

**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, September 19, 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. ***Thomas Pyle – MBA, MS	***Dr. Mark Rosenberg – DO, MBA, FACEP, FAAHPM

TPH Staff Attendance:

Maria Christensen, CEO; Faith Johnson – Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Clinical); James Hollen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer -Operations (DCEO); Michelle Senni – Executive Assistant to the CEO; Julie Van Houten, Chief Nursing Officer; Intikhab Ahmad, M.D., Clinical Director; Mary Lou Graves – AHA 1/QI Director; Towana Wilkins – Business Manager/General Support,

Guest:

Angela Wairimu Program Analyst – Office of Community Services, DMHAS
Barry Haimer – Father of a patient

Excused:

Sheila Kwoka – Secretary to the Board of Trustees;

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL:

Roll call was conducted in-person. The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Minutes from the June 20, 2024, meeting were approved.

July/August Monthly Report:

- Mr. Weisfeld inquired about the “Nutrition Know to Go” program. In the Cottages they are increasing the patient’s knowledge about grocery shopping, budgeting, and healthy eating habits in preparation for living, after discharge. The Nutrition Dept. will provide more information about this at a Board presentation, probably in October.
- Mr. Weisfeld would like to see the totals of the gross revenue for the Schulley Trading Post in each monthly report.
- Mr. Weisfeld asked about the courses offered in the Skills-Up training program. Courses (online, supported by staff), involve carpentry, plumbing and HVAC; upon completion, patients received a certificate.
- Mr. Weisfeld asked about the TPH Rock Band-The Phoenix- which is composed of 6 patients and 2 staff-very successful endeavor, enjoyed by patients.
- Mr. Weisfeld asked about higher Welfare Budget expenditures in Summer; Mr. Hollen noted that the majority of money is always spent in the summer months for outdoor fests, bands, and this year for the trip to the Cape May Zoo which involved a bus and an after-event BBQ; more about that in September report minutes, below.
- Mr. Pyle inquired about the 2 additional DDD Patients. Trenton Psychiatric Hospital (TPH) has 12 DDD patients, currently.
- Dr. Lebel commented positively on the Thomas Edison RN to BSN program which will involve placements at TPH (5 year, grant funded); 12 students with completed applications have been accepted.
- Dr. Lebel asked for a definition of PSCU. Patient Service Compliance Unit (PSCU) is a hotline for patients to lodge a complaint.

September Monthly Report:

- Mr. Weisfeld was very pleased with the Cape May County Zoo trip on August 16th. 100 Patients were able to attend with staff. The patients and staff were treated with a catered BBQ Luncheon. A great time was had by all.
- Mr. Weisfeld inquired about why there were no reported A+ incidents, only “A’s,” in light of the report of a severe injury under assaults. Ms. Mary Lou Graves will look into it; may be related to less severe injury than it initially sounded?
- Mr. Weisfeld inquired about the 30-Day Readmission. He was looking for clarification as to why there were 2 officers at the patient’s bedside on a one to one. Is that routine or is it required for detainers. This was at another hospital, not TPH. Dr. Ahmad later explained that this patient sought to come back to TPH because he did not want to return to jail, and that his behavior involved secondary gain.
- Dr. Lebel refers to the Incident Committee report as picking up on her concerns re. September report.

