

**New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**April 9, 2014 10:00 A.M.**

**Attendees:**

Winifred Chain	Lisa Negron (p)	Karen Vogel Romance
John Calabria	Irina Stuchinsky	Angel Gambone
Marilyn Goldstein (p)	Donna Hallworth	Barbara Johnston
Gail Levinson	Phil Lubitz	Chris Lucca
Tom Pyle (p)	Robin Weiss (p)	

**DMHAS, CSOC & DDD Staff:**

Suzanne Borys	Mark Kruszczyński	Jeff Martin
Ilene Palena	Patrick Roff	Dona Sinton

**Guests**

Gary Abraham	Rod Belle	Jason Berenberg
Harry Coe (p)	Dave Crispi	Greg Karlin
Louann Lukens	Peggy Reiff	Brittany Smith
Greg Valent	Alric Warren	

- I. Administrative Issues/ Correspondence
  - A. The portion of the Planning Council who are appointed by the Governor's Office, the Community Mental Health Citizen's Advisory Board, are continuing the process through the Governor's Office for appointments/reappointments
  - B. The March minutes were approved with an edit to II. A.F to clarify the question to "is this the ..."
  - C. The dates of the conferences that were sent out via email were reiterated
  - D. Vote to change the name to the New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council was approved.
  
- II. Block Grant Submission mini application – Suzanne Borys
  - A. It was submitted prior to the April 1, 2014 due date.
  - B. The \$12,962,425 was the final mental health funding amount with a 3% set aside for Prevention of first episode of schizophrenia
  - C. \$46,349,018 was the final substance abuse Block Grant funding amount with 20% set aside for Prevention.
  - B. Implementation reports will be due December 1, 2014 and the Synar Report will be due December 31, 2014 for tobacco retailer violation rates.
  
- III. Miscellaneous Announcements – Suzanne Borys
  - A. We are working with law enforcement on our Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup in this initiative.
  - B. Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) is now in Saint Francis emergency room too and will be expanding to Helen Fuld. It is currently in the Henry J. Austin federally qualified health center.

- C. EMT's will be trained to use NARCAN since the overdose prevention legislation was expanded. Ocean County is far along on this too. This follows well with the Good Samaritan Law that was passed. There will be pilots on the trainings and multiple funding streams are needed to purchase the medication.
- D. In regard to the new legislation for internet gaming that was passed - a portion of the funding from the casino license fees will be for prevention and treatment. Some of which will go to the NJ Council on Compulsive Gambling for prevention, and DMHAS is working with Rutgers on a treatment component.

IV. PATH Overview - Ilene Palena

- A. A PowerPoint was presented and a list of providers and a map of the providers was distributed.
- B. PATH consists mainly of street outreach and case management services, limited housing and mental health Services
- C. Sixteen federally funded providers in 2015 and nine state-only funded providers.
- D. In 2013
  - 1. outreach to 5,727 homeless persons
  - 2. served 2551 unduplicated people
  - 3. 961 linked to mental health services
  - 4. 470 to housing (temporary)
  - 5. 547 to housing (permanent)
  - 6. 257 linked to substance abuse treatment
  - 7. 688 linked to financial
  - 8. 504 to primary care and dental
- E. Federal funding decreased in 2014 and 2015
  - 1. Our allocation is \$2,125,000
  - 2. Had to cut two positions (one vacant and one low performer)
  - 3. Remaining funds from the position cut will go to Ocean County to make a part time case manager into a full time case manager to address the tent city population in the area.
- F. Intended use plans are being submitted shortly
  - 1. Identify gaps such as housing and justice involved services
- G. Questions/Comments
  - 1. C. Gail Levinson – Many states are recommending the Housing First Model. We've been asking for more housing because it will lead to a decrease in Medicaid, just re-aligning the dollars
  - 2. Q. Barb Johnston – Its anecdotal but there is a standard around engagement. Is there a number or quantification you're aware of? A. - No, they just started to look at this but there are no guidelines or requirements. The more you engage the better the outcome.
  - 3. Q. Winifred Chain – I've heard of cases where loved ones can't live in the home anymore and can't hold a job. Does this person qualify for PATH? A. - Yes they do qualify. If housing is available they could be placed and at least linked for services. Just call the agency.
  - 4. Phil Lubitz – How many are you seeing who are now eligible for Medicaid Expansion? A. - Greg Karlin – I have no information on that.

