

New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes,
March 11, 2020 10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

Phil Lubitz (Chair)	Darlema Bey (Vice Chair)	Suzanne Borys	John Tkacz
Winifred Chain	Barbara Johnston	Pam Taylor	Julia Barugel
Thomas Pyle (p)	Heather Simms (p)	Chris Lucca (p)	Damian Petino
Joe Guttstein (p)	Connie Greene	Robin Weiss (p)	Harry Coe
Maryanne Evanko	Kate Brace		

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Jonathan Sabin Irrina Stuchinsky Jeff Carrick (p)

Guests:

Nina Smukuluvaskey	Anne Smullen-Thieling (p)	Rachel Morgan (p)
Abigail Thompson	Lauren Richter (p)	Kim Buxenbaum
Kristopher Novak	Deb Kennedy (p)	Sonia Cohen (p)
Kelly Scapellato (p)	Caitlyn Summers (p)	Kristopher Novak

(p) Indicates participation via conference call.

I. Welcome / Administrative Issues / Correspondence / Announcements

- A. Roll call. Quorum Reached: 18 of 39 member-participants (46% attendance, 33% needed).
- B. Minutes from February 12, 2019 meeting approved, with minor revisions

II. Effective Nicotine Prevention and Referral to Treatment: Vaping and Delivery Systems (Abigail Thompson and Kristopher Novak, Institute for Prevention and Recovery, RWJ/Barnabas Health)

- A. See PowerPoint of presentation (sent to all members of BHPC via email, 03/09/20).

III. NJ Dept. of Education: Overview of the Office of Special Education Initiatives (Dr. Kim Buxenbaum, Director of the NJ DoE Office of Special Education)

- A. See PowerPoint of presentation (sent to all members of BHPC via email, 03/09/20).
- B. Additional statements and discussion during presentation.
 - 1. NJ Positive Behavioral Supports in Schools
 - 2. NJ DoE Social and Emotional Learning, Competencies and Sub-competencies
 - 3. Pair of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
 - 4. Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems (CSMHS)
 - 5. Challenge of breakdown of existing systems, lack of connectivity between systems.
 - 6. NJ Tiered Systems of Supports
 - 7. Bergen County case-study
 - a. Several school districts in Bergen County NJ partnered with a community-based behavioral health provider (CarePlus) to be a third tier of support, providing for immediate screening and treatment of students for serious emotional disturbances and substance use disorders.

- i. This was cost-effective in the long run, as fewer students needed to be sent out-of-district due to behavioral health needs.
- ii. Local school districts were able to pool their resources together for contracting purposes.
- iii. Several boards of education changed their discipline policy for students caught using illegal drugs, so that in addition to disciplinary measures, they would also be mandated for treatment.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Advocacy:

- 1. Forwarded a letter intended for Assistant Commissioner Mielke requesting that agencies contracted by DMHAS should encourage increased staff training on available community resources, in the spirit of the Eight Dimensions of Wellness.
 - a. Draft finalized in the 3/11/20, 9:00 am Advocacy Subcommittee was presented and reviewed with the Council
 - b. The Planning Council unanimously approved the letter to be sent by Chairman Lubitz to Assistant Commissioner Mielke.
- 2. Next Meeting of Advocacy Subcommittee: 4/8/20, 12:00 pm., 5 Commerce Way, Hamilton NJ, Suite 100, Room 199a.

V. State Partners Involvement

- A. NJ Department of Children and Families: (J. Carrick); no updates to report
- B. NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation: (J. Tkcaz); no updates to report.
- C. NJ Juvenile Justice Commission: (Not present); no updates to report.
- D. Division of Aging: (Not present)
- E. NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities: (Jonathan Sabin), no updates to report.
- F. NJ Department of Education: (K. Buxenbaum & D.Petino). See notes above on today's presentation.
- G. NJ State Medicaid (Irina Stuchinsky): no updates to report.

VI. Announcements, Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. Announcements: Heather Simms of CSP NJ reported new data collection efforts by Community Wellness Centers. 18 Communities will be involved in a three-year project. Contact HSimms@cspnj.org for more information.
- B. The next meeting of the NJ BHPC will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 10:00 am at DMHAS Headquarters, 5 Commerce Way, Suite 100, room 199a.
 - 1. Anticipated Subcommittee Meetings on 4/8/20:
 - a. 9:00 AM, TBD
 - b. 12:00 PM, Advocacy

C. Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings

1. Presentation by DMHAS Assistant Commissioner Mielke
2. Presentation by DMHAS Chief Financial Officer M. Friedman on the 2020-2021 State Budget
3. Certified Community Behavioral Health Homes

D. Meeting Adjourned.