

**PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
of the
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
New Jersey Department of Human Services**

Meeting Location: 3000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

Date: May 16, 2014

Attendance: Roberto Flecha, Benjamin Gonzalez, Connie Greene, Manny Guantez, Jean Hennon, Barry Johnson, Jan Krolack, Diane Litterer, Susan Neshin, Alan Oberman, Dharmesh Parikh, Vera Sansone, Michael Santillo, Barbara Schlichting, Sue Seidenfeld, Donald Weinbaum, Ernestine Winfrey

State Staff: Suzanne Borys, Jean DeVitto, Lynn Kovich, and Dona Sinton

PAC Business: Chairperson Barbara Schlichting called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Minutes of January 17, 2014 PAC meeting were approved as submitted.

Presentation: Lynn Kovich said that because of the continuing challenge for providers concerning psychiatric coverage at substance abuse agencies, DMHAS began discussion with Rutgers/ University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC) about development of a project to assist agencies in securing Medical Directors.

Rosemarie Rosati, COO of Rutgers' (UBHC) presented a brief history of how the UBHC "Medical Director Initiative" came into being. She emphasized the difficulties of agencies' retaining a "Medical Director who genuinely functions as a Medical Director."

Dr. Theresa Miskimen distributed power point slides about the "Medical Director Initiative" and gave an overview of the Initiative's activities. UBHC is now sharing a psychiatrist who also serves as "Medical Director" at four (4) agencies, twenty (20) hours per week.

As part of the Initiative, UBHC psychiatrists will create a curriculum (with emphasis on co-occurring disorders) and provide training. There was much discussion about the initiative.

Updates/Discussion:

Licensing in Correctional Settings

Jean DeVitto reported upon a pilot project with Corrections-licensed Halfway Back Houses to provide alcohol/drug treatment services (which would include allowing use of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services).

A2295 was recently signed into law. It requires DHS to provide licenses to programs operating in State correctional facilities and county jails which meet requirements for licensure for services (not physical plant facilities). She said they and Corrections staff are working on development of regulations for these facilities. A new set of quasi residential and ambulatory regulations will need to be developed by the end of summer 2014. The new law ensures that incarcerated individuals who complete licensed drug treatment programs are not denied eligibility for general assistance benefits upon release from incarceration.

There was discussion, including concern that some County governments may divert their funds to support jail programs from funding for community non-profit service agencies.

Barry Johnson said the 1984 AEREF law (which established a fund for county governments to support local alcoholism treatment and education services) should be updated; the amount of dollars earmarked for this fund has not changed since 1991 (\$11 million per year).

Don Weinbaum warned about being vigilant concerning the possibility of new processes “taking on a life of their own.”

NJSAMS Update

Suzanne Borys said the new NJSAMS “ticket management system” for customer service is working very well. Several new features will be added to NJSAMS soon. DMHAS continues to address the “one ID number” issue. Alan Oberman questioned the interoperability of NJSAMS information with Electronic Health Records (EHR). He said agencies should not have to print reports.

Rate Setting Update:

Lynn Kovich reported that DMHAS hopes to release some new rates early in the new fiscal year. She stated that DMHAS cannot wait until the ASO is established to use new rates; therefore, DMHAS will need to begin to use some new rates prior to the implementation of the ASO.