

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

June 8, 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)
Joseph Gutstein Connie Greene Michael Ippolitti Krista Connelly
Barbara Johnston John Tkacz Suzanne Smith Donna Migliorino
Julia Barugel Michele Madiou Tracey Maksel Mary Abrahms
Tonia Ahern

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Jonathan Sabin Mark Kruszczyński Suzanne Borys Wyndee Davis

Guests:

Herb Kaldany Kurt Baker Matthew George Rachel Morgan

Minutes:

I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Phil Lubitz)

- A. Attendance, 22/39, 56% attendance, quorum reached
- B. Minutes of May 2022 General Meeting approved unanimously.
- C. Reorganization:
 - 1. Retirement of P. Lubitz from NJ BHPC, effective 6/30/22
 - 2. Installation of D. Bey at Chair of Council. According to the By-laws, the acting Vice President will serve until next elections.
 - 3. Elections in January 2023 for Chair and Vice-Chair

II. Recognition of Service of Phil Lubitz Valerie Mielke (Asst. Commissioner, DMHAS)

- A. Sincere appreciation of Mr. Phil Lubitz as a person and a professional.
 - 1. Since the 1980's when VM and PL began working together.
 - 2. Consistent commitments to the people we serve.
 - 3. Those we/Phil serves aren't simply the direct recipients of care, but their families and loved ones as well.
- B. Phil's recognition of the experiences and concerned of service recipients loved ones.
- C. One word that describes Phil: www.menti.com 56826998

7. Q&A (mental health)
 - a. Q: What is level of MH practioner who meets with isolated prisoners. A: APNs and licensed practitioners.
 - b. Q: RTU, is it at the prison? A: Yes, there are four state prisons with RTUs.
 - c. Q: 67% of prisoners on roster are female, why is that? A: It may be that women might be more likely to seek treatment, but no conclusive studies have been conducted yet. A: (Herb K): That ratio hasn't changed over the years. Women are more social, and although the men have been approached, but many men seem less willing to seek/acknowledge need for help. Interesting trend that women who are incarcerated for the first time, tend to be older than men incarcerated for the first time.

8. Addiction Services: UCHC provides services while prisoners are incarcerated, and UBHC provides services after prisoners are released.
 - a. Accessing treatment.
 - b. Medications
 - c. Licensed SUD Treatment (Gateway)
 - d. Psycho-education (Stacked Deck (gambling), AA/NA/GA, and "Engaging the Family")

9. Services on Release
 - a. Release coordination and discharge plan.
 - b. Intensive Recovery Treatment Support (IRTS), collaboration between NJ DoC and NJ DMHAS. Six month prior and 12 months post release.
 - c. Peer navigators and their desirability for expansion.

10. Q&A
 - a. Q: Peer navigators, are they paid? A: Yes they are paid for by UBHC via DMHAS. (HK) RUBHC does a great job at providing the curriculum and training. It's an 'amazing result' when a former prisoner can assist a current prisoner...we hope it can be expanded." (SB): Mandatory training as well as two credentials are offered through NJPN.
 - b. Q (Tonia A): Are there trauma-related services for males? A: (KC): I am advocating for this to be expanded.

IV. **NJ DoE Comprehensive Mental Health Guide** Dr. Maurice Ingram (NJ DoE)
 (See PowerPoint Presentation):

<https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/wellness/mh/>

The guide itself is at

https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/wellness/mh/docs/NJDOE_Mental_Health_Guide_Feb2022.pdf

NJ DOE MH Webinar series

<https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts/2022/may/11/NJDOEMentalHealthWebinarSeries.pdf>

A. MH resource guide purpose

- B. What does Guide include (11 chapters).
- C. MH Resource Guide, Key Features (three tiers)
- D. Determine teams to support implementation.
- E. Best ways to use the guide (based on the reader’s reading style).
- F. Funding the implementation of the guide- strategies: Braid funding, data based, community partnerships.
- G. Resources and Supports
- H. Q&A
 - 1. Q: (TA) To what extent are we tracking the extent to which schools are using the guide?
 - 2. Q: (JB): Importance of CIACCs and educational partnerships. A: (DP) Importance of making schools aware.
 - 3. Q: (MK) Desirability of sharing this information with NJ School Boards Association Annual Meeting in Atlantic City in October 2022.

IV. BHPC Subcommittees

- A. Advocacy (J. Barugel)
 - 1. Met at 9:00 am earlier today (6/8/22).
 - 2. Current topic is youth in emergency rooms and enormous wait times.
 - a. Small Number of Specialized beds.
 - 3. No apparent centralized “ownership” of the “throughput” of kids going through acute system of care, and connected to the larger children system of care.
 - 4. Anecdotal increase in suicidal ideation among children and adolescents.
 - 5. Letter to ask Assistant Commissioners to work on an interdepartmental level to correct this.
 - a. Goal is to work on the letter offline and then complete the draft letter (and then have it reviewed at the July General Meeting)
 - 6. Next meeting, 7/13/22, 9:00 am.

V. System Partner Updates, Chairs of Subcommittees

- A. Division of Developmental Disabilities (J. Sabin)
 - 1. In accordance with P.L. 2021, Chapter 292, the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) has released an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) for Licensed Providers of Services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Link - <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/providers/eprp/index.shtml>
 - 2. The MOM2MOM NJ help line has been expanded and is now available to provide help and support to caregivers of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The service connects moms, and other caregivers, of persons with special needs to moms of a similar circumstance. The helpline can be reached at 1-833-NJ-ADULT (1-833-652-3858) daily from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - 3. In 2021, DDD released a Request for Proposals for **Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes (BHSB)**. The homes will offer stabilization for persons with I/DD who are experiencing significant behaviors or behavior crises. The homes will not replace in-patient hospitalization when medically indicated, but

will help prevent hospitalization for some and will help provide a hospital discharge (i.e., step-down) option to a safe and professional environment for others. Three homes are in development. One home will be located in northern, one in central, and one in southern New Jersey, serving four persons in each location. The treatment team assigned to the homes will consist of a Board Certified Psychiatrist, Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Registered Nurse (RN) and Transition Navigator, who will bring a person-centered, trauma-informed approach to service delivery. The contract for these homes has been awarded to YAI, Inc., a nonprofit provider that has been providing services for people with I/DD and their families for more than 35 years.

4. The proposed FY23 DHS budget has another 1.25 an hour DSP and Supervisor Wage Increase.

A. Office on Aging (P. Matthews)

1. New Jersey Partners: Aging Mental Health and Substance Abuse Inc. In May of 2022 the NJ Partners Board of Directors met and voted to dissolve the NJ Partners as a non-profit corporation. The reasons for this include 1) rapidly changing protocols for in-person training related to COVID-19 and 2) lack of NJ Partners infrastructure to support ongoing education and networking. New Jersey Advocates for Aging Well (NJAAW), formerly NJ Foundation for Aging, will be carrying on the NJ Partners tradition of training and networking opportunities surrounding the intersection of aging, mental health and substance use. A representative from New Jersey Advocates for Aging Well (NJAAW) should be invited to be a member of this board.
2. The Administration on Community Living is in the process of updating the federal regulations for the Older American's Act. Further information about this will be provided later, related to listening sessions, requests for information etc.

B. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (J. Tkacz)

1. Once a year, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) and the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) host public forums to provide information on available services for individuals with disabilities and receive input from the community. This year, you can choose to join us virtually on either July 12th or July 21st.
2. The public forum registration is now open from June 1st to July 1st.
3. To attend these forums please click on the link below and register. The forums will be virtual so you must register to attend.
<https://www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/special-services/individuals-with-disabilities/2022publicforums.shtml>
4. Topics will include:
 - a. Obtaining vocational services following a public health emergency
 - b. Pros and cons of receiving virtual services
 - c. Challenges of finding and keeping jobs during these difficult times
 - d. Coordination and provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

- e. Service provision to individuals who have high support needs

VI. Open Public Comment and Announcements Phil Lubitz

- A. 988 Bill (Mary Abrams)
 - 1. There was going to be a fee, but that was taken out.
 - 2. Additional state and federal funding to be added.
 - 3. Not much known yet from the legislative planning committee.
- B. Thank you from Phil Lubitz on all system partners on the Planning Council.

VII. Adjournment Phil Lubitz

- A. Meeting adjourned, 11:40 am.
- B. Future Agenda Items
 - 1. TBD
 - 2. TBD
- C. Next General Meeting July 13, 2022, 10:00 am
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. Subcommittee meetings on 7/13/22
 - a. 9:00 Advocacy
 - b. 12:00 TBA