

**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, May 16, 2024**, pursuant to notice duly given. In conformance with the Public Open Meetings Law, notice of the meeting has been sent to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian, Newark Star-Ledger and the Secretary of State and a notice placed on the bulletin board of Trenton Psychiatric Hospital.

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Excused:</u>
***Carolyn Torre - RN, MA, APN, FAANP, Chairperson ***Neil Weisfeld, Esq. ***Maureen Lebel – MSW, PhD. ***Dr. Mark Rosenberg – DO, MBA, FACEP, FAAHPM ***Timothy Gallagher – Director of HSP Law Enforcement ***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); Julie Van Houten, Chief Nursing Officer; Towana Wilkins – Business Manager/General Support, Mary Lou Graves – AHA 1/QI Director

Guest:

Angela Wairimu Program Analyst – Office of Community Services, DMHAS;
Joe Suppers - Public; Representative of Hilltonia Community Association.

Excused:

Sheila Kwoka – Secretary to the Board of Trustees; Michelle Senni – Executive Assistant to the CEO; Intikhab Ahmad, M.D. Clinical Director;
Dr. Hesham Soliman – Chief of Medicine

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL:

Roll call was conducted in-person. The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. Minutes from the April 18, 2024, meeting was approved with an edit adding Mr. Pyle's question re. TPH URI rate compared to hospitals in the community. Staff checked with Dr. Soliman who provided a comparison to other state psychiatric hospitals (comparing apples to apples): TPH's URI rate is lower.

March Monthly Report:

- Dr. Lebel asked about the meaning of POES. POES means Physician Order Entry System. POES is going live in the Raycroft Complex on May 21, 2024. The next Complex to go live with POES will be the Lincoln Complex.
- Dr. Lebel asked about the total number of physicians on staff; answer: expectation is that TPH should have 20 physicians and 20 psychiatrists on staff, but that not all positions are filled at this time.
- Dr. Lebel underscored that there are eleven patients older than 65 at TPH and asked about the complications of finding appropriate placement after discharge.
- Mr. Gallagher was pleased to see the Restraint use was down in April. Statistics for use of force by Human Service Police are very low. They are kept separately from TPH restraint use data.
- Mr. Gallagher suggested when reviewing patterns and trends re. violence at TPH that those who do most harm be identified, and their behavior addressed. Dr. Lebel commented that at his Violence Prevention presentation last week, Dr. Ahmad showed the progress being made in decreasing violence, in particular among five or six outliers whose assaultive behavior decreased as they made therapeutic progress.
- Ms. Torre was very pleased that there were no A or A+ incidents, no 30-Day readmissions, and that TPH is off quarantine status related to COVID.
- Mr. Pyle asked how TPH could reduce patients on CEPP status below 20%. Ms. Johnson points out the difficulty of getting patients discharged who have immigration status issues. In fact, the established goal for patients on CEPP status at TPH is 20% and TPH is at 20.7% now.
- Mr. Pyle asked how many patients are voluntarily committed to TPH: answer: only 2 or three.
- Mr. Weisfeld asked for clarification about the numbers detailing the six patients who had been involved in the most assaults in April; there is a calculation error that will be corrected.
- M. Weisfeld inquired about SkillUp training program. Do the patients get assistance? Answer: They are assigned a Vocational Rehab staff member. He also asked if an evaluation is done post-completion. Answer: Yes, an evaluation is done post completion. Ms. Johnson will provide updates about this program in future Board reports.
- Mr. Weisfeld noted that CMS came for a revisit on May 2. All issues resolved re. beds bolted to floor, adequacy of masks.
- Mr. Weisfeld was very pleased with the 0% chart delinquencies for the month of April. Great Job.

- **AUXILIARY REPORT:**

- No Report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Incident Committee – Dr. Maureen Lebel**

Summary of April 30, 2024, Violence Prevention Initiatives and Road to Future

Dr. Ahmad began the meeting with a discussion of some issues of concern with regard to violent or disruptive behaviors among patients. Currently 25 to 30 percent of patients are classified as forensic; staff are functioning in a post-pandemic milieu; some units are experiencing staffing limitations (Assistant Commissioner Flory addressed state efforts to address this issue); and leadership is working to maintain staff morale.

Much of the data discussed have been presented to the Board in the annual and monthly reports. Overall, the data show some stability and containment of violent behaviors as reflected in the numbers and rates of assaults and applications of restraints. Spikes in violent behaviors are often a function of outliers. During 2023 five patients accounted for 60 percent of restraints and 10 patients accounted for 37 percent of assaults.

Dr. Ahmad also presented vignettes of the trajectories of several patients' acting out behaviors during treatment.

