

NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

August 13, 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 Migliorino	Heather Simms (Chair)	Connie Greene (Vice-Chair)	
Julia Barugel	Nancy Edouard (Aging)	Maurice Ingram	Shawna Moses
Elisabeth Marchese	Jennifer Gietka	Krista Connelly	Joe Gutstein
Barbara Johnston	Regina Sessoms	Darlema Bay	Suzanne Smith
Morgan Thompson	Winifred Chain	Joseph Christensen (SHA-NJ)	
Angela Calzone	Stacy Reh (CSOC)	Tatyana Brown (DDD)	
Betsy Weiss (DoH)	Filomena DiNuzzo (JJC)	Jennifer Gietka (DFD)	
Debra Wentz	Donna Spencer (HMFA)		

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

Brielle Easton	Brittany Thorne
Suzanne Borys	Jonathan Sabin(DDS)
Shenal Pugh (DMAHS)	Mark Kruszczyński
Prerak Patel (DMHAS)	
Helen Staton	

Guests:

Anne Smullen Thieling (CSP NJ)
Elena Kravitz (DRNJ)
Alanna Andrews (Fresh Start/Karen Burke Wellness Center)
Adam Chrone, Serena Zuppardo (CSP NJ)
Janet Martinez
Bill Cole
John Tkacz
Rachel Morgan

I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence (Darlema Bey)

- A. Attendance, 26/35, 74% attendance, quorum *exceeded*.
- B. Review of Minutes of July 9th 2025 meeting. Approved with minor edits.
- C. System partners are to submit their update the Friday prior to the BHPC meeting.
- D. Attendance to be done via review of MS Teams Attendance List.
- E. Block Grant: Gaps in Services

1. The full Council membership was given wide opportunity to voice their thoughts about gaps in services through the survey that was distributed to all voting members. The results of that survey (15 responses & emails) were reviewed by the full BHPC Block Grant Committee, and the subsequent drafts were then revised further by the Chair of the BG Committee (Barb J), the Chair of the Council, the Vice Chair of the Council (with feedback the State Mental Health Planner. That final draft was given to the BG Committee and given several days to provide feedback. The document shared with the Council via email on 8/12/25 will be included in the 2026-2027 Block Grant Application
 2. Motion was made at July 9th meeting to approve the Gaps in Services section and produced by the BHPC BG Committee
- F. Motion made and seconded to have BHPC compose a letter from the BHPC to SAMHSA recommend the 2026-2027 CMHBG/SUPTRS Application from DMHAS.
- II. **DMHAS Request for Proposals (RFP) Process** (Dave Helfand, DMHAS)
Presentation tabled until September 10, 2025
- III. **DMHAS Fiscal Presentation** (Prerak Patel)
- A. CMHBG 2026-2027 application
 1. Not complete, waiting for feedback from Fiscal Partners
 - B. SFY 2026: PowerPoint Budget Highlights
 1. Patients in County Psych Hospitals - \$2M (Essex)
 2. Other MH initiatives
 - a. Bamboo Open Beds, \$1M, housing software
 - b. Level A+ Group Homes \$503k
 - c. Crisis Diversion Homes \$525k
 - i. Three homes originally awarded but one was not able to acquire real estate so the funds went to two homes.
 3. FY 2026 Reduction Items
 4. Other Budget Highlights/Notes
 - a. All other DMHAS line items persist in SFY 2026
 - b. Federal funding expected to continue and be available
 5. Legislative Additions
 - a. Preferred BH, \$75k
 - b. Bamboo health software \$1.9M
 - c. Open Heart Yoga, \$100k
 - d. MHA Essex and Morris \$250k
 - e. SONORA Remote Methadone dosing pilot
 - f. 988 call center increases
 - C. Q&A

1. Elena Kravitz: SUD Medicaid Assisted Treatment: \$45M that went to four hospitals for information technology. Will they be getting more funds (in reference to the ?
2. Staffing and Cuts. Was there consideration in cuts related to staffing and was there thought given to the need to eventually hire new staff?
Answer: We can add/request \$\$\$ in the next year budget, but it must be reviewed by NJ OMB and the Governors Office
3. What is Bamboo? Answer (DMM): Crisis Bed, MCORT, way to track referrals, calls and dispatches.

IV. **Block Grant Committee Presentation on Narrative**

- A. Adult Mental Health (Donna Migliorino, Yunqing Li, Brittany Thorne)
 1. Access to WebBGas as a Citizen (view only),
<https://bgas.samhsa.gov> Username: **citizennj** Password: **citizen**
 2. Planning Steps
 - a. Strengths and Needs
 - b. Unmet needs
 - c. Planning Tables (Tables 1 to Table 6)
 3. Step 3:
 - a. Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC-CI) additional datapoints to be collected via a new accordion in the USTF+ system
 4. Question about “True Community Integration”: What is it?
Answer: for CSC/CSC-CI we follow the RAISE model and use those outcomes. The idea is to halt psychosis in its tracks and reduce the duration of untreated psychosis, to return consumers back to school, back to employment.
 5. Environmental Factors:
 6. Fiscal Tables should be completed soon.
- B. Substance Use, Prevention & Treatment Services (Suzanne Borys, Helen Staton)
 1. Step 1
 - a. Covid Supplemental
 - b. ARPA Funding
 - c. Adult SUD should be done with Step 1 by COB 081425
 2. SUD Step 2: (Needs Assessment Process)
 - a. Three major activities
 - i. Middle School Survey
 - ii High School Student Health Survey
 - iii. Household Survey
 - b. Gaps
 - i. Fixing the gap of transportation via the TRIP program

