

# NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

## Minutes

January 11, 2023, 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)	John Tkacz	Winifred Chain	Debra Wentz
Maurice Ingram	Julia Barugel	Suzanne Smith	Jennifer Rutberg
Harry Coe	Michael Ippoliti	Robin Weiss	Barbara Johnston
Heather Simms	Joe Gutstein	Diane Riley	Robert DePlatt
Tonia Ahern	Chris Morrison	Damian Petino	Michelle Madiou
Mark Kruszczyński			

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

Yunqing Li	Nicholas Pecht	Brittany Thorne	Jonathan Sabin
Carlie Davis	Donna Blasdel (JBS Int.)		
Angie Jones (JBS Int.)			

### Guests:

Rachel Morgan	Matt Camarda	Nina Smuklawsky
LeAnn DiBenedetto	Jaslean LaTallade	Anne Smullen-Thieling

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

- A. Attendance, 20/35, 57.1% attendance, quorum reached
- B. Minutes of December 2022 General Meeting Approved
- C. Correspondence

#### **II. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair, Nominations Committee Darlema Bey**

- A. Review of BHPC By-Laws, Article IV, Section 2 "Duties of Chair and Vice-Chair"
- B. Solicitation of Members of Nominations Committee: Harry Coe, Julia Barugel, John Tkacz
- C. Rachel Morgan indicated her interest/willingness to be a Member of the Planning Council. The membership committee will deliberate on forwarding her name to the Assistant Commissioner for Membership on the Council
- D. Nominations:

1. Julia Barugel
- E. Vote will occur at the February 8, 2023 meeting of the Council.

### **III. State Opioid Response Grant (SOR): Evidence Based Practice Initiative [EBPI]**

Angie Jones & Donna Blasdell (JBS International)

[See PowerPoint Presentation]

A. PowerPoint

B. Q&A

1. Q: Will slides be available? A: Yes
2. Q: Are agencies required to participate in the EBPI? A: This is a voluntary initiative, but Carlie will check with V. Freslone.
3. Q: JBS =? JBS = Johnson, Bason and Shah.
4. Q: Can the list of providers participating in the EBPI be provided. A: Yes.
5. Q: Of the 87 agencies, are all counties represented? A: We might only be missing one or two. Q: Is Gloucester County Represented? A: Yes
6. Q: OMNI Outcome Data, how is it showed that consumers situation changed?  
A: All practitioners take clinical knowledge assessment (baseline test) and then after the program they take it again.  
Q: How are client outcomes measured? A: Consumer surveys are conducted  
Q: How is fidelity to these EBPs measured? A: Fidelity monitoring forms are collected. If clinicians do not exceed 80% they are asked to take the training again.  
Q: Nina Smuklavskiy of Stress Care recommends EBPI

C. Contact [dbladsell@jbsinternational.com](mailto:dbladsell@jbsinternational.com)

### **IV. System Partner Updates Chairs of Subcommittees**

A. Dept of Education (D. Petino and M. Ingram):

1. October / November 2022 the feds put out application for grant for School Based MH (\$2.7M for five years, and matching state dollars), and NJ DoE has received it.
2. School Based MH Demonstration Grant has been applied for but grant was not received.

B. Children's System of Care (Nick Pecht)

1. Thanks to American Rescue Plan funding, the Children's System of Care is expanding its service array to include an exciting new pilot program. Intensive Mobile Treatment Services for youth with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities, or IMTS-IDD, will deliver safe, stable, and therapeutically supported intensive treatment to DD eligible youth, age 5 to 20, with complex, challenging behavioral and/or co-occurring mental health needs (a mental health diagnosis is not required). The program will be available to youth in Bergen and Middlesex Counties but will serve youth in neighboring counties on a case-by-case basis. It is anticipated that the ITMS-IDD program will be fully operational by February 2023.
2. This program will meet the unique needs of youth who would otherwise be eligible for residential treatment by bringing intensive specialized services and supports into a youth's home and by engaging with the youth's caregiving system and natural supports. Consisting of behavioral, psychiatric, medical, and other experts and specialists, the IMTS-IDD team will, through an individualized and family-centered approach, assist the youth with acquiring, improving, and retaining the behavioral, relational, communication, and other skills needed to enhance relationships and increase independence and functioning. Services will be accessible 24/7 and consist of daily check points among the treatment team and with the family to assess the effectiveness of treatment interventions

