

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

March 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 (<i>Chair</i>) | Darlema Bey (Vice Chair) | Winifred Chain | Krista Connelly |
| Robin Weiss | Heather Simms | Damian Petino | Connie Greene |
| Barbara Johnston | Patricia Matthews | John Tkacz | Suzanne Smith |
| Julia Barugel | Michele Madiou | Donna Migliorino | Michael Ippoliti |
| Laura Richter (alt.) | Debra Wentz | | |

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Valerie Mielke | Morris Friedman | Mark Kruszczyński | Jonathan Sabin |
| Shenal Pugh | | | |

Guests:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Nina Smukuluvaskey | Rachel Morgan | Wendy Rodgers | Kiersten Roseto |
| Anne Smullen-Thieling | Mary Abrams | Bernadette Moore | |

Minutes:

I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Phil Lubitz)

- Review of Previous Meeting Minutes
- A. Attendance, 18/39, 46.1% attendance, quorum reached
- B. Minutes of February Approved

II. 988 Overview (Valerie Mielke, Assistant Commissioner, DMHAS)

- A. See PowerPoint
 - 1. 988 provides ability for “someone to call, to have someone to come [respond to the caller] and somewhere [for the caller] to go, 24/7, 365 days
 - 2. 988 Planning Grant from Vibrant Emotional Health
 - 3. NJ has five lifeline member centers
 - a. Caring Contacts
 - b. Contact of Burlington County
 - c. R-UBHC (contracted to respond to calls 24/7)
 - d. Contact of Mercer County
 - e. Mental Health Association in New Jersey (MHANJ)

4. Develop clear roadmaps: Expanding call capacity, adding statewide capacity for texts and chats, 988 network funding, communication with stakeholders and 988 network.
5. Landscape analysis of Lifeline Member Centers.
6. Monthly 988 Stakeholder Coalition Group
7. Inter-state consultation to identify and implement best practices.
8. Call centers will have process to screen and triage callers to direct them to most appropriate services, and follow-up calls.
9. Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services
10. Exploring development for statewide mobile outreach for callers when there is not a known need for law enforcement involvement.
11. Early Intervention Support Services (EISS) currently in 11 counties, but expected to expand statewide in late summer 2022.
12. Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Centers - Up to 24 hour stop-in/walk-in, (but no overnight residency).
13. Community based residential crisis diversion beds.
14. 988 Key Stakeholder Coalition Membership: incl. Consumers, State govt, Law Enforcement,
15. MaryJeanWeston@dhs.nj.gov, Allison.kuszninov@dhs.nj.gov

B. Questions and Answers

1. Q: Other states implementing the 988 network? A: The National Suicide Lifeline is what is existing across the country. However 988 rolls out nation-wide later in July 2022, however individual state's responses may vary.
2. Optimistic about federal funding for crisis services.
3. Comment, Certified Community Behavioral Health Homes (CCBHCs).
4. Q: Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Centers A: Will have prescribers, nurses, individuals with lived experience, social workers, consumers have 24 hour visit availability; they are not a substitute for emergency departments.
5. Q: Where is the \$13M coming from? A: State appropriations [NJ State Budget], and from feds \$500k MH supplemental and \$500 SU supplemental.
6. Q: Medicaid revenue and outreach? A: No in-depth analysis conducted yet, but discussions are ongoing.

III. NJ State Budget Overview (Morris Friedman, CFO, DMHAS)

A. SFY2022 State Budget

1. Growth
 - a. \$27M of State funding that will allow us to increase contract reimbursement ceilings and increase FFS rates (DMHAS and Medicaid) to providers. There is an estimated \$12 million additional federal impact in Medicaid.
 - b. \$12.9M for implementation of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Helpline;
 - c. \$3.9M to annualize the costs of SFY22 Olmstead Placements
 - d. \$1.9 M in State Aid to the four county psychiatric hospitals, reflecting higher per diem rates
 - e. \$1.5M for the SUD Grants-in-Aid to replace some of the funds previously transferred to DMHAS from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction (DEDR) Fund

- f. \$1.2M for increased rates to providers of diversion beds for the uninsured.
 - g. \$400k to bolster staffing at DMHAS
 - f. \$150k “New Beginnings” Behavioral Health; more information to come.
2. Reduction
 - a. \$5M community care, reflecting historical underspending.
 3. Q&A
 - a. Q: How might the \$27M increase to contract ceilings and FFS rates impact increased wages for direct care workers? A: The Division is working to operationalize this increase with specific adjustments to each cost reimbursement contract and each FFS rate. The increased revenues to providers will be able to be leveraged as they deem necessary to meet the increasing costs for direct care workers.

IV. System Partner Updates

Chairs of Subcommittees

- A. Children Systems of Care (Nick Pecht)
 1. Nothing to report.
 2. 1. Children’s Partial Care, Psych Assessment and Outpatient rate increases (M. Abrams)
 - a. Psychiatric assessment rate disparity between adults and children, the new state budget looks to correct this.
- B. Department of Education (Damian Petino)
 1. Comprehensive Mental Health Guide
<https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/wellness/mh/index.shtml>
 it will be revised shortly.
 2. Office of Student Support Services is supporting Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) Day:
<https://www.njsba.org/news-publications/school-board-notes/january-25-2022-vol-xlv-no-23/schools-invited-to-participate-in-sel-day-2022/> and
<https://sel4nj.org/events/our/>
- C. Division of Senior Services (Patricia Matthews) - Nothing to report
- D. Department of Corrections (Krista Connelly)
 1. Release of about 850 prisoners on 3/13/22
 2. Edna Mahan Correctional Facility
 - a. Public hearing was recently convened, and it will be soon posted on the DOC website.
 - b. Consultant hired to consider new site for women’s correctional facility.
 - c. New advisory board formed.
 3. Follow-up on people who are going to be released are then re-incarcerated into county jails
- E. Division of Developmental Disabilities (J. Sabin)
 1. New Office of Education on Self-Directed Services

- a. The Office will provide education and training on this important topic to assist DDD consumers make informed choices.
 - b. Anyone seeking additional information regarding this new Office is invited to visit its website at can be found <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/individuals/community/education/>.
2. Direct Service Professional (DSP) Competency and Capacity Building Steering Committee – This new, time-limited stakeholder committee will be charged with the review and adoption of a core set of competencies based on nationally recognized competency and skill sets. This will aid in the development of a training framework which will include mandatory pre-service training, initial onboarding training; ongoing professional development.
 3. Updated Support Coordinator Return to Field Guidance
 - a. The requirement for face-to-face visits by Support Coordinators (SCs) was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - b. This is a reminder that face-to-face visits for Support Coordinators are to resume starting in March 2022 as outlined in Support Coordinator Field Visits.
 4. Reminder - Executive Order 283
 - a. On January 19, 2022, Executive Order No. 283 went into effect requiring covered workers at health care facilities and high-risk congregate settings to be up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination, including booster dose.
 - b. Staff in Licensed Residential and Certified Day settings are required to comply with Executive Order No. 283, Executive Order 252 and Executive Directive No. 21-011.
 - c. This requires them to be at least two weeks past having completed their primary vaccine series and up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations (including booster).
 - d. Daily screening for COVID-19, as well as masking requirements, remain in place.

F. NJ State Medicaid

1. Peer recovery specialists in ER rooms and hospitals for NARCAN-reversed patients, billings will be retroactive to 2019 (reported by Connie Greene)

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

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

V. Open Public Comment and Announcements

Phil Lubitz

VI. Adjournment

Phil Lubitz

- A. Meeting adjourned, 11:43 am.
- B. Future Agenda Items
 1. CSOC Budget Outlook
 2. NJ DoE Comprehensive Mental Health Guide (Maurice Ingram)
- C. Next General Meeting April 13, 2022

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Or call in (audio only)

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1. Subcommittee meetings on 4/13/22
 - a. 9:00 **Membership**
 - b. 12:00 **Advocacy**

