

New Jersey Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC)

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2013
10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

Jack Bucher
Damyanti Aurora
Angel Gambone (p)
Joe Gutstein (p)
Chris Lucca
Tom Pyle
Randy Thompson

Lisa Negron
Karen Carroll
Marilyn Goldstein (p)
Michael Ippoliti
Gail Mesavitz
Ellen Taner

Annette Wright (p)
Irina Stuchinsky
Connie Greene
Phil Lubitz
Ann Dorocki
Robin Weiss

DMHAS, CSOC & DDD Staff:

Suzanne Borys
Mark Kruszczyński
Dona Sinton

Geri Dietrich
Donna Migliorino

Morris Friedman
Robin Nighland

Guests:

Rodney Belle (p)
Louan Lukens

Harry Coe
Rachel Morgan

Michelle Eichorn
Alric Warren (p)

I. Administrative Issues/Announcements

- A. Review of Previous Minutes - Change Robin to present in person last month (not on phone) and then minutes approved with amendment
- B. Suzanne Borys - We were notified last night we were awarded a federal grant called Strategic Prevention Framework Partnership for Success. It's \$2.2 million per year for five years.
 - i. Q. - Geri Dietrich - Is there a youth component as well? A. Suzanne – It is focused on youth. Don Hallcom will work with the coalitions for this and we'll reach out to our partners
- C. Geri Dietrich- I came across a SAMHSA document from August 2013 on the Medicaid interface with Behavioral Health and Dona will send it out to members.
- D. Michael Ippoliti – There is an application for smart phones for a medicine tracker that folks might be interested in using. Mike will share it with Suzanne so she can look at it for ideas for the prevention grant.
- E. Suzanne Borys – There is a SBIRT federal site visit tomorrow and Friday. There will be other states there as well, including Georgia. Our grantee for this project is Henry J. Austin in Trenton (a FQHC). St. Francis and Capital Health emergency rooms will be coming on board as well.
- F. Recovery and Rebuilding Update - Connie Greene
 - i. FEMA visited the State in August to review the Hope and Healing Program and the four contracted agencies participated. FEMA did say that New Jersey is doing a great job. The recovery is intense right now for the impacted individuals and fearful and anxious are common emotions as well as fatigue

and exhaustion being common ailments. We have support groups that are neighbor to neighbor.

1. Q. Jack Bucher – What agencies are involved? A. Four grants – Barnabas, MHA of New Jersey, Family Services and Family Center. There are close to 300 counselors. Grant is through February 2014 (but it might be extended).
2. Q. Harry Coe – What percentage of counselors are peers themselves? A. I don't know the number but let's talk after the meeting about this.
- ii. Suzanne – SSBG funding will be rolled out as well for more services, including Outpatient
- iii. Connie – DCF also has a grant out that's due in a week for services in the schools
- G. Phil Lubitz– We did have a conference call in August to review the tables for Substance Abuse Block Grant after our meeting last month and did submit a letter supporting the Block Grant.
- H. We also wrote a letter of support for the Parity Bill. The Governor's Press Release is included in your packets.

II. **Rate Setting Presentation** – Morris Friedman

- A. Distributed a power point on the transition to FFS in the division.
- B. Myers and Stauffer is doing the rate analysis for DMHAS.
- C. Rates won't be effective until after ASO implementation.
- D. Rates should be set by first quarter of CY 2014.
- E. No specific agency will know other agencies cost data.
- F. Questions/Comments
 - i. Q. Connie – Any discussion of prevention services going into FFS? A. Prevention is not moving to the ASO. All our prevention services are evidence based services on the addiction side.
 - ii. Q- Joe Gutstein – Are costs reflective of what's on annex A's? A. We feel comfortable in practice groups we have to supply the data.
 - iii. Q- Tom Pyle – Medicaid rates are 72% of Medicare rates nationally. New Jersey is lowest in county at 37%. Can we expect this process will raise our rates? A. I can't say that at this point but we want to have a fee schedule that is reflective of costs of providers.
 - iv. C- Tom Pyle - Has division set a policy regarding this issue since we have so much variability in the percentage and variability across the state even? Access is difficult and provider involvement is limited because of the rate.
 - v. C- Phil – New Jersey subsidizes the Medicaid rate with the contracts DMHAS provides to agencies.
 - vi. Q. Ellen – In the plan have you identified Technical Assistance needs of providers in the transition? A. Once rates are set there will be technical assistance. The Division is aware of this.
 - vii. Q. Chris Lucca – What do you mean that certain providers were selected? A. Around twenty-five providers were selected representing each service category. Preliminary rates will be based on their responses, but if it's not truly representative of various agencies we will make adjustments.