and supports, making adjustments, as needed, to improve outcomes. Q: How does this differ from Mobile Response? A: Mobile Response is CSOC's short-term crisis intervention service, available to all youth. ITMS IDD provides the youth with I/DD needs and their family with a team of experts to help them reach their goals and prevent unnecessary residential treatments.

C. DDD (Jonathan Sabin)

3. We are pleased to share that in 2023 the Division will again administer the National Core Indicators (NCI) surveys for individuals and their families and guardians (<https://www.nationalcoreindicators.org/>). Beginning in this month, Division staff will begin outreach to individuals and families to request voluntary participation in one of the following surveys:

In-Person Survey  
Adult Family Survey  
Family/Guardian Survey

4. A wage increase for direct support professionals (DSPs) and supervisors was included in New Jersey's FY2023 Appropriations Act. It will be implemented January 1<sup>st</sup> via increases to the fee-for-service reimbursement rates for many services.
5. Beginning April 1, 2023 all States, including New Jersey, are required to resume their Medicaid Eligibility Processes. The Division recommends that stakeholders review this material, especially the Frequently Asked Questions found at the Community Toolkit (<https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/toolkit/index.shtml>).
6. Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule:
  - March 2023 remains the deadline for compliance with Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Final Rule. Helpful information for Service Providers can be found here - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/providers/DDD-Provider-Guide-to-HCBS-Settings-Rule-Final.pdf> - This guide assists service providers with information, best practices, and examples to assist in HCBS compliance.
  - Additional information can be found at the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services Statewide Transition Plan Website [https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/info/hcbs\\_trans.html](https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/info/hcbs_trans.html) or at the Division's HCBS Statewide Transition Plan Website <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/providers/federalrequirements/hcbsplan/>.

D. Division of Aging (Jennifer Rutberg)

1. Older Adult Anti-Social Isolation Efforts. Div. of Aging has free classes for older adults to take online learning classes. DHS purchased 50,000 classes on <https://getsetup.io/partner/NJ> for older adults (age 60 and older). Anyone with web access and speakers can participate. The best is when the person also has a microphone and camera, so they can interactively participate. The classes are LIVE, not recorded.
2. The idea is so that older adults who are socially isolated can be part of a group online that interests them. There are over 500 class topics, everything from sewing groups to fitness to caregiving to using an iPad. All classes are taught by older adults, so they are peer-led.

- E. NJAMHAA (Debra Wentz)
  - 1. See <https://www.NJAMHAA.org/events>
- F. NAMI-NJ (Matt Camarda): Looking at MH Care Through a Cultural Lens. A two-part series, 1/19/23, 10:00 am, and 2/9/23, 10:00 am.

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

- A. Review of By-Laws and Committees
  - 1. Council members should review each area of its purview
- B. Pre-Trial Services should be discussed/shared with the Council.
- C. Retirement of Steve Fishbein from DMHAS.
- D. Upcoming Training for Crisis Intervention Training (Veterans Response Team) in Atlantic City next week, based on a model in Delaware.
- E. Announcement of Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge, 1/14/23, Wildwood, NJ  
<https://support.sonj.org/fundraiser/4255638>
- F. Crisis Intervention Training Information: CIT Training (R. Morgan)  
<https://cit-nj.org/about/>
- G. SHA (D. Riley) , Section 8 Waitlist opens 1/17/23:  
<https://www.nj.gov/dca/vouchers.html#:~:text=For%20DCA%2C%20the%20specified%20area,through%20a%20random%20lottery%20process>

**VI. Adjournment** Darlema Bey

- A. Request from Chair of Council to have members raise any possible statewide issues and/or challenges.

- B. Next meeting: 2/8/23

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**Subcommittee Meetings**

9:00 Nominations

12:00 TBA