- Mr. Pyle thanked staff for the good report. He notes that the number of those on CEPP status was about 20% which is the goal set by the hospital.
- Mr. Pyle inquired about the variance between scheduled treatment meetings scheduled and those attended, in Drake. Ms. Johnson explained that 2 things influenced attendance: 2-3 weeks of quarantine related to COVID, and the opening of the treatment mall in Drake.
- Mr. Pyle asked if the perpetrator of the severe assault recorded this past month would be criminally charged; Mr. Hollen says there is a 99% likelihood that this person will be charged, but that the police do not provide this information to TPH. Dr. Ahmad assured the Board that the patient's safety was the utmost concern of the staff, and that he was moved to another unit.
- Mr. Pyle asked about the potential for harm by transgender patients who are biologically male that might assault female patients. The staff are aware of gender-related issues and take appropriate steps to keep all patients safe.
- Ms. Torre notes that the census was down in the month of August.
- Ms. Torre commented on the significant decrease in the number of assaults, despite one severe report of injury in August.
- Ms. Torre commented on a related decrease in the number of restraints.
- Ms. Torre inquired about "Pet Therapy" and how the patients are selected. Each unit has the opportunity to see the pet therapy dogs.
- Ms. Torre was very pleased to see the increase in the Evening and Weekend Programming.
- Ms. Torre praised the vocational training program for the patients through Skills Up.
- Ms. Torre commented positively on the job fair success with 166 candidates attending.
- Ms. Torre underscored the achievement: the POES System is now live on all units.
- Ms. Torre inquired about the Level Incident # 24-535211. This was sent to the Office of Investigation. There has been no response at this time. Patients were separated and the employee has been either removed/reassigned.
- Ms. Torre asked about the 30-Day Readmission patient with detainer status? As noted in Mr. Weisfeld's question about this, the patient did not want to go to jail.
- Ms. Torre noted the Physician Annual Documentation delinquency rate is at 73% which is significant because it had been a 0% for months. Staff explained this is because of Leave of Absence (LOA), and vacations.
- Ms. Torre inquired about the 12 new staff members that completed hospital orientation. They are spread out among departments.

- Ms. Torre observed that the Schulley Trading Post revenue was small in July but increased very significantly in August.
- **AUXILIARY REPORT:**
 - Ms. Senni reported Holiday Express is no longer donating supplies at Christmas Time. The Auxiliary will be doing all the donations on their own; they will welcome any financial assistance offered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Second Quarter (April –June 2024) Assault Notes (from Violence Prevention Committee Report, Second Quarter 2024):

- Assaults were down from 97 in May 2024 to 60 in August 2024
- Injuries declined from 96 to 60 during that same period.
- The first Major injury since January occurred in August.
- Twenty-nine patients accounted for 48 percent of injuries.
- A AND A+ INCIDENT TALLY

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
TOTAL	108	233	129
A+	0	2	2
A	0	1	0

Second Quarter (April – June 2024) Restraint Notes (From Violence Prevention Committee, Second Quarter, 2024):

- Total restraints were down from 117 occurrences in the first quarter to 98 in the second quarter.
- Although restraints were down in Lincoln (88-67) and Drake (23-3) in Raycroft the occurrences increased (6-28). Three patients accounted for those occurrences.
- Campus wide, 2 percent of restraints occurred during the night shift, 59 percent during the day, and 37 percent during the evening.
- Patients aged 31 to 45 were restrained most frequently.
- Females accounted for 51 percent of restraints, male's 46 percent.

Summer (June-August 2024) Incident Summary (From July, August, and September Reports to the Board of Trustees):

- Incidents reported in Nursing Log:

	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
TOTAL	129	142	113
A+	2	1	0
A	1	1	2

- Monthly Reports present cumulative data of assaults, restraints, and injuries.

While overall these acting out behavior rates are stable or decreasing, it should be noted that a single major injury occurred in August, the first since January.



VPC 2nd QTR assault
report(2).docx



Violence Prevention
Committee- 2024 2nd

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

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.

A2151/S813:

Establishes public awareness campaign for services for frontline 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 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.**

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

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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.

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

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.

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

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

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.

IV. NOTE ON LEGISLATION AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Elections

In the November 5th election campaign, Democratic Representative Andy Kim and Republican Curtis Bashaw are seeking the U.S. Senate seat previously held by Bob Menendez. The senator was convicted on July 16 in federal court in New York of 16 counts, including bribery, extortion, wire fraud, obstruction of justice, and acting as a foreign agent of Egypt and Qatar. Menendez resigned on August 20, and Governor Phil Murphy appointed his former chief of staff, George Helmy, to occupy the Senate seat until the election.

New Jersey's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives will have at least three new faces. Kim forfeited his House seat to run for the Senate, and Democratic Representatives Donald Payne, Jr., and William Pascrell, Jr., both recently died, ending long and influential tenures in the House.

