

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
Minutes
September 14, 2022, 10:00 am

This meeting was conducted exclusively through MS Teams video teleconference & conference call

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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 (Chair)	Harry Coe	John Tkacz	Amanda Kolacy
Joseph Gutstein	Damian Petino	Julia Barugel	Krista Connelly
Debra Wentz	Suzanne Smith	Donna Migliorino	Michelle Madiou
Laura Richter	Winifred Chain	Patricia Matthews	Francis Walker
Robin Weiss	Irina Stuchinsky		

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:

Mark Kruszczyński	Suzanne Borys	Nadina Cryan	Andrea Connor
Maryjean Weston	Nich Pecht	Yunqing Li	
Richard Campanelli			

Guests:

Kurt Baker	Lauren Debeka	Robert DePlatt	Maurice Ingram
Rachel Morgan			

Minutes

I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Darlema Bey)

- A. Attendance, 17/34, 50% attendance, quorum reached
- B. Minutes of July 2022 General Meeting Approved (with minor edits)
- C. Correspondence
 - 1. The Planning Council's letter regarding advocacy on the issue of reducing wait times for children in emergency department for acute mental health services was transmitted to Assistant Commissioners at DMHAS, DoH and DCF. A meeting with Chairwoman Bey, and relevant State Officials will be scheduled.

II. 988 Update (Asst. Commissioner Valerie Mielke and Dr. Dara Kass US Dept of Health and Human Services/ IEA)

- A. 988: Background
 - 1. 7/16/22, national transition to 988 Crisis & Suicide Lifeline (formerly known as National Suicide Prevention Lifeline)
 - 2. 45% increase in call volume in August 2022 relative to August 2021.
 - 3. Dr. Kass has been on the forefront with DMHAS regarding the transition to 988.
 - 4. Annually 152,000 more calls than in the previous year

5. Response times improved from 2.5 minutes to 45 seconds
6. In NJ there are five call centers.
7. In August 5,319 calls received from NJ, 4,000 were answered within NJ. This is 41% increase from 2022, our answer rate not changed dramatically.
8. State funding increases (to support call volume), in 2023 those additional funds will strengthen our ability to respond to callers better.

B. Dr Dara Kass's Comments (Dara.Kass@hhs.gov)

1. Impressive breadth of opportunity.
2. Every call answered is a potential life-saver.
3. HHS looks forward to partnering with NJ/DMHAS on 988.

C. Mary Jean Weston's Comments

1. The transition to 988 was not an overhaul of the crisis response system, we have increased the capacity of current centers to handle more volume.
2. We look forward to expanding capacity to ideally handle 100% of the calls originating in-state.

D. Q&A

1. Q: Is 988 a national hotline? A: Yes. When someone calls 988 the call goes to a centralized location, and then gets transferred to the area code of the call.
2. Q: Next steps of 988, sending resources out "on the ground" (e.g. Mobile Crisis Response). A: We are looking at ways to create opportunities and strengthen our agencies abilities to recruit and retain staff.
3. Q: People are afraid to call 988 because there is a perception that Law Enforcement will be called. A: [Dr. Kass]: There is a concern/misinformation that law enforcement will be dispatched to 988 callers. 988 is not a dispatch center. We have been working hard about dispelling misinformation. 988 is not a dispatch service to police. Law enforcement has been involved without consent in less than 1% of the contacts.
4. Q: Places to Go? A: We have federal funds from US HHS to eventually develop and roll out Crisis receiving and stabilization centers, 24/7. Adults will be served who are in mental health and/or substance use crisis. In NJ there is Early Intervention and Support Services (EISS) in 11 counties, and awards have been issued to the final ten counties-whom are in the last stages of bringing those services online. Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs), seven facilities serve adults and children with a myriad of services for those with MH and substance use disorders. Open seven days a week.
5. Q: CCBHCs: will there be follow-ups for consumers? Will they be assigned nurse practitioners? A: With CCBHCs they continue to serve and follow-up if that individual is interested in receiving services. It is a long term service, that provides case mgmt., employment assistance.

Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Centers (CRSCs). Consumers should get follow-up within 24-72 hours.

