

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

Meeting Location: 3000 Kozloski Road, Freehold NJ 07728

Date: May 17, 2013

Attendance: Anthony Comerford, James Curtin, Roberto Flecha, Benjamin John Gonzales, Connie Greene, Manuel Guantez, Jean Hennon, Phil Horowitz, Barry Johnson, Jan Krolack, Diane Litterer, Susan Neshin, Alan Oberman, Dharmesh Parikh, Jass Pelland, Vera Sansone, Michael Santillo, Barbara Schlichting, Sue Seidenfeld, Maria Varnavis-Robinson, Linda Voorhis, Donald Weinbaum, Ernestine Winfrey

State Staff: Roger Borichewski, Jean DeVitto, Steven Fishbein, Mollie Greene, Lynn Kovich

Chairperson Barbara Schlichting called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

PAC BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes: ***Jan Krolack moved; Roberto Flecha seconded to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2013 P.A.C. meeting as submitted.***

UPDATES

DMHAS Strategic Planning: Lynn Kovich thanked the more than 400 people who participated in the recent four stakeholder “topical” feedback meetings and assured that DMHAS would follow-up. She said a “concrete work plan” will be finalized by the end of July.

Supported Employment: Information and Opportunity to Collaborate: Steven Fishbein, DMHAS staff, gave an overview of the DMHAS Supported Employment (SE) project. He distributed two SE informational pieces and a “Confidential Referral Form to DVRS.” DMHAS, in collaboration with DVRS, provides funds to 22 SR projects, at least one in each county. The SE program is employment (not treatment) for people over 18 years of age with serious mental illness.

He answered many questions.

More than 5,000 people have participated in the SE program. The addiction Halfway House Association may be interested in discussing with Steve the participation of people with substance use disorders.

ASO Update: Lynn said DMHAS is “very close” to having a final draft RFP document for review by senior DHS staff. DMHAS continues to work closely with officials from Medicaid.

The rate-setting process “kick-off” meeting for stakeholders will be next week.

She said the current ASO for the Children’s System of Care [PerformCare] will be eligible to compete for the ASO for adult mental health and addictions services.

Barry Johnson suggested and others supported a recommendation that the State’s RFP for the ASO include a stipulation that a representative of the ASO be required to attend county-based meetings (such as County PAC/PACADA and/or SRC and/or other) on at least a quarterly basis.

Adolescent Update: Lynn indicated that DMHAS is “on-schedule” for the July 1st turn-over to DCF of the 16 DMHAS contracts for adolescent addiction services. SJ1 funds will remain with DMHAS at least until all “kinks” are worked out.

Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale (BRSS): Roger Borichewski said that DMHAS has received a \$50,000 grant to develop a credential for persons who provide peer support services for people with substance abuse disorders.

National Development Research Institute (NDRI) NeC-ATTC Grant: Lynn reported that advanced training on working with co-occurring clients will be provided in mid-July.

She will talk with Deb Wentz (NJAMHAA) regarding securing input from agencies about specific concerns providers may want addressed in the training.

She assured the PAC that people who do not have co-occurring problems but rather are diagnosed with alcohol/drug only or mental health only problems will not fall outside the new system of care.

DISCUSSION

Lynn said NJ’s own suicide hotline, **New Jersey HopeLine** [855-654-6735] was launched on May 1st. In just five days, the HopeLine received 299 calls (5 of which were very high risk and were appropriately referred). University Behavioral Health Care won the competition to operate the new hotline. Calls to the National Suicide Hotline are now routed through the NJ HopeLine.

FEMA has awarded New Jersey a \$11.5 million, nine-month grant for expanded and continuing **counseling services** related to super-storm Sandy “regular service

program” (RSP) through the NJ Hope and Healing project. There was much discussion about the responses to super-storm Sandy. Connie Greene will share with PAC members SAMHSA research information about addiction rates following disasters. She said NJ Hope and Healing counselors report that people are now angry about the many “no’s” they are receiving from insurance companies, FEMA others regarding recovery from the storm.

Roger said the UBHC “Hope 4 You” **telephonic counseling services** for survivors of Sandy will operate through June 30, 2013.

Dr. Susan Neshin expressed concern that MATI providers have not been asked to serve on the new **Drug Court Advisory Committee**.

DMHAS will provide information next week about the impact of **federal sequestration** funds on mental health and addictions services in New Jersey.

A DMHAS announcement about the **DMHAS Deputy Director** position will be made very soon.

Alan Oberman distributed information about upcoming events regarding “**parity**.”

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Next meeting July 19, 2013 at 10 am