

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

February 9, 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	Darlema Bey (Vice Chair)	Winifred Chain	Krista Connelly
Robin Weiss	Heather Simms	Damian Petino	Diane Riley
Harry Coe	Connie Greene	Barbara Johnston	Patricia Matthews
John Tkacz	Suzanne Smith	Julia Barugel	Michele Madiou
Nick Loizzi	Suzanne Borys	Connie Greene	Francis Walker

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Donna Migliorino	Mark Kruszczyński	Jonathan Sabin	Yunqing Li
------------------	-------------------	----------------	------------

Guests:

Nina Smukuluvaskey	Rachel Morgan	Wendy Rodgers	Laura Richter
Kurt Baker	Scott Sarno	Anne Smullen Thieling	
Irina Stuchinsky	Joselyn Satterfield	Mathew George	

Minutes

- I. **Administrative Issues/Correspondence** Darlema Bey
 - A. Attendance: 20 members present, Quorum Reached 51%
 - B. S311 / 988 Bill has started journey through legislative processes, unanimously passed through NJ Senate Human Services Committee
 - C. Review of Minutes of January 12, 2022 General meeting, minutes approved, with minor edits.

- II. **Integrated Peer Services at CSPNJ** Heather Simms, Anne Smullen-Thieling
 - A. See PowerPoint/.PDF emailed to council on 2/7/22, 4:14pm.
 - B. Goals: Review of different programs offered.
 - C. Services
 1. Community Wellness Centers
 2. Community Support Services
 3. Hospital Wellness Centers

 4. Wellness Respite Centers

- D. Admission Process
- E. Inclusionary Criteria
- F. Wellness Planning
- G. Follow Up Services
- H. Q&A:
 - 1. Q: Some counties aren't served by CSP NJ, why? A: If an RFP is put forth, then CSP could apply for it to provide services.
 - 2. NJ Residency Requirements? A: ID is asked for on admission but if someone doesn't have an ID, it will not be a barrier to services.
 - 3. Q: Would the Council be interested in a presentation on SUD Peer Recovery Services? A: [Phil], yes lets confer with Mark K.

III. System Partner Updates P. Lubitz

- A. Supportive Housing Association (D. Riley)
 - 1. Additional Funding Opportunities
 - 2. 50:50 match from Medicaid
 - 3. Medicaid Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC)
 - 4. FMAP Funding, see <https://nj.gov/humanservices/assets/slices/NJ%20HCBS%20Spending%20Plan%20Submission.pdf> and <https://www.shanj.org/past-sha-membership-meetings/>
- B. Department of Corrections (Dr. Krista Connelly)
 - 1. Large number of releases (260, & 1000 on March 13, 2022) from State Prisons (2/9/22) due to Covid-19 pandemic.
 - 2. Q&A:
 - a. Question about Edna Mahan Facility
 - b. Q: Taking into account inmates who may be released in Feb and March, how many might be re-incarcerated due to other offenses? A: Dr. Connelly will look into this.
 - c. Q: Peer Navigators for recently incarcerated populations? A: Services are occurring but Dr. Connelly will find out an answer. [S. Borys IRTS program (i.e., is the collaboration with Rutgers and DMHAS that provides peer navigators to recently released patients) will be expanded to assist those with mental illness whom have been recently released from incarceration populations].
- C. Dept. of Education (D. Petino)
 - 1. Mental Health resource guide from the DoE Mental Health Workgroup should be distributed within the next 48 hours
- D. Children's System of Care (N. Pecht)
 - 1. 2/3/22: Vaccination Forum
 - 2. See <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/news/OOH-provider-guidance-update1-28-22.pdf>

3. Effective February 2, 2022 the Out of Home treatment admission freeze for non-emergency situations and halting of off-site visitation was lifted via a revision to the guidance released on January 4th of this year.

To assist our Out of Home providers in ensuring the best information was available to their staff as it relates to vaccinations, an Out of Home Provider Vaccination Forum was held virtually on February 3, 2022. A prominent community-based pediatrician provided his medical expertise and was available to take questions and we also had presenters from Bonnie Brae, the Carrier Clinic, and Legacy Treatment Services, who discussed the strategies they used to ensure the health and safety of both their staff and the youth they serve.

E. Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (J. Tkacz):

1. DVRS is always willing and capable to help consumers in need. See <https://nj.gov/labor/career-services/special-services/individuals-with-disabilities/index.shtml>

F. Juvenile Justice Commission (F. Walker)

1. Expansion of work study program

G. Division of Aging (P. Matthews)

1. Income limits for the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and the Senior Gold Prescription Discount medication assistance programs have increased by \$10,000, making medication prices more affordable and benefitting over 20,000 seniors. Raising the income threshold, which was part of Governor Murphy's Fiscal Year 2022 budget, is the largest one-time increase in the history of both the PAAD and Senior Gold Prescription Discount drug assistance programs. This initiative is a part of the Governor's ongoing and broader commitment and programming to make health care more affordable for
2. New Jersey residents across provider, insurance, and prescription drug costs.

3. The PAAD and Senior Gold Prescription Discount medication assistant programs are available to residents 65 and older and those with disabilities. PAAD cuts medication prices to \$5 for covered generic meds and \$7 for covered name brands. Senior Gold cuts prices in half after a \$15 copay for covered prescriptions. The PAAD program income limits are now \$38,769 if single and \$45,270 for a couple. The Senior Gold Prescription Discount program limits are now \$48,769 if single and \$55,270 if married. Assets are not an eligibility consideration for either program.

4. Income limits for the Lifeline utility assistance program and the Hearing Aid Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (HAAAD) program have also increased by \$10,000, as those programs are tied to PAAD.

5. For more info go to NJSAVE webpage

IV. Open Public Comment and Announcements P. Lubitz

- A. Announcements: None
- B. Comments
 - 1. Long waits for children in Emergency Rooms / CCIS Beds discussion.
 - 2. Question about MH Administrators

V. Adjournment P. Lubitz

- A. Upcoming Presentations
 - 1. State Budget Briefing (**Morris Friedman, March 9, 2022**)
 - 2. S311 / 988 MH Crisis Hotline Bill (DMM will ask Asst. Commissioner Mielke, **March 9, 2022**)
 - 3. SUD Peer Recovery Services (Suzanne Borys)
 - 3. DMHAS Cultural Competency Plans (Liz Conte)
 - 4. Housing/Vouchers
 - 5. Diverting kids from Emergency
 - 6. Attitudes in Reverse Presentation (Kurt W.)
 - 7. Mental Health Care for Incarcerated Populations

- B. Next meeting, Wednesday, March 9, 2022
 - Microsoft Teams meeting
 - Join on your computer or mobile app**
 - [Click here to join the meeting](#)
 - Or call in (audio only)**
 - +1 609-300-7196, PIN: 306216820 #

 - 1. **9:00 Membership Subcommittee Meeting**
 - 2. **12:00 Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting:** Issue of shortage of inpatient beds for children, long waits for Emergency Rooms for kids waiting for dispositions. Invite NJHA and CSOC

Subcommittee Meetings

9:00	None
12:00	None