

## NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

### Minutes

February 12, 2025, 10:00 am

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

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Dial-in Number: +1 609-300-7196, PIN: 306216820#

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:

Donna Miglorino	Darlema Bey (Chair)	Connie Greene (Vice-Chair)	Francis Walker
Heather Simms	Julia Barugel	Jennifer Rutberg	John Tkacz
Krista Connelly	Elisabeth Marchese	Michael Ippoliti	S. Robin Weiss
Barbara Ferrick	Joe Gutstein	Suzanne Smith	Gena Ansell-Lande
Winfred Chain	Barbara Johnston		

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

Clarence Pearson	Jonathan Sabin	Nicholas Pecht	Irina Stuchinsky
Brielle Easton	Brittany Thorne	Shenal Pugh	Nancy Edouard
Mark Kruszczyński			

#### Guests:

Nina Smuklawsky	Morgan Thompson	LaShema Sanders-Edwards	
Bernadette Moore	Joseph Pfeffer	Andrea Bakun	David Armstrong
Alejandra Batista	Elena Kravitz	Robert DePlatt	Alexis LaPietra

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

- A. Attendance, 18/31, 58% attendance, quorum exceeded.
- B. Minutes of January 8, 2024 General Meeting Approved.
- D. Presentations by Members in CY 2025
  - 1. CSP NJ Hospital Wellness Centers (possible March or April).
  - 2. NJ Prevention Network
  - 2. Division of Aging Services (Jennifer Rutberg) Standing offer to present
  - 3. JJC (Francis Walker) Soliciting questions on Substance Abuse Treatment, Then those questions can be addressed at a future meeting
  - 4. Can someone from DOH present on our IMDs?
    - a. DoH offered to make contact with the requestor off line about the re-entry coordination in the jails in case there are consumers from DoH facilities that are returning to jail post tx / IST assessment and they (DoH) can share info if appropriate or inquire about resources.

2. Arrive/Ride Together (Harry Reyes, contact Donna, NJ Prosecutors Office, Amy Holmes, CIT coordinator, check with Rachel Morgan). Director, Office of Alternative and Community Responses, Office of the New Jersey Attorney General, [Tiffany.Wilson@njoag.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Wilson@njoag.gov)

**II. Alcohol, Cancer and Warning Labels:** Dr. Alexeis LaPietra (Medical Director, RWJ/Barnabas Institute for Prevention)

- A. PowerPoint shared with BHPC via mail 2/12/25.
- B. Q&A
  1. Q: What can be done about taking up drinking later in life?  
A: If someone is struggling with alcohol use it is important to get FDA approved treatments for SUD/alcohol abuse. Encouraging people to gather in safe ways.
  2. Q: DNA impacts to youth using alcohol?  
A: Yes, anecdotally. Binge drinking. More definitive data is needed.

**III. Membership Committee Update** (Heather Simms, Chair)

- A. Membership and expungements:
  1. Early in January 2025, three (3) members were sent certified letters to announce them of their pending expungement status. 30 days after 1/30/25 (per the letter) those members will be expunged (per the letter).
  2. One individual is being considered for voting membership on the Council.
- B. BHPC Member S. Robin Weiss has announced her resignation from the Council, effective at the conclusion of today's meeting
- B. COMCHO Conference, 4/15/25, Edison Pines, Edison, NJ.  
Members of the Council sought to host BHPC Membership table.  
Contact [hsimms@cspnj.org](mailto:hsimms@cspnj.org) if interested.
- D. Next Membership Committee meeting 2/20/25, 11:00 am.

**IV. System Partner Updates** (Darlema Bey)

- A. Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (Donna Migliorino, DMHAS).
  1. Mental Health & Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (MHBG & SUPTRS) Applications (full, 300+ page document).
    - a. Mid-summer target
    - b. Some parts (fiscal) must wait to further in the year.
    - c. DMHAS has not yet received guidance from SAMHSA, but DMHAS will be proactive beforehand.
    - d. Yunqing Li (MH), Helen Staton (SUD), Nick Pecht (Children's)

- B. Children's Systems of Care (Nick Pecht, DCF CSOC).
1. CSOC awarded the Youth Assertive Community Treatment (Youth ACT) pilot to Legacy Treatment Services, which began service delivery in Cape May and Atlantic Counties in July 2024.
  2. Youth ACT uses evidence-based and promising practices to provide flexible, comprehensive, in-home treatment, rehabilitation, and support services to youth ages 5 to 20 who are likely to experience psychiatric crises, and their families.
  3. Two multi-disciplinary treatment teams (one in each county) are comprised of licensed therapists and psychiatric experts, supported by a team of other professionals, including those with lived experience as a family member, and provide services tailored to each youth and family.
  4. In vivo community based and telehealth services are available 7 days a week with a staff member on call 24/7 to address and stabilize emerging crises.
  5. Research demonstrates that the ACT model effectively reduces hospitalization, is no more expensive than traditional care, and is more satisfactory to youth and families than standard care.
  6. The Legacy Youth ACT program continues to work diligently to staff the program to its fullest capacity. As of January 2025, they are serving 9 youth and their families.
- C. Division of Developmental Disabilities (Jonathan Sabin)
1. DDD is pleased to announce that, through a competitive bidding process, Acumen Fiscal Agent has been chosen as the new fiscal intermediary (FI) for DDD's Self Directed Services Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent Model. Acumen currently operates 120 self-direction and financial management services programs across 31 states with a total of 36,000 participants.
  2. Following the rollout of the updated Direct Support Professional training requirements, DDD has updated Implementing the New DSP Training Requirements: A Guide for DDD Providers. To review the guide please visit <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/providers/provider-guide-new-dsp-training-requirements.pdf>.
  3. Through a competitive bidding process, the following agencies have been chosen to participate in the two-year NADD Competency-Based Dual Diagnosis DSP Certification Pilot:

- a. Avenues to Independent Living
  - b. Community Access Unlimited
  - c. Community Options
  - d. Easterseals NJ
  - e. J-ADD
  - f. Oaks Integrated Care
  - g. The Arc of New Jersey
  - h. The Arc, Ocean County Chapter
- 4. On May 14, 2025, from 10 AM to 11:30 AM, the New Jersey Governor’s Council on Mental Health Stigma is holding a virtual Learning Collaborative dedicated to the discussion of best practices and new ideas for mental health services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Open to all.
  - a. Register Here – <https://njamhaa.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1935990>
  - b. For more information, please contact [CChazen@njamhaa.org](mailto:CChazen@njamhaa.org).
- 5. DDD is providing Virtual Peer-to-Peer Networking Session – This networking opportunity is available for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are self-directing some or all of their DDD funded services or who are interested in learning about self-direction. The March Peer-to-Peer Networking Session will happen on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 6-7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Register here [https://dhs-nj.gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcemhqT0pG7d0xv\\_JlImWGnecFApffKI#/registration](https://dhs-nj.gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcemhqT0pG7d0xv_JlImWGnecFApffKI#/registration)
- D. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (John Tkacz)
  - 1. DVRS would like to introduce Tatyana Brown, Program Planning and Development Specialists who will be taking the place of John Tkacz at the Behavior Health Planning Council meetings. John will be retiring as of March.
  - 2. Consumers can obtain DVRS services by completing a Referral online or by contacting one of the County DVRS offices found on our website [Career Services | Vocational Rehabilitation Services](#)
  - 3. DVRS has partnered with Rutgers “Integrated Employment Institute” (IEI) for providing the trainings for Rehabilitation Professionals and providers with the opportunity to receive CRC CUE credits.
  - 4. Current IEI Trainings, – Integrated Employment Institute are listed below: Use this link to register (<https://iei.rutgers.edu/current-iei-trainings/>)
    - a. 1/15: Addressing Mental Health Stigma and Ableism in Employment Settings
    - b. 1/16: Marketing Supported Employment Services to Increase Referrals

- c. 1/22: Supporting the Development & Maintenance of Natural Supports in Employment & Education
- d. 1/23 & 1/30: Soft Skills - Presenting Qualifications (2 Sessions)
- e. 1/29: Career Services - Addressing Provider Burnout
- f. 2/5: Developing a Career Profile
- g. 2/6 & 2/13 Soft Skills - Asking for Help (2 Sessions)
- h. 2/12: Transition Age Youth & Young Adults - Building Vocational Maturity
- i. 2/19: Supporting Job Seekers & Students - Acing the Interview
- j. 2/26: Recovery Oriented Cognitive Therapy for Career Service Practitioners
- k. 3/5: Supporting Individuals with Neurodiversity & Mental Health Conditions
- l. 3/6 & 3/13: Soft Skills - Responding to Feedback (2 Sessions)
- m. 3/12: Job Development (IN-PERSON)
- n. 3/26: Supported Education Leave Phase in Crisis - Navigating Interruptions to Matriculation
- o. 4/3: Understanding Potential Employers' Diversity and Inclusion Practices
- p. 4/9: Determining Accommodations for Job Seekers with Mental Health Conditions
- q. 4/10 & 4/17: Soft Skills - Conversing with Others (2 Sessions)
- r. 4/16: Benefits & Work Incentives - SSI
- s. 4/23: Benefits & Work Incentives - SSDI

E. Division of Aging (Jennifer Rutberg)

- 1. The Department of Human Services' Division of Aging Services will hold a listening session to allow New Jersey residents to provide input into the state's plans for services to older residents and their caregivers for 2025 – 2029. State Units on Aging, including DHS, are required to submit service plans to the U.S. Administration for Community Living every four years. The State Plans on Aging detail service needs, establish priorities, and outline how each state plans to utilize federal Older Americans Act and state funding to accomplish its goals. Anyone interested in aging issues may submit written comments and listen in to the verbal comments TODAY: **State Plan on Aging 2025 – 2029 Public Listening Session. Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**  
<https://www.youtube.com/TheNJDHS>  
 Written testimony can be submitted to [DoAS.StatePlan@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DoAS.StatePlan@dhs.nj.gov)
- 2. This includes older adults and issues of behavioral health and addictions, as well as caregivers. The Planning Council itself as well as the public are very welcome to submit comments.