The New Jersey governorship and state Senate and Assembly seats will be up for election next year. Governor Murphy is term limited.

Opioid prescribing: results of a study

A study report recently published in *Health Affairs*, the nation's health policy journal, explored implementation of the CDC recommendation to co-prescribe naloxone when prescribing an opioid to a patient at high risk of experiencing an overdose.² New Jersey was one of ten states mandating such action during the study period.³

The study found the recommendation was implemented only about two percent of the time nationwide in 2021. New Jersey did markedly improve its rate. Following an initial spike, the New Jersey rate stood at 17.6 percent one year after the co-prescribing mandate was adopted. New Mexico led the nation with a rate of 51.2 percent.

² Huiru Dong, Erin J. Stringfellow, Alton Russell, and Mohammed S. Jalali, "State Mandates on Naloxone Prescribing Associated with Short-term Increase in Naloxone Dispensing," *Health Affairs* 43:9 (September 2024), pp. 1319-1328, see especially Exhibit 2, p. 1325.

³ *N.J.A.C. 13:35-7.6(i)*. The risk factors for determining the need for a co-prescription are a history of substance use disorder, a particularly large dose, and polypharmacy.

- **Therapeutic Environment – Mr. Pyle:**
 - Mr. Pyle reported that he attended the concert that included the Clapton Cover Band and the Ice Cream Truck for the patients and staff, and thoroughly enjoyed it.
 - Mr. Pyle commented on the communication challenges experienced by patients' families especially in the first week of hospitalization and he expressly thanked Ms. Senni for the work she does in trying to ease that process.
- **Schulley Trading Post – Mr. Hollen reported for Dr. Rosenberg:**
 - No report at this time but issues re. STP were discussed during the Board report.
- **Welfare Fund – Ms. Torre:**
 - Issues discussed during the Board report review. Next month we will discuss increasing revenues and share brainstorming ideas for same.

**Report from Ms. Angela Wairimu, Program Analyst
Office of Community Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
(DMHAS)
(September 2024)**

Conferences/Trainings:

- **NJ's 9th Annual Virtual Suicide Prevention Conference- "Breaking the Silence"-Engaging Communities to Prevent Suicide.**
 - Date: October 29th, 2024, from 9:00am-3:00pm. Registration is included in flier, see attached.
- **Free Naloxone Training- Jersey Shore Addiction Services (JSAS) Health Care Virtual Narcan Training every Wednesday at 3:00pm.**
 - For more information, please contact Kisha Franklin at kfranklin@jsashealthcare.org. Training is open to anyone who is at risk of an opioid overdose or their family and friends. Participants can receive a treatment voucher for 30 days of free substance abuse treatment, at JSAS Healthcare, Inc., to use or distribute to any person that need medication-assisted treatment (methadone).

DMHAS Announcements:

- Valerie Mielke is now the Deputy Commissioner of Health Services at Department of Human Services, which oversees- DMHAS, Medicaid and First Lady Murphy's Nurture NJ Maternal Health Initiative.
- Renee Burawski, former Deputy Assistant Commissioner, will now lead as the Assistant Commissioner of DMHAS, formerly Valerie Mileke's position.
- David Helfand, former Assistant Director of Office of Community Services, is now the Assistant Deputy Commissioner, formerly Renee Burawski's position.
- Mary Jean Weston is set to retire effective Sept. 30th, 2024. Karen Wapner, Program Manager of Fee for Services at DMHAS, will succeed in Mary Jean's position as the Central Regional Coordinator.



Narcan September Suicide Prevention
ZOOM 2024.docx Conference 2024 Re



COMMUNICATIONS: –

There were no communications this month.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ms. Julie VanHouten will be leaving the CNO (Chief Nursing Officer) position. She will be moving to Greystone Psychiatric Hospital, which will mean a significantly reduced commuting time for her. The Board thanks her for her service and offers her best wishes in her future endeavors.
- Noted in the DMHAS report: Mary Jean Weston who had represented the Dept. at TPH for many years is retiring at the end of September. Ms. Torre reached out to thank her for her service to the Board, and to offer the Board's best wishes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None at this time

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 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