

# NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

## Minutes

May 11, 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	Tracey Maksel	
Tonia Ahern	Robert DePlatt	Donna Migliorino	

### DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Jonathan Sabin	Francis Scott Sarno	Elizabeth Conte
Mark Kruszczyński	Suzanne Borys	

### Guests:

Matthew Weber	Veronica Armour	Kurt Baker	Rachel Morgan
---------------	-----------------	------------	---------------

### Minutes:

#### **I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Phil Lubitz)**

- A. Attendance, 18/39, 46% attendance, quorum reached
- B. Minutes of April 2022 General Meeting approved unanimously.
- C. Welcome to Mental Health Month (May 2022)

#### **II. An Overview of Data Trends at the NJ Children's System of Care (CSOC)**

Nicholas Pecht

- A. Overview
  1. Pre-pandemic data
  2. SFY22 data.
- B. See slides shared by Mr. Pecht
- C. Q&A
  1. Q: Economic factors and trends. A; Economic variation was not explored in this presentation but it is a factor worth considering.
  2. Q: (JB) What's the plan? First Step is Diversion. System is overwhelmed. Hiring is very difficult. A: CSOC leadership is constantly planning and information will be released as it becomes available. A necessary first step is to look at the data. Comment [JB]: It would be helpful to have a plan to have CSOC address next steps.

3. Q: (PL) Is there any data on waiting time for services? Is there data on waiting time for out of home placement? A: The response depends on the type of service involved.
4. Q: One of the slides indicated that the youth of color numbers are disproportionately placed in out of home. You made the point during your presentation. Is there any recommendations on how to address this?
5. Q: Can you provide information on the criteria used to remove a child from the home? A: You enter out of home treatment after CMO services are involved and all in-home treatment options have been expended.
6. Q: (Dave M, NJHA): We are all pretty concerned. CMO of children has been one of the most improved sections—it is better than it used to be. My fear/question with huge delays in acute placement (kids waiting for days sometimes), when these acute programming placements are scarce, then the acuity gets pushed into the community (and puts our children in danger). There should be increased in all acute pediatric mental health services. BH pediatrics have the longest wait time in emergency rooms, or all populations and specialties.  
A: Wait times, the longer anyone has to wait for treatment, that is not good. We have an extensive service array; the wraparound approach is geared to maintain the child in the home.

### III. **Project ASPEN: A Research-Based Portal for Information about Adolescent Depression Screening** Dr. Matthew Weber, Veronica Armour (R-UBHC). See PowerPoint

- A. Ecosystem analysis, examination of policy and implementation.
- B. Multiyear program looking at the issue from multiple perspectives.
- C. Tracking how policy makers are interacting with available information.
- D. NAMI NJ will build this information to advocate for bridging gaps between research and policy.
- E. Project Aspect portal ([Project ASPEN – Active Surveillance of Policy Ecosystems and Networks \(rutgers.edu\)](#)), recently released- based on over two years, studying school psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, social workers, and review of national and state resources
- F. 105 national resources identified. [Resources – Project ASPEN \(rutgers.edu\)](#)
- G. Policy briefs: 1. Call to action on adolescence depression? 2. Identifying at-risk students Exploring barriers and facilitators of implementation 3. Adolescent depression screening instruments.
- H. Q&A
  1. Q: New Jersey Resources List: [Resources – Project ASPEN \(rutgers.edu\)](#)
  2. Q: Parent Survey: Where did you find these parents? A: Data was collected from national survey company (parents of adolescents 12-18) and the RU Eagleton Institute.
  3. Q: Would ASPEN be able to share the work with CIACCs and other groups?  
A: Yes!

### IV. **BHPC Subcommittees**

- A Membership (P.Lubitz)

1. Met in April and today. Three members of the council will be leaving the formal membership of Council due to non-participation, and one member of the Citizen's Advisory Board will not be recommended for re-appointment. Letters will be sent out on week of 5/16/22.
2. 35 members is the ideal number of members
3. Additional attention will be given to families/caregivers of children served by the Children's System of Care.
4. Membership must be enhanced to more fully represent the ethnic and cultural diversity of New Jersey.
5. Statewide CIACC will be creating a Statewide Leadership Academy. Perhaps I link to the BHPCs website can be given to them.

B. Advocacy (J. Barugel)

1. Meets at 12:00 noon today.
2. Current topic is youth in emergency rooms and enormous wait times.

**V. System Partner Updates, Chairs of Subcommittees**

A. Department of Corrections (Krista Connelly)

1. DoC has been trying to digitalize medication administration records. E-MAR system will be up and running to improve medication record keeping.
2. Federal Monitor Jane Parnell, for Edna Mahan Women's Correctional Facility has been named. Her first report is forthcoming.

B. Division of Developmental Disabilities (J. Sabin)

1. Employee Onboarding - The Department of Human Services (DHS) will provide expedited approval of emergency hiring requests through July 1, 2022. This includes Self-Directed Employees (SDEs). For more detail please reach out to [DHS.ECCU@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DHS.ECCU@dhs.nj.gov).
2. Additionally, the CDC has updated its Use and Care of Masks guidance. This new guidance has been adopted by DDD. Day and/or residential providers may elect to follow this policy, or require a more restrictive policy, based on the population being served in a specific location. In no circumstance shall an alternate policy be less restrictive than the parameters outlined in the Residential and Day Screening Policy.

B. Office on Aging (P. Matthews)

1. State Strategic Plan on Aging October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2025 has been approved by the Administration on Community Living and is posted on our website <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/doas/documents/New%20Jersey%20State%20Plan%20on%20Aging%20with%20IFF%20Placeholder%2012.9.21.pdf>

C. Juvenile Justice Commission (Francis Walker)

1. New reform policy to be soon announced.

C. Department of Education (Damian Petino)

1. May 9, 2022, see: <https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts/2022/may/9/RemindersNewJerseyDepartmentofHealthK12Guidance.pdf>
2. June 8, 2022, Maurice Ingram will present to the NJBHPC

- F. NJ FamilyCare (NJ Medicaid)
  - 1. Feb 2022, 1115 Waiver, five year, current demonstration period ends June 30, 2022. State wants to continue current demonstration elements but add new programs and services.
  - 2. P. Lubitz has requested an update/presentation.

**VI. Open Public Comment and Announcements Phil Lubitz**

- A. 5/9/22 NYT Article of children with behavioral health boarded in hospital emergency rooms: [Hundreds of Suicidal Teens Sleep in Emergency Rooms. Every Night. - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/09/us/politics/children-behavioral-health-emergency-rooms.html)
- B. Agency Updates
  - 1. CSP NJ (H. Simms)
    - a. Virtual Job fair 5/18/22

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88236918471?pwd=QWZjWkNMMjFOTFpIZkUrLzlNNIRvdz09>  
Meeting ID: 882 3691 8471, Passcode: 630799

- C. Burlington County Stigma-Free initiatives.
- D. June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be Phil Lubitz's last meeting as Chairman of the BHPC.
  - 1. Darlema will be acting chair beginning in July 2022. Bylaws indicate elections in an odd year (2023)

**VII. Adjournment Phil Lubitz**

- A. Meeting adjourned, 11:40 am.
- B. Future Agenda Items
  - 1. NJ DoE Comprehensive Mental Health Guide (Maurice Ingram), 6/8/22
  - 2. NJ DoC Presentation (K. Connelly), 6/8/22.
- C. Next General Meeting June 8, 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](tel:+16093007196),306216820#

- 1. Subcommittee meetings on 6/8/22
  - a. 9:00 Advocacy
  - b. 12:00 n/a