

# NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

## Minutes

August 14, 10:00 am

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

Microsoft Teams meeting

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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)	Connie.Greene (Vice Chair)	Michael Ippoliti	Shenal Pugh
Ann Marie Flory	Jennifer Rutberg	Francis Walker	Julia Barugel
Amanda Kolacy	Heather Simms	Donna Migliorino	Jonathan Sabin
Julia Barugel	David Moore	Krista Connelly	

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

Nicholas Pecht	Brittany Thorne	Helen Staton
Mark Kruszczyński	Mike Colston	Suzanne Borys

### Guests:

Kurt Baker	Nancy Edouard	Nina Smuklasky	Joe Cuffari
Eric McIntyre	Mike Marmota	Elena Kravitz	Cristine Chickadel

### **I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Darlema Bey)**

- A. Attendance, 15/35, 42.8% attendance, quorum exceeded.
- B. Minutes of July 2023 General Meeting Approved

### **II. Community Mental Health Block Grant Overview, Priority Indicators Substance Use Block Grant, and Children's System of Care**

- A. Adult Mental Health
  - 1. Review of WebBGAS login. <https://bgas.samhsa.gov/> Username: citizennj, Password: citizen
  - 2. Review of Sections
  - 3. Review of Step 2: Additional Unmet Service Needs and Gaps FY24-25.
    - a. Possible respite wraparound services (H. Simms)
    - b. Outpatient restoration program for incarcerated populations (Ann Marie Flory, NJ DoH). DMM: Discussed possible technical assistance opportunity for this that her and Chris Morrison discussed this last week.

- B. Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grant/ Substance Use Prevention Treatment & Recovery Supports (SUPTRS). Suzanne Borys
  - 1. Indicators: All Step 2 Sections are in review with DMHAS Executive Management.
  - 2. Environmental Factors, 11 Criteria
  - 3. Treatment needs for alcoholism exceeded needs for heroin abuse.
  - 4. Extensive gaps and needs sections (individuals with SUD).
  - 5. Use of data
- C. Children’s System of Care (N. Pecht)
  - 1.
  - 2. Planning Step 2: Unmet Needs
    - a. Integration of primary & mental health care
    - b. Workforce challenges
    - c. Need to expands service array to include youth under age of 5
  - 3. Planning Step 3 Priority areas
    - a. Primary & MH Integration
    - b. ARC model
    - c. 0-5 Helping Infants to Thrive program.

**III. NJ ABLE Accounts (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Cristine Chickadel, NJ DVRS**  
 (Presentation shared with Planning Council prior to meeting in in PowerPoint During meeting)

- A. Law passed in NJ 2016
- B. NJ Part of NJ ABLE Alliance
- C. NJ DVRS is to be a one location for consumers to get resources they need.
- D. NJ ABLE Accounts do not get factored into Medicaid Means Testing
- E. Eligibility
  - 1. Disability present before age 26 (but in 2026 that onset age will be raised to 46)
  - 2. Must be eligible for SSI, or blind, or have a similarly severe disability with written diagnosis from licensed physician.
- F. Use of Funds: Qualified disability expenses, incurred a result of living with a disability and is intended to improve the quality of life.
  - 1. Education, health and wellness, housing, transportation, legal fees, financial management, employment training and technology, personal support devices oversight and monitoring, funeral and burial expenses.
- G. Special Tax Advantages
  - 1. Earnings may compound federally, tax deferred
- H. ABLE Accounts have no impact on consumers current benefits.
  - 1. SSI: balances of \$100k or less are excluded from SSI resource limit
  - 2. Medicaid: ABLE resource are disregarded. NJ ABLE is subject to “Medicaid Payback” provision.
- I. ABLE Facts
  - 1. Beneficiary is account owner/the person with the disability
  - 2. Can open an account in any states that allows outside residents (49, including Washington DC)
- J. User Friendly!
- K. Additional Contributions Above \$17k “ABLE to work act”.
- L. How to enroll?
  - 1. 1.888.609.8869
  - 2. [SavewithABLE.com](http://SavewithABLE.com)

- M. FAQs
  - 1. Who can open? Individuals with disabilities and caregivers
  - 2. ABLE savings do not affect HUD subsidies
  - 3. Advantages of NJ ABLE Account, verses Special Needs Trust/Pooled Income Trust fund/
- N. Statements from ABLE Account Holder
- O. Able Resources
  - 1. [WWW.Ablenrc.org](http://WWW.Ablenrc.org)
  - 2. [www.abletoday.org](http://www.abletoday.org)
- P. Q&A
  - 1. Q: When will age limit increase from 26 to 46? A: in 2026.