- viii. Q. Karen Carroll – Is Supportive Employment included in ASO? A. Yes it's on the list as a service to be included.

III. **Advocacy Subcommittee Update** – Louan Lukens

- A. We met last month and there have been discussions and work with DCA going on with DMHAS regarding our concerns with boarding homes
- B. The training that took place in the South can be duplicated in the North and Central regions.
- C. C. Ellen Taner - These are monumental steps.
- D. C. Lisa Negron – In Ocean County the state just recently went in and noted a lot of violations in a boarding home after this meeting that took place.

IV. **Block Grant Application and Letter** – Donna Migliorino

- A. The Block Grant was submitted a few days early on August 30. We were fortunate to have submitted it early because on the due date of 9/3 BGAS, the online application system, went down for a while.
- B. This was a long process for this second combined application. For at least nine years the guidance hasn't been finalized until late in the game. This was by far the worst guidance-time frame yet.
- C. The 3% and 5% set-asides that were added this year changed our fiscal tables and narrative.
- D. There were items that that aren't mandatory but you feel like you have to answer them anyway to present a complete picture. Even our project officers realize you aren't required to address some items since the laws don't match the application guidance.
- E. Block Grant Subcommittee to meet at 9:00 a.m. next month.
- F. The Planning Council to submit a follow up letter to SAMHSA relating our concerns about the application process
 - i. Chris Lucca to draft introductory statements to letter, with Tom Pyle adding input as well as Donna, Geri, Dona and Suzanne.
- G. Questions/Comments
 - i. C. Phil – Sounds like some of this change is being done by planners, while some is by politics and others because of ACA.
 - ii. C. Geri –We have also had multiple project officers over the past years as well as the sequester didn't help since figures kept changing.
 - iii. Q. Tom Pyle – To what extent do you know if ACA has played a role in burdening you at last minute? Was that on your mind? A. Suzanne – Not particularly. It doesn't affect the entire system of care.
 - iv. C. Michael – SAMHSA requires integration but isn't fully integrated itself.
 - v. C. Chris Lucca – We could advise SAMHSA how we would like to see it unfold and I'd like to contribute to that. We could make an assertive statement.
 - vi. C. Geri – Perhaps have Denis Romero come back to New Jersey to hear this type of feedback?
 - vii. C. Ellen – The feds may not read the letter but perhaps the Coalition of Whole Health can advocate

V. **Move to Behavioral Health Planning Council** – Phil Lubitz

- A. We continue to move towards a merged council, and want to include more substance abuse representatives. We haven't had a membership subcommittee meeting because we need to decide how to move forward with the merge. We need to update our bylaws to continue the merge, even though the federal regulations are very specific to SMI and SED.
- B. There was a webinar recently by SAMHSA on merging Planning Councils.
- C. BHtalk.org has lots of information on Planning Councils that is useful.
- D. Maryland has a plan to merge their agencies, but not until next year, and Louisiana is merged Planning Council
- E. Have wanted to have the county planners come to Planning Council as well
- F. C. Chris Lucca – can we just move forward and do the changes in good faith?
- G. Q. Tom Pyle – will we have a bylaws subcommittee?
 - i. Phil – Submit to Dona Sinton if you want to be on the bylaws subcommittee.

VI. **Announcements**

- A. C. Ellen – Linkage Event in October for addiction consumers. We want to know what works and what's innovative. Its informal setting and Lynn Kovich will be there. Limited to sixty people
 - i. Phil – Will you report on this when it's over? A. Definitely
 - ii. Dona to send to Ellen the call for membership for PC
- B. Update on data Systems – Donna Migliorino
 - i. Piloted with ten agencies right now on QCMR web system.
 - ii. BEDS inventory is complete currently and has more than 4,000 beds listed
- C. Various flyers in your packet for upcoming trainings
 - i. Tobacco Training by Rutgers
 - ii. COD training by UBHC
 - iii. Live on stage an evening with Dr. Bob and Bill W

Next General Membership Meeting on October 9, 2013- 10:00-12:00, Room 3000

The Block Grant Subcommittee will meet at 9:00 am on 10/9/13 in room 3052

The Advocacy Subcommittee will meet at noon on 10/9/13 in room 3052

The Olmstead Advisory Committee will meet at noon on 11/13/13 in room 3052