

**Professional Advisory Committee  
of the  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
New Jersey Department of Human Services  
Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Location:** Monmouth County Human Services Building  
3000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ

**Date:** September 21, 2012

**Attendance:** Linda Chapman, Tony Comerford, James Curtin, Roberto Flecha, Benjamin Gonzales, Jan Krolack, Susan Neshin, Alan Oberman, Dharmesh Parikh, Mike Santillo, Barbara Schlichting, Sue Seidenfeld, Megan Sullivan, Maria Varnavis-Robinson, Linda Voorhis, Donald Weinbaum, Ernestine Winfrey

**State Staff:** Carmine Centanni, Nancy Hopkins, Mollie Greene, Dona Sinton

**PAC Business**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Evelyn Sullivan at 10:00 am. The July 20th, 2012 minutes were approved.

**Announcements**

- Information was handed out during the meeting about Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies

**Discussion:**

To recap, shifting behavioral health to managed care is among many Medicaid changes New Jersey is seeking through the Wavier DHS submitted in September 2011 to the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The state is awaiting a decision from the CMS that will allow the state to reform the way it delivers care and services to Medicaid beneficiaries. Assuming that federal agency green lights the waiver, the state plans to solicit proposals for an Administrative Services Organization (ASO). There will be just one ASO chosen, and it will coordinate behavioral health for adult Medicaid patients. There is already an ASO overseeing children's behavioral health and currently that contract is held by PerformCare. To prepare for the shift to managed care, the state began meeting in January with representatives of mental health and addiction service providers.

A discussion ensued regarding the DHS Comprehensive Waiver and feedback from members about the state's proposed September 14, 2012 draft of Service Continuum Descriptions that includes activities and services that will need to be further defined in the next several months. Discussion topics also included electronic health benefits and exchange plans.

The state expects to select the winning adult behavioral health ASO early next year, and to have this new contractor on the job by the start of the next fiscal year, July 1, 2013. Initially, the ASO will just provide administrative oversight and care coordination, but eventually plans are to shift from an ASO to a full “managed behavioral health organization” that receives a per member per month reimbursement from Medicaid to arrange care for particular patient populations.

The design and implementation of the Administrative Services Organization/Managed Behavioral Health Organization (ASO/MBHO) is intended as a vehicle to achieve these desired changes to promote improved access and quality, greater value, and sustainability for New Jersey’s behavioral health system of care. An overview of the ASO Steering Committee Report, which is posted on the website at [http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/home/mbho/Stakeholder final report june1 5 2012. pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/home/mbho/Stakeholder_final_report_june15_2012.pdf).

**Next meeting November 16, 2012**