

New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council (BHPC)

Meeting Minutes, June 10, 2015 10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

Winifred Chain	Ernst DeHaas	Karen Kubert
Phil Lubitz	Lisa Negron	Karen Vogel Romance
Bruce Blumenthal (P)	John Calabria	Angel Gambone (P)
Connie Greene	Joseph Gutstein (P)	Sharon Harrigan
Renee Ingram (P)	Scott Kelsey	Chris Lucca
Jamie Busch (P)	Dan Meara	David Moore
Robert Paige	John Pellicane	Linda Sacco
Rocky Schwartz	Regina Sessoms (P)	Brenda Sorrentino
Irina Stuchinsky	Ellen Taner	Pam Taylor
Joy Tozzi	Mary Abrams	

DMHAS, CSOC & DDD Staff:

Suzanne Borys	Bob Culleton	Geri Dietrich
Mark Kruszczyński	Yunqing Li	Patrick Roff
Dona Sinton	Helen Staton	

Guests:

Ruth Lowenkron	Tracy Maksel	Rachel Morgan
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- I. Welcome/Administrative Issues/Correspondence
 - A. Minutes approved as written from last meeting with edits from Bruce Blumenthal
 - B. Correspondence was sent to all applicants who applied for membership.

- II. Membership Committee – Chris Lucca
 - A. Thank you to all the members of the Committee. The group met multiple times over the past few months to review approximately 30 applications for membership. Letters were sent to all applicants, and we're happy to have the new members!

- III. Mobile Application for Prevention – Suzanne Borys
 - A. A terrific new prevention application that is in Beta testing right now for Apple and Android. It will be used by the prevention regional coalitions. It's for prevention and can be used to document the existence of environmental strategies for preventing for alcohol, tobacco and drug use. Coalition members will be able to take pictures and report positive and negative images. The app will connect all of the coalitions in the state.
 - B. Be the One application has two components
 1. My View – photo tool for people to take pictures of their environment. NJPN will oversee the posts. It's an interactive tool
 2. My actions –
 - i. Be the One to Help –
 - ii. Be the One to Check - will give you the CRAFFT tool
 - iii. Be the One to Ask

iv. Be the One to Join – will get folks connected to the regional coalitions

C. Questions and Answers

1. Q. Regina Sessoms – Can the app be used to show the boarding homes where the drugs and alcohol are easily accessible? A. Its open to anyone with a smart phone and the ideas for its applicability are growing.
- 2.Q. - Joy Tozzi- is the poster anonymous or is the name associated with the picture posted? A – I will check on this.
- 3.Q. - Geri Dietrich – Who is monitoring content? A. The New Jersey Prevention Network.
- 4.Q. – John Pellicane – There is an awareness task force in each county. If you have someone interested in volunteering but the coaction might not be the best fit, can they funnel that person to the right place? A. Yes, the coalition would do that. It would be able to link people to other groups.
- 5.Q. – Linda Sacco – Are resources attached to the “be the one to ask” to refer them to treatment immediately or are resources listed? A. It’s a work in progress and that is a great idea.
- 6.Q. – Joe Gutstein – What are the metrics? A. Number of photos, changes in positive vs. negative images
- 7.Q. – Regina Sessoms – In towns inundated with drug dealers, folks should be told to not take pictures of those transactions because their lives could be in danger. A. Excellent point. Safety first.

IV. Block Grant Application Overview

- A. Staff from DCF and DMHAS gave a general overview of the Block Grant. It is administered by SAMHSA and provides funds to the State for those individuals not covered by Medicaid and without insurance. The State applies jointly for mental health and substance abuse funding on a two year cycle, with a report submitted annually. Although it is a joint application, the Block Grant funding is separate between mental health and substance abuse. The SAPT BG provides round \$47 million and the CMHBG provides around \$12 million. However, mental health receives much more State funding than addictions.
- B. The Planning Council is composed of a minimum of 50% consumers and family members, which acknowledges that there are multiple points of view other than professionals in the community. The Planning Council’s primary purpose is to review and comment on the Block Grant, so this summer will be busy as it is due again 9/1/15.
- C. The Planning Council will be reviewing the application online over the summer, with staff providing updates at each meeting. The Block Grant Application System (BGAS) link is in your manual and was distributed. Members are encouraged to read the application as it is developed because it is quite lengthy.
- D. Q. – Rocky Schwartz – inquired about the NY settlement about lack of parity and if they will apply to NJ. A. Phil said some members are on a team with their local groups to explore this
- E. MHBG – Mark Kruszczyński, Yunqing Li and Geri Dietrich
 - 1.This is for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances as well as those historically underserved. We

