

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

April 13, 2022, 10:00 am

This meeting was conducted exclusively through MS Teams video teleconference & conference call

Notices of the meeting were sent to the Asbury Park Press, The Times (Trenton), Bergen Record, The Press (Pleasantville), and the Courier-Post (Cherry Hill).

Participants:

Phil Lubitz (Chair)	Darlema Bey (Vice Chair)	Diane Riley	Krista Connelly
Robin Weiss	Heather Simms	Joseph Gutstein	Connie Greene
Barbara Johnston	John Tkacz	Suzanne Smith	Nick Pecht
Julia Barugel	Michele Madiou	Mark Kruszczyński	Tracey Maksel
Tonia Ahern	Robert DePlatt		

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Jonathan Sabin	Francis Scott Sarno	Elizabeth Conte
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Guests:

Nina Smukuluvasky	Rachel Morgan	June DePonte-Sernak
Kurt Baker		

Minutes:

I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Phil Lubitz)

- A. Attendance, 18/39, 46.15% attendance, quorum reached
- B. Minutes of March 2022 General Meeting approved unanimously.

II. CSOC Budget Outlook SFY2023 and System Updates Nick Pecht

- A. Budget not changed since last year.
 1. Availability of services will not be changing.
 2. We can request budget director to subsequent meeting.
- B. Human Trafficking Summit provided recently by Volunteers of America
- C. CSOC working with NJ Office of New Americans
- D. CSOC is experiencing a significant increase for services. This will be discussed at a future meeting of the Council, potentially at the May meeting.

III. DMHAS Cultural Competency Initiative Update & Statewide Diversity Consultant Cultural Competency Review Liz Comte (DMHAS) & June DePonte-Sernak (Ctr. For Family Services)

- A. DMHAS Cultural Competency Initiative
 1. DMHAS's New Cultural Competency Consultant, June DePonte-Sernak, Ph.D.
- B. Presentation on Statewide Diversity

1. Background of Statewide Consultant
 - a. Former telecomm executive, American Red Cross leader and affiliated with Rowan College. Currently with Center for Family Services
2. See PowerPoint
3. Q&A
 1. Comment (P. Lubitz): Disappointment that so few contracted providers have cultural competency plans
 2. Question: How many cultural competency plans are there in place and how many have metrics to evaluate efficacy? A: 40+ providers have cultural competency plans based on the federal EBP. Also Cultural Competency seems to be voluntary in many agencies (i.e., agency staff serving multiple functions).
 3. Comment: (P.Lubitz) Challenge of separating Cultural Competency from Quality Assurance. How can you have quality assurance without cultural competency?

IV. BHPC Subcommittees

- A. Advocacy (J. Barugel)
 1. Aging Out
 2. Important article: <https://www.nj.com/healthfit/2022/03/saving-charlie.html>
 3. Members of Subcommittee are encouraged to participate in the 12:00 Advocacy Meeting.
- B. Membership (P.Lubitz)
 1. Met in March and today. Four members of the council will be leaving the Council due to non-participation, and one member of the Citizen's Advisory Board will not be recommended for re-appointment.
 2. Membership must be enhanced to more fully represent the ethnic and cultural diversity of New Jersey.

V. System Partner Updates, Chairs of Subcommittees

- A. Department of Corrections (Krista Connelly)
 1. Update on Edna Mahan facility see video. https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/iUHP7TnSiQhKUX3LmAyHinr_KwkUoE6FbiYB4teAdkMIN_GOSU9NF1hD46VwMjP3CHd8Xf1eY44K1PBzR.5fi9iJmm--D8nNSy?continueMode=true
 2. Q&A:
 - a. Committee created.
- B. Division of Developmental Disabilities (J. Sabin)
 1. No new updates from DDD
- C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (J. Tkacz):
 1. Grant Notice for Paid Summer (9 Month) Internships to provide internships for students throughout the summer to the end of the year.
 2. Contracts transitions to IGX electronic system.
 3. Lots of staff movement (retirements, new hires)

VI. Open Public Comment and Announcements Phil Lubitz

- A. NAMI- NJ (Darlema Bey)

1. Poetry contest from NAMI-NJ.org, deadline is fast approaching
 2. Coffee house meeting involving expressive arts.
 3. NAMI Walks in October 2022
- B. CSPNJ:
1. Outreach via NJ Transit to homeless individuals
 2. Pilot program to provide cell phones to consumers leaving state psychiatric hospitals. Planning to expand to all four state hospitals.
- C. Supportive Housing Association (Diane Riley)
1. State budget: \$300M for affordable housing, possibly 3K homes.
 2. Two grants
 - a. DDS Integrated Community Grants: Bergen, Camden and Ocean Cos.
 - b. Housing Navigation to help people connect with housing.
- D. Camden Count has mapped the entire flow through the judicial system as it pertains to persons with behavioral challenges. The process that one might go through by coming in contact by Police Officer through Judge or hospitalization

VII. Adjournment Phil Lubitz

- A. Meeting adjourned, 11:15 am.
- B. Future Agenda Items
 1. NJ DoE Comprehensive Mental Health Guide (Maurice Ingram)
- C. Next General Meeting May 11, 2022, 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams meeting
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Or call in (audio only)
[+1 609-300-7196,,306216820#](#)

1. Subcommittee meetings on 5/11/22
 - a. 9:00 Membership
 - b. 12:00 Advocacy