

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TRENTON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Trenton Psychiatric Hospital was held on **Thursday, January 16, 2025**, pursuant to notice duly given notice of the meeting has been sent to Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health Services, Office of the Commissioner.

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Excused:</u>
***Carolyn Torre - RN, MA, APN, FAANP, Chairperson ***Maureen Lebel – MSW, PhD. ***Dr. Mark Rosenberg – DO, MBA, FACEP, FAAHPM ***Neil Weisfeld, Esq. ***Thomas Pyle – MBA, MS	

TPH Staff Attendance:

Maria Christensen, CEO; Faith Johnson – Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Clinical);
James Hollen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer -Operations (DCEO);
Victor Cruz – Acting CON (Chief Nursing Officer); Mary Lou Graves –QI Director;
Towana Wilkins – Business Manager/General Support;

Guest:

Angela Wairimu Program Analyst – Office of Community Services, DMHAS
Sonja Myers – Director of Rehabilitation

Excused:

Michelle Senni – Executive Assistant to the CEO;
Sheila Kwoka – Secretarial Assistant to the CEO and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Intikhab Ahmad, M.D., Clinical Director

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL:

Roll call was conducted in-person. The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. Minutes from the December 19, 2024, meeting were approved.

December Monthly Report:

- The Board questioned discharges <=30days? 5% usually these are patients who are detainees (2 patients).
- The Board noted that the assaults have decreased to 76. 45% of the 76 assaults were committed by 5 patients.
- The Board commented the restraints were higher. Restraints are usually the last resort.
- The Board notes the Cognitive Behavior Therapy “Crime Free Life” is a good program. Attendance is increasing, and the program is expanding.
- The Board was inquiring about Nutrition and what health snacks are available for the patients.
- The Board questioned who was teaching the “Skill Up” training? The Board was told that a recent patient who was discharged went on to further their education and learned to be an electrician.
- The Board would like to know number rather than percentages on the Pastoral Service Group attendance.
- The Board asked about the PSCU (Patient Service Compliance Unit) mask mandate.
- The Board noted that admissions were at 20 which is very high.
- The Board noted that the attendance number of groups in the Rehabilitation department has decreased. The reasoning was due to the holidays/vacation. The number reflects only the rehab training. It does not include Nursing, Social Services etc.
- The board also noted that the delinquency rate was at 23% for the Medical Doctors documentation.
- The Board also noted there was a decrease in the number of new staff coming to the December orientation.

AUXILIARY REPORT:

- No report this month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Incident Committee – Dr. Maureen Lebel**
 - No report the month

- **Legislative Committee – Mr. Neil Weisfeld**

Mr. Weisfeld reviewed the updated list of recent legislation relating to mental health. Details of the individual bills are attached in the Appendix of these minutes.

- **Note on Legislation and Other Developments:**

Following the November 5th election, New Jersey's delegation to the 119th Congress of the United States consists of Senators Cory Booker and Andy Kim, both Democrats, and the following representatives:

- Donald Norcross (D, 1st Dist.)
- Jeff Van Drew (R, 2nd Dist.)
- Herb Conaway (D, 3rd Dist.)
- Chris Smith (R, 4th Dist.)
- Josh Gottheimer (D, 5th Dist.)
- Frank Pallone (D, 6th Dist.)
- Thomas Kean Jr. (R, 7th Dist.)
- Rob Menendez (D, 8th Dist.)
- Nellie Pou (D, 9th Dist.)
- LaMonica McIver (D, 10th Dist.)
- Mikie Sherrill (D, 11th Dist.), and
- Bonnie Watson Coleman (D, 12th Dist.).

(Generally, lower numbered districts are located in the southern part of the state, and higher numbered districts in the northern part.) Senator Kim and Representatives Conaway, Pou, and McIver are relatively new members.

As previously noted, the New Jersey governorship and all state Senate and Assembly seats are up for election this year. Governor Murphy is term limited. Announced Democratic candidates to succeed him are: Ras Baraka, mayor of Newark; Steven Fulop, mayor of Jersey City; Representative Gottheimer; Representative Sherrill; Sean Spiller, president of the New Jersey Education Association; and Steve Sweeney, former president of the State Senate. Announced Republican candidates are: State Senator Jon Bramnick; Jack Ciattarelli, a former Assembly representative and the party's nominee for governor in 2025; former State Senator Ed Durr; and Bill Spadea, a radio host on 101.5 FM.

