

# NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

## Minutes

November 8, 2023, 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)

Donna Migliorino

Heather Simms

John Tkacz

Joseph Gutstein

Suzanne Smith

Jennifer Rutberg

Tonia Ahern

Krista Connelly

Robin Weiss

Michael Ipploti

Filomena DiNuzzio

Julia Barugel

Winifred Chain

Rachel Morgan

Mary Abrams

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

Nick Pecht

Brielle Easton

Yunqing Li

Brittany Thorne

Mark Kruszczyński

Diviya

Helen Staton

Suzanne Borys

Amber Wu

### Guests:

Nancy Edouard

Nina Smuklawsky

Nancy Edouard

Leshema Edwards

Ellen Radis (AHP/SAMHSA)

Eric McIntyre

Morgan Thompson

Robert DePlatt

Diane Litterer

Kurt Baker

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

- A. Attendance, 16/35, 45.7% attendance, quorum exceeded.
- B. Minutes of October 2023 General Meeting Approved
- C. Introduction of Ann Denton and Ellen Radis (AHD/SAMHSA) Upcoming Technical Assistance (TA) from SAMHA/Advocates for Human Potential
  1. Review of issues including: Roles and Responsibilities, Creating a diverse membership, Meeting protocols, etc.

### **II. Prevention Hub Programs (SUD), Phillip Berlier, (DMHAS)**

- A. See PowerPoint presentation presented to the Council
- B. See: <https://www.njpreventionhub.org/>
- C. Q&A
  1. Q: Question about resources for children and adolescents.

2. Q: Question about policies for kids.
3. Comment: Suggestion for connection with Children's Inter-agency Coordinating Council (CIACC)
4. Q: Programs to reduce Isolation and Loneliness. A: Depends on each county. Transportation is something that is being worked on. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are able to be used.
5. Q: How do I find out efforts in my county? A: Go to <https://www.njpreventionhub.org/> for more information.
6. Q: Concern of kids intersecting with law enforcement (LE), harm reduction strategies? A: Yes, coordination and public education is vital.

### **III. ARRIVE Together program (Rachel Morgan)**

- A. Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation (ARRIVE) – Attorney General initiative through the Prosecutor's Office. Mental Health and Law Enforcement response team.
- B. Started in 2021 with Cumberland, Union, Hudson, Middlesex, and Essex as pilot counties
- C. In 2023, Ocean, Mercer, and Cape May counties. Other counties will follow. Burlington County is gearing up to roll it out with Maple Shade PD and Burlington City PD with Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officers.
- D. Also coming is 988 Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORT) funded through DMHAS. This will be a response team for non-life-threatening mental health, substance use or suicidal crises in the community. No law enforcement.
- E. Q&A& Comments
  1. Possible confusion as to what number, what service families/individuals can call when in crisis.
  2. Comment: See: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/new-jersey-arrive-together-program-could-reform-policing-as-we-know-it>

### **IV. CMHSBG Implementation Report: Update (Donna Migliorino, Suzanne Borys, Yunqing Li, Neha Chopra, Nick Pecht)**

- A. Adult Mental Health
  1. Information to be posted on SAMHSA's vendor, Hemdall
  2. WebbGas
    - a. <https://bgas.samhsa.gov/ApplicationIntroduction.aspx> , User name: citizennj, Password: citizen
    - b. Performance Indicators
      - + 10. Stability in Housing
      - + 11. Olmstead Occupancy Rate
      - + 14. System wide assessments
    - c. URS Data Tables (Neha Chopra), Tables to be presented to SAMSHA 12/1/23, URS Tables 2a & 2b, 4, 4a & 4b
      - i. Tables to be submitted to SAMSHA by December 1, 2023: 2a, 2b, 4, 4a, and 15.
      - ii. The total number of clients served in 2023 was 341,799, compared to 343,369 in 2022.
      - iii. Demographic comparisons between 2023 and 2022, including age, gender, race and ethnicity.

