

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TRENTON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL**  
Reviewed and edited by THP 06/18/2025

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Trenton Psychiatric Hospital was held on **Thursday, May 15, 2025**, pursuant to public notice duly given of the meeting to Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health Services, Office of the Commissioner.

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Excused:</u></b>
Dr. Maureen Lebel, MSW, PhD., Vice-Chairperson Mr. Thomas H. Pyle, MBA, MS, CPRP, Chairperson Dr. Mark Rosenberg, DO, MBA, CEP, FAAHPM Ms. Carolyn Torre, RN, MA, APN, FAANP Mr. Neil Weisfeld, Esq.	

**TPH Staff Attendance:**

Dr. Maria Christensen, CEO  
Ms. Faith Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Clinical  
Mr. James Hollen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Operations  
Ms. Karen Magarelli, Chief Nursing Officer  
Ms. Mary Lou Graves, Quality Improvement Director  
Ms. Towana Wilkins, Business Manager/General Support

**Guests:**

Ms. Angela Wairimu, Program Analyst, Office of Community Services, Dept. of Human Services, Div. of Mental Health and Addiction Services.  
Ms. Rachel Hammond, Chief Ethics Officer, NJ DOH

**Public Guests (all parents of current TPH patients):**

None

**Excused:**

Dr. Intikhab Ahmad, M.D., Clinical Director  
Ms. Michelle Senni, Executive Assistant to the CEO  
Ms. Sheila Kwoka, Secretarial Assistant to the CEO and Secretary to the Board of Trustees (for jury duty)

**ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL**

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. The minutes from the April 17, 2025,

meeting minutes were approved upon the motion of Dr. Rosenberg and Carolyn Torre.

### **Ethics Presentation**

Ms. Rachel Hammond presented on the ethics requirements for board members, who are deemed “Special State Officers”. She described parameters governing gift acceptance (none permitted), confidential information, event attendance as TPH trustees, disciplinary measures, and recusal considerations. The State Ethics Commission early next fall will schedule an ethics audit of the TPH board.

### **Discussion Highlights about the CEO’s March Monthly Report:**

- The Board acknowledged the CEPP percentages are now just below 20%, consistent with the hospital’s target.
- The Board noted the addition of 42 new staff hired. It also noted what was described as “so much staff turnover.” CNO Karen Magarelli commented that turnover is a major problem in all health institutions since COVID. The hospital’s goal is to reduce temporary agency involvement as much as possible.
- Stepping-Stone Clinic appointments in Travers have decreased due to patients being discharged.
- The Board noted that the hospital’s month-end average daily census was reported down to 316, averaging over the month between 313 and 320.
- The Board noted that assaults showed a higher than usual number against staff members (88). It asked how many of the month’s assaults were attributable to one patient. Ms. Graves estimated that the amount to be over 50%.
- In response to information about “a modified seder” held at the hospital, the Board asked about the availability of rabbinical support for Jewish patients. The team reported that there is a contract with a rabbi local to the hospital.
- Better to understand the State’s coordination of admissions to TPH (and all state hospitals), the Board requested a presentation from Centralized Admission to learn about the admission process. Mr. Hollen agreed to make the request.
- The Board noted that the chart delinquency decreased to 24%, representing good effort but still requiring monitoring for improvement.
- The Board was interested to learn that a state law prevents its counterpart, Greystone Hospital, from accepting legally detained patients, implying that TPH bears a heavier burden of detainees, with implications for overall management.

### **AUXILIARY REPORT:**

- Ms. Torre reported on a felicitous meeting with Auxiliary members, Ms. Janice Rockmore and Ms. Pat Parks.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Incident Committee – Dr. Maureen Lebel**
  - No report at this time.

- **Legislative Committee – Mr. Neil Weisfeld**  
Please see the attached report.
- **Schulley Trading Post – Dr. Rosenberg:**
  - Trading Post closed several times the month due to staffing issues in the main kitchen. Revenue as a result is lower, but such is not expected affect summer programming concerts.
- **Therapeutic Environment – Mr. Pyle:**
  - No report this month.
- **Welfare Fund – Ms. Torre:**
  - Gross income and net income were reviewed. The Board asked if the existing funds balance of \$3500 will suffice to cover expenses until July. The team responded that some activities were pre-paid and thus the balance should be adequate.

## **REPORT OF OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION SERVICES (DMHAS):**

See attached report from Ms. Angela Wairimu, Program Analyst.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

There were no communications this month.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

No comments from the public.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am, after a motion from Dr. Rosenberg and second from Ms. Torre. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,	
Sheila Kwoka	Thomas H. Pyle – MBA, MS, CPRP
Assistant Secretarial 3 to the CEO Secretary to the Board of Trustees	Chairperson

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## **Attachment: Legislative Report**

### **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. **Approved by Assembly Appropriations Committee 10-0 on February 20. Passed by the Assembly 75-0 on February 27.**

**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

**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 program<sup>1</sup>

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.

**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

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<sup>1</sup> "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).

**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

**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.

**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. **Approved by Assembly committee 9-1 on April 10 and referred to Assembly Health Committee. Approved by Senate committee 13-0 on March 17.**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 bills:**

**A4970/S3611:**

Provides \$1 million grant to NJ Health Care Quality Institute to map mental health care resources for children

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Linda S. Carter (D), Shanique Speight (D), Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D); Senators Nicholas P. Scutari (D), Joseph F. Vitale (D)

Referred to Assembly Children, Families and Food Security Committee October 21. Transferred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and approved by that committee 11-0 on October 24. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee September 19. Approved by Senate committee 8-0 on October 7. Passed by the Senate 40-0 and by the Assembly 75-0, both on October 28. Signed by the Governor December 12, P.L. 2024, ch. 100.