**IV. System Partner Updates Dept of Education (M. Ingram):**

- A. Children’s System of Care (Nick Pecht)
  - 1. Zero to Five: Helping Children Thrive initiative
    - a. DCF has goal for NJ residents be safe, healthy, and connected, CSOC has engaged in the, which has three major objectives:
      - i. staff development among our MRSS and IIC partners to ensure we have a high-quality and competent workforce able to deliver developmentally appropriate interventions;
      - ii. enhancing our integrated system of care for families of infants and young children, through collaboration with our partners; and
      - iii. increasing our support for families by introducing them to parent-child interventions that promote the understanding of child development and well-being, as well as caregiver capacity.
    - b. Staff development is ongoing: we have been focusing on workforce development before we roll out anything specific to serving youth ages 0-5 to ensure our partners are prepared and have the capacity to work with this population. Our partners at Montclair State University are continuing their efforts by launching the next round of trainings, including “Reflective Supervision/Consultation,” and the “Clinical Practice Series in IECHM,” this September.
    - c. At the system level, a Mobile Practice Workgroup was convened and identified functions that may need to be adjusted or adapted to better support the 0-5 population; the Birth to Five Steering Committee will use these recommendations to inform next steps and to develop specific strategies or efforts to enhance cross-system collaboration in the field of infant mental health.
    - d. This exciting initiative, though still in the learning phase and not yet implemented for service delivery, will enhance our system of care by providing families not only with the tools they need thrive, but also to hopefully avoid more costly downstream interventions.
- B. Inspira (David Moore)
  - 1. Police Mental Health initiative to start in the fall of 2023.
  - 2. Hospital based violence intervention program to be starting.
  - 3. Diagnostic center in Woodbury, NJ to be opening up soon to support families in south Jersey dealing with autism.
- C. DDD (Jonathan Sabin):

1. As part of the FY24 Budget, certain Fee-For-Service rates are increasing. The required Public Notice and impacted Rates were published on June 30, 2023. The new rates were implemented on July 8, 2023 via iRecord. For more information (including information on claiming and new Up-To Budget amounts) please review the following:  
[https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/documents/FY24\\_Rate\\_Increase.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/documents/FY24_Rate_Increase.pdf)
2. The Division of Developmental Disabilities has updated the policy and procedure manuals for our Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs, the Community Care Program and Supports Program. You will find a summary of changes on page two of each manual (Community Care Program Policy Manual - <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/community-care-program-policy-manual.pdf>) (Supports Program Policy Manual - <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/supports-program-policy-manual.pdf>), and a detailed overview will be provided at the next DDD Update Webinar on August 24 (Register Now).

D. Division of Aging (Jennifer Rutberg)

1. Not presentation available

E. Division of Juvenile Justice Commission (Francis Walker, Philomena DiNuzzo)

1. Not available

F. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). No presentation

G. Department of Corrections (K. Connelly)

1. Request for suggestions for locations for incarcerated populations to display their art.
2. Solicitation of interest on presentation of the criminal justice system
3. Link to Edna Mahan Correctional Facility Federal Monitor Reports:  
<https://www.state.nj.us/corrections/FederalMonitorReports/index.shtml>

**V. Open Public Comment and Announcements** Darlema Bey

A. Comments:

1. NJ DoE Schools Threat Assessment Protocols.

Announcements

1. RWJ/Barnabas: Recovery Month, August 31, 2023. Wear Purple in September.
2. DMHAS Suicide Prevention Conference in October 19, 2023.
3. NAMI Walk, Middlesex Community College

**VI. Adjournment** Darlema Bey

A. Next meeting: 9/9/23

B. Future Agenda Items

1. Fiscal Tables for Block Grant: September 2023, (Morris Friedman)
2. Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): (Connie Greene)
3. Steve Crimando (Disaster & Terrorism)
5. NJ Dept of Corrections: Criminal Justice System Overview, October 2023 (Krista Connelly)
6. NJ DoE Threat Assessment Protocols

- C. September 2023 Subcommittee Meetings
  - 9:30 Membership
  - 12:00 Advocacy