What followed were presentations about a variety of efforts by staff to address a range of issues to not only stabilize individual patients but prepare patients for healthy and successful discharges including:

- High Acuity Review Panel
- Workplace Violence Prevention Committee
- Addiction Services
- Steppingstone SUD, Substance Use Disorder, Clinic
- Competency Restoration Unit
- Reinstatement of Evening and Weekend Programing
- CBT ,Cognitive Behavioral therapy, for Crime Free Life Group

Future Initiatives:

- Trauma Informed Care Education and Training for frontline staff
- Creation of DBT (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy) Team (Consultation Liaison Model)
- Robust BST (Behavioral Skills Training) Program
- Shifting resources to high acuity units (Kennedy, RW1, King) with staff, e.g., BST, nursing, and trained HST (Human Services Technician) staff
- Robust BST program in high acuity units
- Weekend programing

- Increasing Clozapine use to 15 percent, long-acting injectable drugs to 50 percent
 - Active and robust treatment of addiction disorders and medication assisted treatment use.
 - Establish addiction clinic in RC unit.
 - Controlling contraband influx to hospital
 - Engaging patients in group and individual psychotherapy
 - Structured Treatment Unit (STU)
- **Legislative Committee – Mr. Neil Weisfeld**
 - There was no report at this time.
 - **Schulley Trading Post – Mr. Hollen reported for Dr. Rosenberg:**
 - James Hollen reported that increasing food prices necessitates a review of charges to AKFC, Anne Kline Forensic Center, for meals and trading post fees. Use of Credit cards is a process still in review.
 - **Therapeutic Environment Committee – Mr. Pyle:** Mr. Pyle will contact Michelle Seni and become more involved in the Committee. Dr. Lebel encouraged Mr. Pyle to try participating in Wellness Committee meetings as part of the process.
 - **Recent Accomplishments:**
 - **Outdoor Festival:**
 - **Avant GardeN Festival**
 - **April 26, 2024**
 - **ALL DAY**
 - Petting Zoo
 - Tricycle Path
 - Crafts
 - Temporary Tattoo
 - Face Painting
 - Outdoor Movie
 - Afternoon Concert
 - **Cheap Seat Tuesday:**
 - Trip to Movies
 - The Fall Guy
 - Charter Bus
 - Fifty (50) Attendees
 - Including HSP

- Popcorn & soda
- **Coming Soon:**
- Outdoor Theater preparation to be used when weather is appropriate for Twilight Movies - HSP are willing to attend and support!
- Coffee With Cops – August 2024
- HSP Free Throw Competition – COMING SOON
- **UPDATE ...**
- Working on recommendation to have an on grounds mini arboretum.
- **Update: Getting Tablets with software to identify plants.**
- What is the purpose of an arboretum?
- An arboretum is a botanical garden specializing in trees or woody plants. Arboreta across the globe conduct scientific research and conservation, engage in public outreach and education, and manage beautiful and diverse tree collection.

Wish List (Long-Term): For discussion in the Welfare Committee

- **UPDATE Estimates:**
- Swimming pool (Estimate - \$187,000)
- Outdoor kitchen for outdoor activities (Estimate - \$9,000 with Gazebo)



Wish List:

- Potting shed roof with insulation
- Lower panels in greenhouse four should be replaced.
- An additional greenhouse - Raycroft Complex
- A new classroom building for more patients and training.

Welfare Fund – Ms. Torre:

James Hollen reported that the Welfare Fund auditor is requiring that the board approve wellness projects or expenditures costing \$1,000.00 or more and present the Board with the Wellness calendar.

The current Welfare Budget can cover the following items from the Wish List immediately:

- Drums
- Shed for Bicycles
- Press Machine
- Some TVs (About half)

In September we will review other terms for inclusion.

Mr. Weisfeld made a motion to approve the May 31, 2024 concert and Mr. Pyle 2nd the motion.

Ms. Torre indicated the remaining Wellness activities with estimated costs will be approved at the June Board Meeting.

Report from Angela Wairimu Office of Community Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS):

- No Report this month
- The Division has been overwhelmed by the receipt of 50 proposals for Community Wellness Centers and is in the process of reviewing them.

COMMUNICATIONS: –

There were no communications this month.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Ms. Kersey, representing the Hilltonia Association (the Trenton community behind Travers) commented on the black privacy cover added to the fence between TPH and the community and voiced concerns over not being included in the change. She says that the black netting used on the fence is both unattractive and shuts out light. She would like the community to be alerted about future changes that might impact the neighborhood. Ms. Kersey was advised TPH usually notifies the Hilltonia President. Mr. Hollen will continue to make sure that notifications are sent.

Ms. Kersey also commented on the lack of neighborhood notification about patients eloping from TPH. Ms. Kersey was advised there was only 1 elopement/elopements this past year. Elopements are very infrequent. When they occur, an email is sent to the President of the Hilltonia Assn. who is responsible for notifying community residents.

hilltonia.association.president@gmail.com is the email established for TPH to notify residents of an elopement. If that email is no longer operational, Mr. Hollen needs to be apprised of the current President's email address. Ms. Kersey will speak with the President to determine if the email remains active.

- Mr. Suppers commented on the need for outreach and education of the local community. He was pleased to know that assaults and violence are decreasing. He asked if there is a way for TPH to receive donations. Mr. Suppers was advised that donations may be made through the TPH Auxiliary.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Kwoka
Assistant Secretarial 3 to the CEO
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Carolyn Torre RN, MA, APN, FAANP
Chairperson

CT/sk



Board Wishlist -
2024.docx



Neuropsychology
at TPH.pptx



Behavior Support
for Patients at TPH.p