

**NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL  
AGENDA  
January 12, 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:**

Darlema Bey (Vice Chair)

Winifred Chain	Tonia Ahern	Robin Weiss
Rachel Morgan (alt.)	Heather Simms	Damian Petino
Joseph Gutstein	Barbara Johnston	David Moore
Patricia Matthews	Suzanne Smith	Harry Coe
John Tkacz	Julia Barugel	Tracy Maksel
Francis Walker	Mark Kruszczyński (alt)	

**DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:** None

**Guests:**

Nina Smukuluvasky	Eve Ellsworth (MHANJ)	Wendy Rodgers
Kurt Baker	Anne Smullen Thieling (alt)	Gisel Gisona (CarePlus)
Caitlyn Yerves (Care Plus)		

**Minutes**

- I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence** Darlema Bey
- A. Attendance: 17 members present, Quorum Reached 43.5%
  - B. Review of Minutes of December 8, 2021 General meeting, minutes approved, with minor edits.
- II. Trauma-Informed Communities: Innovative & Compassionate Approaches**  
Jennifer Velten, Giesel Girona, Caitlyn Yerves (CarePlus Inc.)
- A. See PowerPoint/.PDF emailed to council on 1/11/22.
  - B. Goals
    - 1. Social Determinants to Health leading to traumatic childhood events.
    - 2. Increase access to care.
    - 3. Organizational Structure to recognize and treat trauma
  - C. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES),

1. Jennifer Velton, Lic. Prof. Counselor, Experienced with Trauma, LGBTQ+, Bergen County Traumatic Loss Coalition, Certified Trainer on Childhood Trauma
  2. Screening for ACES and what do clinicians do with that information?
  3. Original study in 1996-1997 by Kaiser Permanente Group for CDC.
  4. ACES typically occur in a constellation of other ACES.
- D. What is the IDEA Committee, and why was it developed at CarePlus NJ?
1. Gisel Gisona (Chair Idea Committee, CarePlus)
  2. See PowerPoint presentation
- E. CIT and Partnerships with Law Enforcement, STOP School Violence, Bergen Trauma Treatment Center, Trauma Recovery Center, Community Mental Health Center, School-based Services.
- F. “Implicit Biases and White Supremacy”
- G. Q&A
1. Q: Are their trauma services at CarePlus going to include adults?  
A: Current funding is bound to youth. As an agency CarePlus is trauma informed, and their programs are for adults and kids.
  2. Q: SUD Treatment is difficult to do without brining up moments and words that retraumatize consumers, does CarePlus deal with that?  
A: Yes, it is a concern. The idea is to lower consumers stress response but not exacerbate trauma, the use of EMDR is helpful.

### III. System Partner Updates Darlema Bey

- A. Dept. of Education (D. Petino)
  1. DoE Mental Health Guide is still being vetted by Governor’s Office, and it should be released in about two weeks.
  2. The Plan around the launch of the Guide is growing and being more robust.
- B. County Mental Health Administrators (R. Morgan)
  1. Meeting this week.
  2. Discussion of Staffing Shortages: Limited pool of new staff and exodus of staff out of social service fields.

Comment: Backup in state licensing.
- C. CIACC, Burlington County (R. Morgan)
  1. Seeks more family members
  2. Youth and Family Leadership Academy (YFLA)
- C. Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (J. Tckaz): They have an updated consumer Handbook: <https://nj.gov/labor/career-services/special-services/individuals-with-disabilities/index.shtml>

### IV. Open Public Comment and Announcements Darlema Bey

- A. Questions
  1. Who does the oversight for actuality for contracts awarded?

2. Who applied for RFP of Gloucester County EISS award? Since Oaks already has 2 EISS centers set up in South Jersey, will they get the grant.?
  3. Where will children inpatient beds be located? The Juvenile detention centers were reduced. Detention centers were used for MH inpatient facilities. So what is replacing them?
- B. Comments regarding Children’s System of Care: Shortage of children’s beds.
1. Comment (Dave Moore, Department Head for Inspira): There is a shortage of children’s beds, especially in critical times of the year. Dave offered to support a new Certificate of Need (CN) on this issue. Darlema asks him to join the Advocacy Committee. David Moore strongly advocates for a new CN.
- C. Eve Ellsworth (NJ MHANJ)
1. Clearinghouse/database of hundreds of support groups
  2. Lots of work with WRAP. The provider population targeted WRAP groups to the community. <http://www.Njgroups.org>

**V. Adjournment** Darlema Bey

- A. Upcoming Presentations
1. Anne Smullen Thieling & Heather Simms, CSP NJ (February 9, 2022)
  2. State Budget Briefing (Morris Friedman, March 9, 2022)
  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, February 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 #

**Subcommittee Meetings**

9:00	None
12:00	None