- **Schulley Trading Post – Dr. Rosenberg:**
 - Price increases in January for staff.
 - Credit Card scanner question was raised to Central Office
 - Patients process: Patient Accounts sends a list to the Trading post and staff post to the patient accounts the amount of snacks/supplies they are getting.
- **Therapeutic Environment – Mr. Pyle:**
 - No Report this month
- **Welfare Fund – Ms. Torre:**
 - A motion was made to reduce the Welfare Budget to \$48,000 based on the reduced Trading Post income. Mr. Weisfeld and Mr. Pyle approved the motion. It was discussed that \$9,000 should go to special events, \$3,000 should go to Recreational Activities.
- **Report from Ms. Angela Wairimu, Program Analyst Office of Community Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS)**
 - No report this month

COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no communications this month.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS:

Election of Officers was voted on as a slate Neil Weisfeld nominated Mr. Pyle as Chair. Ms. Carolyn Torre nominated Dr. Maureen Lebel as Vice Chair. All the nominees were duly elected. The Committees will remain the same.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 9:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,	
_____	_____
Sheila Kwoka	Thomas Pyle – MBA, MS
Assistant Secretarial 3 to the CEO Secretary to the Board of Trustees	Chairperson

TP/sk



board presentation
Jan24.pdf

APPENDIX:

I. BILLS AFFECTING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Committee is monitoring the following bills involving mental health services. Any legislative committee action taken since our last report appears in boldface (thus).

A276/S2549:

Establishes "Student Mental Health Task Force"

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Michele Matsikoudis (R); Senator James Beach (D).

Referred to Assembly Education Committee and Senate Education Committee.

A642/S285:

Allows for state employee retirement system (PERS) accidental injury benefits for employees of state psychiatric hospitals and correctional facilities injured on the job dating back to 2003.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Sean T. Kean (R); Senators Brian P. Stack (D), Anthony M. Bucco (R).

Referred to Assembly Labor Committee and Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee.

A1143/S1032:

Establishes annual cost-of-living adjustment for state-contracted programs for mental health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability programs.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Carol A. Murphy (D); Senators Linda R. Greenstein (D), Joseph F. Vitale (D), Vin Gopal (D).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. Approved by the Senate Committee 8-0 on June 6 and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

A1326/S952:

Requires health insurance coverage of annual mental health screenings.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Christopher P. DePhillips (R), Nancy F. Munoz (R);
Senators Kristin M. Corrado (R), Holly T. Schepisi (R).

Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and Senate Commerce Committee.

A1536/S322:

Enhances suicide prevention services.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Victoria A. Flynn (R); Senators Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., (D),
Linda R. Greenstein (D).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A1560/S797:

Requires suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Victoria A. Flynn (R); Senators Anthony M. Bucco (R), Vin
Gopal (D).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A1655/S2406:

Requires health plans to maintain an adequate network of mental health practitioners.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Pamela R. Lampitt (D), Ellen J. Park (D); Senator James
Beach (D).

Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and Senate Commerce Committee.

A1673/S1067:

Improves access to mental health services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Sponsors: Pamela R. Lampitt (D), Carol A. Murphy (D), Heather Simmons (D); Senators Linda R. Greenstein (D), M. Teresa Ruiz (D).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. Approved by Senate Committee 8-0 on March 14 and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. Approved by Assembly Committee 6-0 on June 6 and referred to Assembly Health Committee. Approved by Assembly Health Committee 10-0 on June 17 and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee. **Approved by Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee 13-0 on October 7. Passed by the Senate 40-0 on October 28.**

A2151/S813:

Establishes public awareness campaign for services for front-line workers and families involving COVID-19.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. William F. Moen, Jr. (D); Senator Anthony M. Bucco (R).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A2310/S2020:

Requires health plans to cover mental health services for victims of domestic violence.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Lisa Swain (D); Senators Vin Gopal (D), M. Teresa Ruiz (D).

Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A2383/S1059:

Creates a \$3-million grant program for mental health services for law enforcement personnel.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. William W. Spearman (D), Reginald W. Atkins (D), Linda S. Carter (D); Senators Linda R. Greenstein (D), Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez (D).

Referred to Assembly Community Development and Women's Affairs Committee and Senate Law and Public Safety Committee. Approved by Senate committee 4-0 on May 16 and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

A2795/S1271:

Creates pilot program of coordinated benefits for emergency department behavioral health patients.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Louis D. Greenwald (D); Senator James Beach (D).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

A2831/S2248:

Creates pilot program of mental health assistance for students in selected school districts.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Anthony S. Verrrelli (D), Robert J. Karabinchak (D); Senators M. Teresa Ruiz (D), Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez (D).

Referred to Assembly Education Committee and Senate Education Committee.

A2837/S897:

Permits early match with residency or clinical programs for mental health professions students.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Anthony S. Verrelli (D); Senator Kristin M. Corrado (R).

Referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee and Senate Higher Education Committee.

A2864/S644:

Creates five-year pilot program of systemic, therapeutic, assessment, resource and treatment (START) services to adults with both a developmental disability and mental illness.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Anthony S. Verrelli (D); Senator Latham Tiver (R).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A2877/S1702:

Requires courts to refer certain criminal defendants for mental health and substance abuse evaluation.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Anthony S. Verrelli (D), Sterley S. Stanley (D); Senator Declan J. O'Scanlon, Jr. (R).

Referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee.

A2971/S2878:

Establishes four new recovery community centers under the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Tennille R. McCoy (D); Senator Linda R. Greenstein (D).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

****In reference to the questions that was asked at the Board Meeting on Bill A2971/S2878:**

A bill to establish four new recovery centers. These are non-clinical peer support program centers. There already are as many as 24 in existence across the state, supported by state funding. The bill does not mandate where these additional centers would be located.

A3176/S1068:

Appropriates \$2 million for mental health services for veterans.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Cleopatra G. Tucker (D), Wayne P. DeAngelo (D), Herb Conaway, Jr. (D); Senators Linda R. Greenstein (D), Joseph A. Lagana (D).

Approved by Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee 6-0 and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee March 4. Referred to Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

A3195/S853:

Creates mental health awareness pilot program in Department of Education.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Aura K. Dunn (R), Carol A. Murphy (D), Anthony S. Verrelli (D); Senator Anthony M. Bucco (R).

Referred to Assembly Education Committee and Senate Education Committee.

A3352/S2936:

Creates tuition reimbursement program for advanced practice nurses who provide mental health services in underserved areas.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Nancy F. Munoz (R); Senator James Beach (D).

Referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee and Senate Higher Education Committee.

A3515/S1088:

Creates mental health illness hotline through Department of Human Services.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Shanique Speight (D); Senator Britnee N. Timberlake (D).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A3770/S2606:

Requires Medicaid reimbursement of mental health rehabilitation services through the clubhouse program¹.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Margie Donlon (D), Luanne M. Peterpaul (D); Senators Vin Gopal (D), Declan J. O'Scanlon, Jr. (R).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. Approved by Senate Committee 8-0 on May 9 and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. Approved by Senate Budget Committee 13-0 on June 26. **Passed by the Senate 40-0 on October 28.**

A3937/S2504:

Requires Medicaid reimbursement for primary care and mental health care to match Medicare rates.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Shanique Speight (D), Yvonne Lopez (D), Eliana Pinto Marin (D), Senators M. Teresa Ruiz (D), Joseph F. Vitale (D).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. Approved by Senate Committee 8-0 on March 14 and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

AJR62/SJR57:

Designates first week of May each year as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Ellen J. Park (D); Senator Angela V. McKnight (D).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. **Approved by Assembly committee 9-0 on September 23.**

¹ "Clubhouse International offers people living with mental illness opportunities for friendship, employment, housing, education and access to medical and psychiatric services in a single caring and safe environment." Clubhouse International, <https://clubhouse-intl.org/what-we-do/what-clubhouses-do/> (accessed June 12, 2024).

A3959/S2555

Provides for regulation of residential mental health treatment facilities.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. John V. Azzariti MD (R); Senators Holly T. Schepisi (R), John J. Burzichelli (R).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A4224/S896

Requires institutions of higher education to implement mental health programs and services.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Andrea Katz (D), David Bailey, Jr. (D); Senators Kristin M. Corrado (R), James Beach (D).

Referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee and Senate Higher Education Committee.

A4413/S1650

Establishes Statewide Suicide Prevention Coordination and Oversight Council in Department of Human Services.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Victoria A. Flynn (R), Gerry Scharfenberger (R); Senators Declan J. O'Scanlon, Jr. (R), Troy Singleton (D).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

AJR112/SJR118

Designates week that includes September 10th as "Suicide Prevention Week".

Sponsors: Benjie E. Wimberly (D), Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D), Gabriel Rodriguez (D); Senator Angela V. McKnight (D).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. Approved by Assembly committee 6-0 on May 6. **Passed by the Assembly 76-0 on September 26.**

A4689/S585:

Establishes Mental Health Awareness license plates.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Michele Matsikoudis (R); Senator Jon M. Bramnick (R).

Referred to Senate Transportation Committee January 9. Approved by Senate committee 6-0 on June 3 and referred to Senate Budget Committee.

AJR183/SJR67:

Designates May of each year as "Children's Mental Health and Trauma Awareness Month".

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Anthony S. Verrelli (D), Benjie E. Wimberly (D); Senators Nicholas P. Scutari, Angela V. McKnight (D).

Referred to Assembly Children, Family and Food Security Committee June 6.
Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee January 9. Approved by Senate committee 8-0 on May 9. Passed by the Senate 37-0 on May 13.

In addition, the Committee has begun monitoring the following, more recently introduced bills:

A4838/S1192:

Requires prescription drug coverage for serious mental illness without prior authorization.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Eliana Pintor Marin (D), Ellen J. Park (D), Rosaura Bagolie (D); Senators Raj Mukherji (D), Vin Gopal (D).

Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and Senate Commerce Committee. Approved by Senate committee 5-0 on May 13 and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

A4868/S4032:

Appropriates \$1 million for mental and behavioral health for Hispanics and Latinos.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Jessica Ramirez (D), Alixon Collazos-Gill (D), Benjie E. Wimberly (D); Senators Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez (D), M. Teresa Ruiz (D).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee.

II. BILLS AFFECTING HEALTH PROFESSIONS:

The Committee also is monitoring the following bills involving health professions.

A542/S2542:

Requires Board of Medical Examiners to act on physician licensure applications within an average of 51 days.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Sterley S. Stanley (D), Herb Conaway, Jr. (D); Senator Paul D. Moriarty (D).

Referred to Assembly Regulated Professions Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A944/S1983:

Expands independent scope of practice of advanced nurse practitioners.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Nancy F. Munoz (R), William W. Spearman (D), Annette Quijano (D); Senators Joseph F. Vitale (D), Troy Singleton (D).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A1390/S1597:

Allows health professionals outside the state to deliver telehealth services to people in New Jersey.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Shama A. Haider (D); Senator Andrew Zwicker (D).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A1560/S797:

Requires suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Victoria A. Flynn (R); Senators Anthony M. Bucco (R), Vin Gopal (D).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A1859/S1554:

Appropriates \$1 million as a scholarship fund to establish a pathway for health care workers to become nurses.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Herb Conaway, Jr. (D); Senators Shirley K. Turner (D), James Beach (D).

Referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee and Senate Higher Education Committee.

A3353/S2941:

Allows county colleges to offer nursing baccalaureate degree programs.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Nancy F. Munoz (R), Cody D. Miller (D); Senator James Beach (D).

Referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee and Senate Higher Education Committee.

A3583/S781:

Establishes registered-nurse license plates.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Shama A. Haider (D), Annette Quijano (D), Tennille R. McCoy; Senators Gordon M. Johnson (D), Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez (D).

Referred to Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee. Approved by Senate Transportation Committee 5-0 and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee January 25.

A3701/S1798:

Requires implicit bias training for physicians.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Shanique Speight (D), Tennille R. McCoy (D); Senator Angela V. McKnight (D).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A3786/S2445:

Authorizes study of health care workforce within Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Tennille R. McCoy (D); Senator Anthony M. Bucco (R).

Referred to Assembly Labor Committee and Senate Labor Committee

III. BILLS AFFECTING DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE:

The Committee also is monitoring the following bills involving treatment for substance use disorder.

A911/S2803:

Requires colleges and universities to maintain naloxone hydrochloride for use in opioid emergencies.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D), Aura K. Dunn (R), Benjie E. Wimberly (D), Clinton Calabrese (D), William W. Spearman (D), Anthony S. Verrelli (D); Senator Shirley K. Turner (D).

Referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee and Senate Higher Education Committee.

A1861/S2017:

Establishes state Antidote Coordinator position.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Herb Conaway, Jr. (D), Anthony S. Verrelli (D); Senator VinGopal (D).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A3030/S1215:

Allows patients to indicate they should not be prescribed controlled substances.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Clinton Calabrese (D); Senator James Beach (D).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A3336/S1322:

Expands support team addiction recovery programs with nearly \$2 million from the opioid fund.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Benjie E. Wimberly (D), Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D), Shavonda E. Sumter (D); Senators Nellie Pou (D), M. Teresa Ruiz (D).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

AJR19/SJR83:

Designates October of each year as Opioid Abuse Prevention Month.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Sterley S. Stanley (D); Senator Angela V. McKnight (D).

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee and Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A4033/S3253:

Enhances standards for residential substance use disorder treatment facilities.

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Nancy F. Munoz (R); Senators Douglas J. Steinhardt (R), Brian P. Stack (D).

Referred to Assembly Health Committee March 7. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee May 16.