

**Professional Advisory Committee
of the
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
New Jersey Department of Human Services
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Location: Monmouth County Human Services Building, Kozloski Road,
Freehold, NJ

Date: January 16, 2015

Attendance: Camille Bloomberg, LeaAnn Cianci, Tony Comerford, Joseph Cuffari, Roberto Flacha, Benjamin John Gonzalez, Connie Greene, Jean Hennon, Phil Horowitz, Diane Litterer, Deborah McKinley, Kendria McWilliams, Alan Oberman, Michael Paolello, Dharmesh Parikh, Jass Pelland, Vera Sansone, Michael Santillo, Sue Seidenfeld, Dinita Smith, Don Starn, Linda Voorhis, LeeAnn Wagner, Donald Weinbaum, and Ernestine Winfrey

State Staff: Roger Borichewski, Andrea Connor, Jean DeVitto, Steve Fishbein, Vicki Fresolone, Roxanne Kennedy, Lynn Kovich, Valerie Mielke, and Dona Sinton

Guests: Gary Abraham and Chris Kossoff

Welcome and Introductions of members and guests.

The following represents the new elected PAC officers:

Barbara Schlichting, Chair
Barry Johnson, Vice Chair
Camille Bloomberg, Secretary

PAC Business

The meeting was called to order and the December 2014 minutes were approved.

Announcements – New Interim Managing Entity (IME)

Lynn Kovich stated Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC) will serve as the Interim Managing Entity (IME) for adult substance use services beginning July 1, 2015. The IME will manage Medicaid, state and block grant funds for substance use services provided by agencies that are contracted with Medicaid and DMHAS. While many services already are or will be reimbursed on a Fee-for-Service basis, residential services will remain contract based. However, residential services will still require authorizations and utilization management from the IME.

Assistant Commissioner Kovich explained that UBHC was selected to serve as the IME because it already has the sophisticated technology infrastructure for operating the 24/7 centralized call center, years of experience managing care and knowledge of services in New Jersey.

Presentations – Overview of IME Background and Scope

Chris Kosseff, MS, President and CEO of UBHC explained that DHS will partner with and fund UBHC as an IME to manage state, block grant and NJ FamilyCare funds in addiction services with a projected start date of July 1, 2015. This is the first phase of managing adult behavioral health services. New rates for addiction services are being built into the 2016 state budget. UBHC will manage addiction treatment services licensed by DHS and contracted with DMHAS and NJ FamilyCare providers. UBHC has a centralized screening call center available 24/7/365, with a warm line transfer to providers. This will create the ability to improve rates with a managed system.

There are two ways to enter treatment to access care: (1) UBHC will perform telephone screening and refer to a provider for full assessment when indicated and (2) Provider does screening and contacts UBHC for approval for full assessment authorization.

The assessment will drive a treatment recommendation which will then be reviewed by the IME for an authorization determination. Utilization Management will be performed by addiction trained clinicians. Care coordinators will be available to help remove barriers to treatment. All processes will be designed to minimize red tape and administrative cost. Providers will continue to use NJSAMS.

Lynn Kovich advised the PAC members that DMHAS is interested in feedback regarding the new IME. Workgroups were suggested, including (1) Fiscal/ Contract; (2) Clinical/ Care Coordination; and (3) Referral Process. PAC members advised that this group is an ideal group for advising on the process and would be eager to assist in this regard.

Any further questions/ comments can be sent to the following email: MBHOinput@dhs.state.nj.us.

Next PAC meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2015.