5. Q. Phil- There's still a PATH Case Manager in every county, correct? A. – Yes

V. Advocacy Subcommittee – Louann Lukens

A. Draft letter regarding tobacco use was distributed and discussed.

1. A discussion ensued and another draft will be brought back to the group

2. Questions/Comments

- Suzanne – It should also include individuals in substance abuse and addiction
- Phil – Let's include substance abuse but separate it out from Dr. Williams recommendations to the Planning Council.
- Phil – What is an innovation center? A. –Marie Verna added that language so I can ask her about that and bring to next meeting.
- Phil – I'm questioning the last sentence on policies that impose restrictions beyond the general population. A- We were thinking of when smoking is prohibited instead of educating them and supporting cessation. We don't want to see even more restrictions that don't apply to the general population.
- So should hospitals allow smoking? A. – No, I'm not saying that, but it shouldn't be coercive but instead voluntary.
- Chris – Is the committee open to edits from the members? A. – Yes, send to Dona and she'll forward to the subcommittee.
- Suzanne also suggested that Dona send to the members Dr. Williams PowerPoint she gave to the Professional Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Tobacco Addiction.

B. Boarding Home discussion

1. We continue to discuss this

2. There are Registered Environmental Health Inspections in the Municipalities, and we are looking to see if that's an avenue to research to improve conditions.

3. The County Mental Health Administrators felt it would be difficult for them to pursue directly.

VI. Bylaws Subcommittee Review- Dona Sinton and Phil Lubitz

A. We want to include certain things in the new bylaws such as an executive committee, 50 % representation for mental health and substance abuse members, include a cultural diversity statement, and ideals for membership

B. Legal will rewrite the bylaws based on the subcommittee recommendations

C. Comments/Questions/Answers

1. Chris Lucca – Should a letter be written to the federal government to ensure this is the way to go in regards to the percentage? A. – Phil – It's in the guidance we've reviewed from SAMHSA so it's the correct path.

D. Our Technical Assistance Consultant is Fred Sandoval from New Mexico. We submitted our Behavioral Health IQ document to him and he was pleased. In fact, we are in advance of other states in regard to integration. He'll also be looking at our bylaws and giving recommendations for revisions.

VII. Public Comment Section

- Rod Belle– Bridgeway will be going nonsmoking in a few weeks

- Jason Berenberg – Our concern is to be ahead of the curve to be smoke free. We're worried if others don't follow that we might suffer as an organization.
- Greg Valent - I know smoking is bad and it's going to be hard to stop
- Patrick Roff – There needs to be a replacement for this urge to smoke, not just medical replacements, but other interventions.
- Alric Warren– There should be education and teaching for consumers, not just cold turkey quitting. Do a survey to find alternate ways.
- Gary Abraham- This has been an issue for a long time
- Lisa Negron – Even when the hospital converted to smoke free, there are patients who still smoke. Smoking hinders their medication and their budgets, but the self-help centers have a vote and they don't want CHOICES to come in
- Phil- Is internet gambling permitted link? A – No because of the firewall
- Chris Lucca – DOC went smoke free a couple years ago. It's a huge undertaking. In jail it's even a currency. I hope it continues and the balance continues. The doctors needed to prescribe to help with the process.
- Gail Levinson – Jason's comment about uniformity is important.

VIII. Announcements

- A. 10:30 on May 10, 2014 is the NAMI Walk in Seaside Park
- B. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services – When are they going to speak?
- C. Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma is holding its Ambassador Awards at Crowne Plaza in Monroe on May 1, 2014
- D. COMCHO Conference at Ocean Place on May 10, 2014
- E. May 17, 2014 NAMI Mercer Walk At ETS in Lawrence
- F. Children's System of Care will speak at May meeting on their financial aspects
- G. Would like Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to speak on the heroin report
- H. Have Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ come and speak

**General Membership Meeting on 5/14/2014 - 10:00-12:00, Room 3000**

The Block Grant Subcommittee will meet at 9:00 am on 5/14/14 in room 3097

The Advocacy Subcommittee will meet at noon on 5/14/14 in room 3097

The Olmstead Advisory Committee will meet at noon on 7/9/2014 in room 3097