**A5496/S932:**

Establishes Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board in the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Victoria A. Flynn (R); Senator Kristin M. Corrado ®

Referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee March 24. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee January 9.

**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

**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.

**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

**In addition, the Committee has begun monitoring the following bill:**

**A4678/S1212:**

Requires hospitals to inquire whether patients have substance use disorder and create protocols for treatment

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D); Senator James Beach (D)

Referred to Assembly Health Committee June 28. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee January 9.

#### **IV. NOTE ON LEGISLATION AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:**

The Assembly Budget Committee and the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee are wrapping up hearings on the FY 26 state budget. On February 25 Governor Murphy proposed a budget of \$58.1 billion, about \$2 billion more than last year. To help fund this revenue increase, the governor proposed increased taxes on alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, gambling, sales of high-end homes, and several other activities. Legislative resistance to these levies is strong during this state election year, as are Mr. Murphy's suggested cuts in support for higher education.

Meanwhile, reductions in federal domestic spending, could lead to chaos in many New Jersey programs. Especially at risk are many Medicaid benefits and state programs involving the environment, education, public health, and welfare.

The new state fiscal year will start July 1, so the Legislature and governor have relatively little time to craft final numbers.

#### **Nursing Presentation: Nursing Service and Programming - Ms. Isata Bah**



April  
Evening-Weekend R



April Day  
Programming Montl



Brief Descriptions  
for Nursing Groups

## **Report from Ms. Angela Wairimu, Program Analyst Office of Community Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS)**

### **Mobile Crisis Outreach Support Team (MCORT):**

Starting April 28<sup>th</sup>, MCORT is available to respond to non-emergent mental health/substance abuse crises, 24 hours per day, 5 days per week (Mon 7AM to Saturday 6:59AM).

### **Integrated License for Outpatient Healthcare Facilities:**

The NJ DOH has announced, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, proposed rules for creating a single, integrated license for outpatient healthcare facilities. This will allow providers to deliver integrated primary care, mental health and addiction treatment services under one license. This will allow for integrated, comprehensive care to be provided in one location. The proposed integrated license rule is submitted to the Office of Administrative Law; likely to be published in the April 21 edition of the New Jersey Register. This will begin a 60-day public comment period followed by the department's response to feedback before publishing the final rule adoption.

### **Zero Suicide Training:**

This model is a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention in health systems. Agencies applying will be expected to have a team of 2-4 staff attend the training and develop a plan for their agency to implement all 7 elements of the Zero Suicide framework. The next training is June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> with a follow up on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The training is provided by Rutgers UBHC and sponsored by the DMHAS.

### **RFPs:**

#### **Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) for Individuals with a Substance Use Disorder at Licensed SUD Treatment Agencies:**

This initiative is a collaboration between health care providers and legal personnel to address social needs that impact health. The goal of this initiative is to improve health equity by integrating legal services into healthcare settings. Funding will be provided for a licensed SUD provider to hire an attorney and legal navigator to assist individuals in need of legal support. MLPs can help with such legal needs as accessing government programs, housing, employment, immigration, and family law matters. Total annualized funding is \$2,750,000 with 7 awards up to \$392,857 each. RFP is available at <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/providers/grants/>. Proposals are due by 4pm on 6/11/25.

## **Integrated Care Program:**

This initiative will promote the integration and co-location of physical and behavioral healthcare. Providers will monitor, refer and coordinate care with specialty behavioral and specialty medical providers. The program is expected to promote the implementation and improvement of integrated care services including; evidenced based screening, assessment, diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and recovery services for a primary substance use disorder or a substance use disorder with a co-occurring mental illness, and co-occurring physical health conditions. Providers will provide addiction medications including buprenorphine, naltrexone, naloxone and nicotine replacement therapy. Providers will test for blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, T.B., cancer, heart disease, HIV, etc. (SOR grant funded.) The DMHAS anticipates making several awards for a combined total of \$900,000 per year, with the possibility of renewal for up to 3 years. The DMHAS goal is that providers will have systems in place to sustain integrated care for patients after the grant ends.

The RFP is available, effective April 3, 2025, at <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/providers/grants/>. Proposals are due by 4pm on 5/15/25.

## **Independent Peer Review**

The DMHAS announced funds available for credentialed substance abuse professionals to provide independent peer review (IPR) for quality and appropriateness of treatment services of substance use treatment facilities funded by DMHAS. The DMHAS seeks 3 qualified candidates to complete separate IPRs of substance use treatment facilities, in the North, South and Central regions. Applicants must have a master's or doctoral degree and be an active LCADC with at least 3 years experience as a clinical supervisor in the modality of care to be reviewed that will include long and short-term residential programs in substance abuse treatment facilities. Up to 3 reviewers will be selected, each qualifying for \$700 per day for 1 to 3 days of peer review of clinical services. Funding is available up to \$2,100 per review. Total maximum expense for all reviewers will not exceed \$6,300 combined. Application deadline is 4pm on 5/13/25. More information is available at <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/>

## **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

Certain federal grants and block grant funds appropriated under ARPA were terminated by the Trump administration. Providers will not be reimbursed by the state beyond March 31, 2025. All providers were notified via letters from the Deputy Commissioner, Valerie Mielke, on 3/31/25 to halt operations immediately. Note that contracts are not being terminated, but funding has been terminated. The NJ Attorney General's office entered into a suit with 23 states and Washington D.C. to put a hold on this. The funding cuts involve 350 million in federal funding for NJ, and 11 billion nationwide. Examples of ARPA cuts (not all-inclusive) are Expanded Hours Outpatient; Crisis Diversion Homes; Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Centers; PESS Peer Support; Older Adults Outpatient.



Brief Descriptions  
for Nursing Groups



April Day  
Programming Montl



April  
Evening-Weekend R