F. Justice Commission, NJ Dept. of Law & Public Safety: (Francis Walker)

No Presentation Provided, however questions are solicited, for responses at a subsequent BHPC Meeting.

- G. Department of Education (Maurice Ingram):
1. Human Trafficking Webinar Series HT Webinar Series Broadcast: Register by 1/8 for part one and by 1/21 for part two. See the following link:  
<https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/events/details.php?t=2;recid=50552>
- H. Department of Corrections (K. Connelly): No presentation given.
- I. NJ Div. of Medical Assistance and Health Services (NJ Family Care/State Medicaid) (Irina B. Stuchinsky).
1. Behavioral Health Integration (MCO coverage of behavioral services) launched January 1, 2025.
  2. DMAHS held virtual hours for Providers on 2/12/2025.
  3. Scheduled Trainings (requires registration):  
[https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/information/stakeholder/DMAHS\\_BHI/Provider%20Readiness%20Trainings%20Schedule%20as%20of%20Jan%2030.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/information/stakeholder/DMAHS_BHI/Provider%20Readiness%20Trainings%20Schedule%20as%20of%20Jan%2030.pdf)
  4. Claims Refresher\_ February 25,2025 @10:30AM-12PM
  5. Prior Authorization \_ March 12, 2025 @2PM -3:30PM
  6. Behavioral Health Integration Resources
    - a. BHI Team Email dmahs.behavioralhealth@dhs.nj.gov
    - b. BHI Team Phone# 609-281-8028
  7. BHI Stakeholder Website  
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/information/stakeholder/index.html>
  8. Training Presentations  
[https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/information/stakeholder/DMAHS\\_BHI/011425\\_MCO-led%20Care%20Management\\_vFinal.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/information/stakeholder/DMAHS_BHI/011425_MCO-led%20Care%20Management_vFinal.pdf)
  9. Post recordings  
[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/AJj0x9K7GiR\\_G2OuMaeb8qGmvlCnFD7XnCZbOoXbjDr3pcNxZAq\\_0BebZqX1VwaP.qZBbaIJbMg2XOI6R\\_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!MMfzT7IRnXceNCftvL0tEcZ2zMEtY7eq2F7YjGmHcuJKLdTtPfrvTkKNUdOHXqG1Ut2qrN8dMd6xBakMRem00IHRg\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/AJj0x9K7GiR_G2OuMaeb8qGmvlCnFD7XnCZbOoXbjDr3pcNxZAq_0BebZqX1VwaP.qZBbaIJbMg2XOI6R_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!MMfzT7IRnXceNCftvL0tEcZ2zMEtY7eq2F7YjGmHcuJKLdTtPfrvTkKNUdOHXqG1Ut2qrN8dMd6xBakMRem00IHRg$)
  10. FAQs  
[https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/information/stakeholder/DMAHS\\_BHI/Provider%20Care%20Management%20Training%20FAQs\\_vPublish.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/information/stakeholder/DMAHS_BHI/Provider%20Care%20Management%20Training%20FAQs_vPublish.pdf)

- J. Department of Health: (Barbara Ferrick): No presentation
- K. Division of Family Development (Marie Snyder): Not present
- L. Supported Housing Association (Kate Kelly): Not present.
- M. NJ County Mental Health Administrators Association (Elisabeth Marchese), No updates.
- N. NJ Hospital Association (Deena Tampi), Not Present.

**IV. Open Public Comment and Announcements:**

- A. Comments/questions:
- B. Announcements:

**V. Adjournment:** Darlema Bey 11:57 am

- A. Next meeting: 3/12/25 10:00 am –noon.

Microsoft Teams meeting

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**C. Future Agenda Items:**

1. Possibly NJ Prevention Network, (March 2023)
2. Arrive/Ride Together (Harry Reyes, contact Donna, NJ Prosecutors Office, Amy Holmes, CIT coordinator, check with Rachel Morgan). Director, Office of Alternative and Community Responses, Office of the New Jersey Attorney General, [Tiffany.Wilson@njoag.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Wilson@njoag.gov)
3. Additional Items for Meetings in 2025
  - a. Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): (Connie Greene)
  - b. NJ DoE Threat Assessment Protocols
  - c. Overview of CSS (Harry Reyes, DMHAS)
  - d. Pretrial Services in Camden County
  - e. JJC Discussion (Filomena DiNuzzo)
  - f. DVR (John Tkacz)
  - g. Presentation on SUD prevention efforts at County Jails?
  - h. Family Member Perspectives
  - i. Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) (Suzanne B.)

- j. AIR , Youth Suicide Prevention ([kurt@air.ngo](mailto:kurt@air.ngo))
- k. SUD and the JJC (Francis Walker, JJC)
- l. Experiences of Consumers in SUD Crisis
- m. State Mental Hospitals (Department of Health, [annmarie.flory@doh.nj.gov](mailto:annmarie.flory@doh.nj.gov) (Service Questions, Appropriateness of Services, Outcomes.)
- n. NJ Prevention Network: Services across New Jersey

D. March 12, 2025 Subcommittee Meetings

9:00 TBD

9:30 TBD

12:00 TBD