_feb_1_2011.pdf) The TF was not supposed to vote but did vote. Ten people voted to keep Hagedorn open, seven to close, and 3 abstained. There were recommendations by the TF that moneys saved go into the community services in the following scenarios:
  - i. If they do close, the money will go into community services
  - ii. If it doesn't close, money is not to go out of community services to cover the projected savings.
  - iii. Any private or public partnerships would not take away from community services.
- e. There are RFP's out for Supportive Housing and this information is available on the Division and Department's website.
- f. The NJ Mental Health Coalition met with Allyson Blake, the new Commissioner of Department of Children and Families and Jeff Guenzel, Director, DCBHS. She

spoke about plans regarding reorganizing DCF and future planning regarding aging out individuals and transitions programs that are sponsored through DCF. Currently DCBHS has 17 out of state placements, down from 22 last August.

- g. Geri Dietrich announced that this is a current 3RFPs- one for residential, one for specialty services and one for psychiatric community residences- for 49 beds in NJ to be licensed as group homes of six or less beds. This RFP is designed to address the waiting list for individuals for certain types of services.
- IV. Updates from the Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma by Celina Gray (CG)
- a. There was a budget decrease for the Stigma Council in FY 2011 but have continued to move ahead with projects.
  - b. The Council has a video project planned which is a Community Effort so we organized leaders from law enforcement, veterans, education, employers, employees, multicultural communities and faith based organizations to help identify the different audiences and develop a messages that can be embraced. The video will contain interviews from the Ambassador Award winners affected by mental illness and engaged in an extraordinary effort to address stigma.
  - c. There seems to be an increase in addressing the stigma of mental illness in the media which is helping deliver the message that everyone has mental health and need to understand it and normalize mental health.
  - d. Part of the video project will be focused on the Olmstead initiative and interviewing consumers and families who are in the community.
  - e. The Council is working with the Council of Community Colleges to have one day in the beginning of the school year to increase mental health awareness. There is agreement among the colleges and there will be a day dedicated in the fall of 2011 to address good mental health.
  - f. There is no longer a PTSD Task Force at the Department of Veteran's Affairs but a Veteran's Academy and Celina is involved in this Academy. The goal of this Academy is to identify veterans and getting them to the right treatment.
  - g. Celina visited the first training sessions on Tuesday at UMDNJ who is creating a program called Mom to Mom to help give tools to moms who have children with behavioral health and developmental disabilities.
  - h. The Council will be working with the DMHAS Advisory Committee to develop a campaign to address the goals and vision of the Merger.
  - i. The Council along with Dr. Eilers, Margaret Molnar and Raquel Jeffers, is working with the NJ Primary Care Association who received a two year grant to integrate the primary and behavioral health care. Statistics show that most people first present with a mental health issue at the primary care physician's office. Talking about the challenges that get in the way of integration and
  - j. The Council is involved in suicide prevention efforts with the Baker family who lost their son to suicide. A Princeton Student has documented their journey of mental illness on a family and all the stigma and challenges that exist.
  - k. The Council is looking for nominations for the Ambassador's Award. Information regarding nominating someone is available on the website.
  - l. The Council was involved in the redesign of the day room by Brookedale Community College to redesign a women's day room. Celina is talking with a

- designer who may be willing to redesign another day room in Ancora to increase awareness of mental health and stigma.
- m. Celina is working with Lisa Negron who wrote a book called *Wrapped in the Wings of an Angel*. The book incorporates the need for spirituality in mental health recovery. Lisa's goal for the book is to address the stigma of mental health in addition to the importance of spirituality in recovery.
  - n. Celina displayed her various anti-stigma posters that are available that include:
    - i. Employer/Employee
    - ii. Communities of Faith
    - iii. Multi-Cultural -Knowledge is the Cure in 8 different languages
    - iv. Veterans
    - v. Law Enforcement
    - vi. Knowledge is the Cure (For Education)
  - o. If you need to reach Celina, she can be reached at 609-633-1216, email at [Celina.gray@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:Celina.gray@dhs.state.nj.us) This is the link to the Stigma Council's website: [Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma](#)
  - p. The Red Mill Museum will be hosting a History of Mental Health in NJ on May 15, 2011
  - q. The Council is working with the Youth Development Council and is designing a poster for youth with youth at the table.
  - r. Questions and Comments:
    - i. Marie Verna (MV): Would a letter from this Council to preserve funding for the Council be helpful? CG: Any letters of support or providing feedback about the Council would be helpful.
    - ii. Joseph Gutstein (JG): How do you measure the general perceptions of stigma in regards to mental health? CG: The Council is working on an effort with Amy Spagnola, Stigma Council member, to start document Community Effort activities as a best practice model and figure out ways to measure the effectiveness of these efforts. As things are created, Celina will share this with the Planning Council.
    - iii. MV: There has been research that Stigma Campaigns aren't working but questioned the methodology and instruments used. CG: The Community Effort utilized is more inclusive and sends a universal message and with measured results, we should see positive outcomes.
    - iv. JB: Will the video be available on You Tube? CG: It will be available and affordable but not sure about You Tube.
    - v. Harry Coe (HC): UMDNJ has been involved in an anti-stigma project that produced a DVD of high school and college students regarding that did a pre and post survey regarding the anti-stigma project.
    - vi. Lisa Negron (LN): The "In Your Own Voice" with NAMI is going into the high schools and colleges to deal with the bullying and teasing. Perhaps this could be incorporated into the Stigma Council this may strengthen the anti-stigma campaign. CG: Active Minds has a speaker's bureau too that works as a partner with the Stigma Council.

## V. Review of Subcommittee information/Future Agenda

- a. The Membership Nominating Subcommittee met this am. The following was reviewed and discussed:
  - i. The Board membership nominations were submitted to DHS
  - ii. Maryanne Evanko and Barbara Johnston were appointment to the Planning Council through the DMHS commissioner.
  - iii. Andrea Burleigh was approved for membership to the Planning Council as a family member of a child with SED. Andrea works with the FSO in Camden County.
- b. The Wellness and Recovery Transformation Action Plan (WRTAP) Review Subcommittee meet this am and went over information regarding the Data Driven Decision Making. The Subcommittee received information from Steve Adams regarding Outcome Measures and Contract Reform. More information will be available in the Subcommittee Minutes next month.
- c. Proposed agenda items for March and months to follow are:
  - i. The Council should have updates regarding the various Task Forces as a standing agenda item.
  - ii. Jeffrey Guenzel, DCBHS Director, postponed until next month.
  - iii. Susanne Borys and Molly Greene should present about the Federal data collection tools used for addiction services.
  - iv. A brief briefing by DAS staff to present about the Citizen's Advisory Council that is being established. Applications are due on February 25, 2011.
  - v. Budget briefings by Valerie Larosiliere and Steve Adams
  - vi. Dr. Eilers to discuss the integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care and the workgroup regarding medical clearance.
  - vii. Speaker about veteran's services.
  - viii. The issue of the County hospitals not being included in the Olmstead Settlement
  - ix. Presentation about nursing homes and geriatric mental health care in NJ.
  - x. Updates on Consumer Operated Services – Margaret Molnar.

**Next Meetings:**

MHPC General Meeting: 03/9/11, **10:00am-12:00** noon, Room 336

Wellness and Recovery Transformation Action Plan Review Subcommittee:

3/9/11, **9:00am**, Rm. 378