- iv. Employment status of adults (aged 18 and older) by primary diagnosis shows consistency between SFY 2023 and 2022.
  - v. Comparison of Clients' living situations reveals a consistent distribution pattern between SFY 2022 and 2023.
- B. Adult Substance Use Disorders (Suzanne Borys) \
- 1. Services for Pregnant women and their children. 1<sup>st</sup> nor 2<sup>nd</sup> targets not achieved.
  - 2. Intravenous Injections. Goals not achieved.
  - 3. Marijuana use
  - 4. Heroin Use
- C. Children's System of Care (Nick Pecht): Due to limitations of time this will be tabled until next month.

### III. System Partner Updates

- A. Children's System of Care (Nicholas Pect): No presentation given. Presentation on CMHSBG to be given at December meeting.
- B. DDD (Jonathan Sabin)
- 1. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) made allowances for Temporary Service Modifications. Federal rules allowed these modifications to remain in place for six months after the end of the federal PHE. The federal PHE ended on May 11, 2023, resulting in the Temporary Service Modifications ending on November 7, 2023. A number of exceptions to DDD's rescinding of Temporary Service Modifications have been made. Information regarding these exceptions can be found here: <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/Temp-Service-Mod.pdf>
  - 2. Additionally, the use of virtual interaction to satisfy the Support Coordination requirement for quarterly and annual in person contact also ends on November 7, 2023. If virtual interaction is still being used for this purpose, please make sure it is discontinued by or before November 7, 2023.
  - 3. The Human Services Office of Program Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) is hosting a series of virtual focus groups in November to obtain feedback from families, to help guide efforts related to quality improvement and health outcomes of people served in DHS licensed residences and/or served by DDD provider organizations. Register here - <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=j-4RV4NeRUG-A8VRE09BYD4ajd5ZrRJIgexBbhfrwqpUOVZLMUUYNzFTU0JPUEpYUEU3N1dRNDazMS4u&origin=lprLink>
- C. Division of Aging (Jennifer Rutberg): No presentation given.
- D. Division of Juvenile Justice Commission: No presentation given
- E. Department of Education (Damian Petino). No presentation given.

- F. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). John Tkacz
1. Updated Fee Schedule. DVRS has a need for vendors to complete Psychological Evaluations, Learning Evaluations, Substance Use and Mental Health Counselors. Please share this need and have eligible clinicians reach out to John Tkacz [john.tkacz@dol.nj.gov](mailto:john.tkacz@dol.nj.gov)

G. Department of Corrections (K. Connelly). No presentation given.

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

- A. Announcements
1. NCAR (Tonia Ahern), 11/16/23:  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6QnZJeFJT8mAP2hcmCS6jw#/registration](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6QnZJeFJT8mAP2hcmCS6jw#/registration)
  2. NJPRA (Robin Weiss), 11/17/23 at Rutgers, Busch Students Center.
  3. Stress Care of NJ is seeking a clinical supervisor for HLOC Somerset site.  
To apply, please go to our website [www.stresscareclinic.com](http://www.stresscareclinic.com) or reach out to [Nina.Smuklavskaya@stresscareclinic.com](mailto:Nina.Smuklavskaya@stresscareclinic.com)
  4. SAMHSA Planning Council Manual.  
See <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/planning-council-introductory-manual.pdf>

**VI. Adjournment** (11:44 am) Darlema Bey

- A. Next meeting: 12/13/23
- B. Future Agenda Items
1. Block Grant Implementation Report: Children System of Care: Priority Indicators and URS data tables (Nick Pecht)
  2. 2024-2025 Community Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grants, Fiscal Tables, (Morris F)
  2. Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): (Connie Greene)
  3. NJ Dept of Corrections: Criminal Justice System Overview, October 2023 (Krista Connelly)
  4. NJ DoE Threat Assessment Protocols
  5. Overview of CSS (Harry)
- C. December 2023 Subcommittee Meetings
- 9:30 TBA
- 12:00 TBA