6. Q: Qualifications of individuals staffing call-lines. A: Some staff are volunteers some are paid. Training is mandatory for all call center staff. Each center has its own, long, in-depth training programs for their individual teams. Within NJ all of the call centers have been in business for 10-15 years. Some centers use the “ASSIST” training program, which is a nationally recognized training program. The Lifeline System has mandatory trainings that will be rolled out for all staff this autumn. Three levels of training: From Vibrant, Training from each call center and training from DMHAS. There is a plan for trained peer counsellors in Mobile Crisis Response and Crisis Stabilization Receiving Centers.
7. Q: What is the projected timeframe for those crisis receiving stabilization centers to start up? A: We do not have a time established but we anticipate within the next year.
8. Q: Will there be 988 updates available online/ YouTube? A: The plan is to do a monthly 988 update. It should be online and available. MK will send the links once they are available.
9. Q: Crisis Stabilization Centers: A: RFP to be sent within 6-10 months.

E. Online (promotional) Resources about 988 are available in DMHAS Toolbox ([Department of Human Services | 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline \(state.nj.us\)](#)) and from SAMHSA ([988 Partner Toolkit | SAMHSA](#)).

II. Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) Fiscal Tables

Nadina Cryan, Richard Campanelli

- A. SABG Mini Application (See screenshots shared with Council)
 1. \$48.4 M FFY 2022, we assume that we will get similar amount in FFY 23
 - a. We exceed primary prevention amount (20%, \$11.8M), this is a good thing. The remainder will be spent on prevention and treatment
 - b. Underspending of administrative costs.
 - c. \$2.8M expenditures of supplemental award.
 - d. American Rescue Plan (ARP) \$1.6M goes through 9/30/25
 - e. See table 5 of SABG
 2. Q&A: None

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IV. System Partner Updates Darlema Bey

- A. DMHAS (Donna Migliorino)
 1. Application made for no-cost extension for Covid-19 supplemental funds. The federal review process is ongoing and the outcome is not yet determined. The extension would carry the dollars to March 2024.
- B. Children’s System of Care (Nick Pecht)
 1. The DREAMS initiative from last school year will return for the 2022/2023 school year. This initiative, provided through the

collaboration of the DOE and DCF, brings the Nurtured Heart Approach to schools through a variety of methods, including training and mentoring, and also includes efforts to ensure the sustainability of this program by identifying champions of the program and by training school staff to be able to train their colleagues.

2. The first year of the DREAMS initiative served 50 schools districts and 134 schools. To prepare for the second year of this program, we hosted two kick-off orientation presentations in August, which were open to all schools in New Jersey. This was an opportunity for them to learn about the initiative, including expectations, responsibilities, and resources to be provided. Over 300 school staff participated in these introductory meetings. Schools must submit a letter of intent by September 23rd to participate in this school years' DREAMS initiative. We will aim to select at least 40 school districts or schools. Thank you.
For more information reach out to: SafeSupportiveSchools@doe.nj.gov

C. Department of Education (Damian More, Maurice Ingram)

1. Autism Specialist at DoE to help parents and students with autism to provide training and resources. A “community of practice” is being established. See <https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts/2022/aug/31/CommunityofPracticeforTeachersandProfessionalsofStudentswithAutism.pdf>
2. Promotion of online portal for state School Climate survey.
3. DoE office of Special Education, new website: <https://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/>

D. Juvenile Justice Commission (F. Walker)

1. Covid-19 testing is ongoing.
2. Online Tutoring services for juveniles in higher education.

E. Dept of Corrections (K. Connelly)

1. NJDOC is hosting a virtual public meeting on updates regarding Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women this Friday, 9/16/22
Link to submit questions prior to the meeting: <https://bit.ly/EMCFsubmit>
Link for meeting: <https://bit.ly/EMCFzoom>
Meeting ID: 870 0572 7765 Passcode: 123

F. NJAMHAA (D. Wentz)

1. Fall Conference “Opportunity Meets Innovation: Behavioral Health Today and Tomorrow” 9/22/22 (<https://njamhaa.org/frame-5880>)
 - a. Featured Speakers include: Beth Connelley, and D. Michael Hodge, Annapolis Coalition on Workforce
 - b. Awards Ceremony 12:00, Governor Murphy and Commissioner Adelman will be recognized.
2. Spring Conference April 25 – 26, 2023, Edison Pines
3. New Jersey Governor’s Council on Mental Health Stigma’s Media Roundtable (October 3, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
 - a. This is a virtual event. To participate, please register at the following website:

