

New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council (BHPC)
Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2014 10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

Winifred Chain	Lisa Negron	John Calabria
Maryanne Evanko	Joe Gutstein (p)	Donna Best
Renee Ingram (p)	Phil Lubitz	Chris Lucca
Pat Matthews	Joanne Oppelt	John Pellicane
Robin Weiss (P)	Randy Thompson	Karen Carroll

DMHAS, CSOC & DDD Staff:

Suzanne Borys	Geri Dietrich	Mark Kruszczyński
Patrick Roff	Dona Sinton	

Guests

Rodney Belle	Jason Berenberg	Harry Coe (p)
Louan Lukens	Alric Warren	

- I. Administrative Issues
 - A. Minutes from May accepted as written

- II. Presentation on the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) - Karen Carroll
 - A. A Powerpoint was presented and handed out.
 1. The division's website is found under jobs4jersey.com, click on the tab that says individuals with disabilities.
 2. 79.7% of DVRS funding is federal, with the remaining funds from the State
 3. DVRS is the state agency to provide vocational rehabilitation to individuals with disabilities
 4. Individuals who want to work in competitive employment and who have a significant disability as documented in their records should be referred to DVRS. Students as early as 2 years exiting the school system can apply to DVRS.
 5. A referral needs to be made and an application (survey interview) completed
 6. Eligibility must be determined and if eligible, and individuals plan for employment is written
 7. DVRS provides vocational counseling and guidance, job coaching, supported employment, assistive technology, tools and equipment for a job, funding for training, etc. Many services are of no cost, some require financial needs assessment.
 8. Special populations include deaf and hard of hearing, mental illness, substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders.
 9. There are Centers for Independent Living are across the state providing supports services, many funded by DVRS.
 10. Comments and Questions
 - i. Q. John Pellicane - In Camden County, who do we contact to get more information locally for our Addiction Recovery Center? A.- Call Vito Polo at

- the Camden DVRS Office
- ii. C- Winfred Chain spoke about her experience with it, and how the coach didn't seem to prepare the employer regarding the disability
- iii. C- Alric Warren –Many times when you apply you don't get called back by employer. A.- 503 federal regulations require a minimum of 7% of workforce to have disabilities. Contact your local DVRS Office for a list of employers
- iv. C- Joe Gutstein – Be aware that there is a work credit too
- v. Q – Joe Gutstein - How many were served at DVRS last year? A.-. I don't have that statistic on me but roughly 5,000 MH and SUD consumers served last year. This is not all of the consumers served)
- vi. C- Lisa Negron – I personally got lots of assistance from CSP in regards to supported employment. A lot of members of the self-help center don't want to be employed
- vii. Q- Chris Lucca – If someone doesn't meet full criteria what do you do with that? A.- Refer out
- viii. Q- Joe Gutstein – How many people receive full time employment? A. - Our data system is being shifted in the fall that will give us that data. I don't have that specific data

III. Rutgers Hagedorn Closure Evaluation – Suzanne Borys

- A. An 18 month study with the first phase (12-month follow up) fairly complete (169 discharges). The second round should be finished by November 2014. Baseline information indicated:
 1. Average GAF was in the dysfunctional category ranging from 20—50
 2. 28 12-month client interviews were conducted from June 2013 – February 2014
 3. 67% of clients rated their current placement equal to or better than Hagedorn
 4. 50 Provider staff interviews conducted June 2013 – January 2014
 5. 31 Family/guardian interviews conducted August 2013 – February 2014
 6. Comments/Questions
 - i. Joe Gutstein – Is the number of deaths concerning? A - Not considering the median age of the Hagedorn group was 75 years and many had medical conditions

IV. External newsletter was just issued recently. The consumer corner is in it too. If you have anyone willing to contribute please contact us. Any suggestions on articles please contact us as well.

- A. Winfred Chain asked if all hospitals be covered at some point because Trenton Psychiatric Hospital isn't in this issue? A.- Yes

V. Subcommittee Reports

A. Advocacy Subcommittee

1. The group submitted a draft letter on tobacco services to be reviewed by the council. The group voted to send the letter to Lynn Kovich.
 - i. C- John Pellicane - It would be great if the front door at this building was smoke free.
2. On the boarding home issue we continue to review the process. There are only four inspectors for the entire state in DCA. We're looking at Registered

Environmental Health Specialist to see if their role can be used to help with the inspections.

B. Bylaws Subcommittee

1. Completed our review of the revised bylaws and will submit to DMHAS legal for their review. We hope to have it by next meeting for review and adopted by end of summer. The draft will help us become a fully integrated council.

VI. Announcements

- A. Geri Dietrich – DCF will be implementing first episode psychosis programs and the State needs to submit a revision to SAMHSA by June 18, 2014.
- B. DCF Commissioner has requested that all DCF policies be published on internet.

Next General Meeting is on 7/9/14 - 10:00-12:00, Room 3000

The Bylaws Subcommittee will meet at 9:00 am on 7/9/14 in room 3097

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

The Advocacy Subcommittee will meet at noon on 8/13/14 in room 3097