3. Fiscal Tables should be completed soon

C. Children's System of Care (Stacy Reh)

1. Get comments from S.Reh
2. Increase in EBPs across continuum of care
3. Increase access to CSOC services
4. Increase integration of primary and behavioral health

IV. System Partner Updates (Heather Simms)

Going forward all system partners are requested to provide the Council with brief, written updates by the Friday prior to the next BHPC meeting. Those updates will be provided to the Council prior to the meeting; this will give Council members an opportunity to pose questions to the system partners in a timely manner.

- A. Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (Suzanne Borys, DMHAS). Digital ads are now running for the antistigma campaign called Pitch Your Story and for the Naloxone campaign called In Your Hands.
- B. Children's Systems of Care (Stacy Reh, DCF CSOC). See above.
- C. Division of Developmental Disabilities (Jonathan Sabin)
The transition of the Division of Developmental Disabilities' (DDD) Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent (VF/EA) Self-Directed Services Model from Public Partnerships LLC (PPL), the current fiscal intermediary, to Acumen Fiscal Agent (Acumen), is underway. Acumen and DDD are hosting weekly transition update webinars, with Q&A, for individuals and families, support coordinators, supports brokers. For information, visit <https://www.acumenfiscalagent.com/state/new-jersey/> or DDD | 2025 Fiscal Intermediary Transition (PPL to Acumen).
- D. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (Tatyana Brown)
- E. Division of Aging (Jennifer Rutberg)
- F. Youth Justice Commission, NJ Dept. of Law & Public Safety: (Francis Walker)
- G. Department of Education (Maurice Ingram):
- H. Department of Corrections (K. Connelly):
- I. NJ Div. of Medical Assistance and Health Services (NJ Family Care/State Medicaid) (Shenal Pugh).
DMAHS updated the website to be little more user friendly so now there is a section specifically dedicated for provider, member, and cross stakeholder resources.
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/information/stakeholder/>
- J. Department of Health: (Betsey Weiss):
- K. Division of Family Development (Jennifer Gietka): No update provided.

- L. Supported Housing Association (Kate Kelly): No update provided.
- M. NJ County Mental Health Administrators Association (Elisabeth Marchese)
No update provided.
- N. NJ Hospital Association (Deena Tampi). No update provided.

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

- A. Public Comment & Announcements:
 1. Julia B. reporting her son getting a letter about SNAP, has to reapply twice a year via the SNAP application, and stated that the individual must work at least 80 hours a month.
Jennifer Gietka Div. Family Development says that such communication should not have gone out.
 2. Angela Calzone reports “whenever my 16 year old daughter is taken to the local hospital for evaluation because she's in crisis, it could be typically up to a 7 hour wait before she is seen by an evaluator.
 3. Peer Support *for Adolescents* in Emergency Rooms, but both SUD and mental health.
 4. <https://emotional-cpr.org/>
 5. Peer to Peer, Aug 21-Oct 9, Thursdays 6:30-9:00 via zoom -register
 6. NAMI SMARTS, Tuesday Aug 19 , 6:00p-7:45
 7. NAMI NJ GALA Thursday Nov 20, Westin Princeton 6:00pm.
 8. NAMI Smarts (D.Bey), helps consumers tell their own story, training 8/19/25 (See Nami.Org)
 9. NAMI Gala this Fall
 10. NJ Peer Coalition, Picnic, target in Mid-October, open to all Community Wellness Centers
 11. NAMI NJ Multicultural Summer Celebration
Sat Aug 16, 10am-3pm, @Thompson Park, Monroe Township, Grove 4AB
 12. NJPN is proud to support Save a Life Day, a one-day, community-wide initiative to provide free naloxone and opioid awareness resources directly to the public—no questions asked. We're calling on our prevention, treatment, and recovery partners across New Jersey to join this critical effort. Date: September 25, 2025. Sign-up: [Sign Up Your County Here](#)
 13. Supportive Housing Association of NJ will be opening registration for our Nov. 14th Conference in the next few weeks. More details available here: <https://www.shanj.org/conference-2025/>

V. **Adjournment:** Heather Simms: Time: 12:01 pm.

- A. Next meeting 9/13/2025 10:00 am –noon.
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- B. Future Agenda Items/Additional Items for Meetings in 2025
1. Quality Improvement Plan (QIP): (Connie Greene)
 2. NJ DoE Threat Assessment Protocols
 3. Overview of CSS (Harry Reyes, DMHAS)
 4. Pretrial Services in Camden County
 5. JJC Discussion (Filomena DiNuzzo)
 6. DVR (Tatyana Brown)
 7. Presentation on SUD prevention efforts at County Jails?
 9. Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) (Suzanne B.)
 10. AIR, Youth Suicide Prevention (kurt@air.ngo)
 11. SUD and the JJC (Francis Walker, JJC)
 12. Experiences of Consumers in SUD Crisis
 13. DMHAS Fiscal Presentation: August 2025. Confirmed