submit a needs assessment including unmet needs and gaps and look at environmental factors in our plan.

- 2.Q. - Ernst DeHaas – what is the general idea of the number in NJ affected by this grant funding? A. We do estimates based on data and that URS tables. Its estimates of population, previous number served and underserved.
- 3.The priority areas for adult mental health and the indicators were reviewed by Yunqing, including:
 - i. suicide prevention
 - ii. supportive housing
 - iii. consumer operated services.
- 4.The Children’s portion is under DCF. In early 2000 Children’s System of Care was developed and children were placed under that system. DCF gets a small portion of the Block Grant for the traumatic loss coalition. Most services provided are through Medicaid or State only dollars. DCF doesn’t use BG dollars for services, but they report on the entire system in the BG application to give a complete picture. Services are coordinated through an Administrative Services organization (ASO), PerformCare. There is a separate children’s section in the Block Grant application. Priority areas for children’s side are:
 - i. moving system to better trauma informed care with use of the Youth Thrive Framework to increase protective factors
 - ii. youth suicide – rates are down but need to keep going down
 - iii. system integration with the development of behavioral health homes currently in Bergen and Mercer and will be in Cape May, Atlantic and Monmouth County in SFY 2016)
- 5.Q. – Bruce Blumenthal – asked for definition of Behavioral Health Home and Geri read it

F. SAPT BG – Suzanne Borys

- 1.This funding is critical for the substance abuse population and we don’t get much State funding. The AEREF State funding is \$10 million for the counties but it is by formula. We do get transfers from other departments with some State funding. This Block Grant also includes Synar, a tobacco age of sale component with a separate report due at the end of each calendar year, whereby if we are above a 20% retailer violation rate then we could lose up to 40% of our Block Grant. We also have a State Maintenance of Effort associated with this funding. Indicators for substance abuse will be:
 - i. Increase in people seeking treatment for heroin and other opiates
 - ii. Increase in women seeking treatment
 - iii. Increase in rapid testing for HIV
 - iv. Decrease in underage drinking
- 2.Q. – Karen Kubert – expressed surprise that MAT numbers were not being met and suggested putting into the plan to focus on obstacles to achieve it. A. – Suzanne said we are planning a training to educate the Drug Courts and soon there should be legislation mandating it for Drug Courts through a pilot.

- 3.Q. – Scott Kelsey – asked for the definition of MAT. A. – Suzanne explained medication assisted treatment.
- 4.Q. – Rocky Schwartz – will there be enough beds if more reversals are referred into treatment? A. Treatment is part of recovery and beds are available.
- 5.Q. – Scott Kelsey – What about patients on methadone who need psychotropic medications? A. Dr. Eilers would have to address this, but we're trying to address the barriers.
- 6.C. John Pellicane – there had been legislation to do ratings on providers. Perhaps by educating we can help assist in this as well by saying what agencies will or will not treat if on MAT.

V. Announcements

- A. Phil mentioned legislation in the Assembly to start a new group similar to this one. Council voted to have Phil write a letter to the sponsors about this.
- B. Connie Greene handed out flyers for a tobacco treatment program. Hospitals in the Barnabas system will be replacing first responders Narcan when they come into the hospital with a reversed patient. Barnabas will also have 6 people in long term recovery on hand to work with individuals who are reversed
- C. Ellen Taner announced about the Bergen County Stigma Free zone

Next General Meeting July 8, 2015 at 10:00 AM
Block Grant Committee Meeting 9:00 am and Advocacy Committee at noon in 3-097