

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

Meeting Location: 3000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

Date: November 21, 2014

Attendance: Camille Bloomberg, LeeAnn Cianci, Anthony Comerford, Joseph Cuffari, Roberto Flecha, Ian Gershman, Benjamin John Gonzalez, Connie Greene, Manuel Guatntez, Jean Hennon, Barry Johnson, Diane Litterer, Deborah McKinley, Kendria McWilliams, Alan Oberman, Michael Paoello, Dharmesh Parikh, Jass Pelland, Vera Sansone, Michael Santillo, Barbara Schlichting, Sue Seidenfeld, Don Starn, Linda Voorhis, LeeAnn Wagner, Donald Weinbaum, and Ernestine Winfrey

State Staff: Roger Borichewski, Jean DeVitto, Steve Fishbein, Donald Hallcom, and Dona Sinton

Chairperson Barbara Schlichting called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and welcomed all, including new PAC members to the first meeting of a new two-year PAC term. Self-introductions were made.

She reviewed the role of PAC members, PAC "Ground Rules" and PAC By-Laws. She asked for volunteers to serve on a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate for the new Executive Committee of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Jean Hennon, Alan Oberman, Sue Seidenfeld, Linda Voorhis and Connie Greene volunteered.

PAC Business: Minutes of the September PAC meeting were approved as submitted.

Presentation: Steve Fishbein (the Division's Director of Criminal Justice Programs) conducted a power point presentation and answered several questions about Drug Courts, especially about the newly-approved expansion funding. He commended the treatment agencies that participate in the Drug Court network of addictions service providers. The Division has a "very good" relationship with the Administrative Office of the Courts (meeting monthly); numbers of Drug Court participants have "swelled." He and Jean DeVitto said there are 564 licensed substance abuse residential beds for Drug Court clients (325 Long-term Rehabilitation; 26 Short-Term Rehabilitation and 213 Half Way House).

Alan Oberman said that one of the unintended consequences of the Drug Court expansion is the decrease of treatment beds for the public (non-Drug Court clients). There was considerable discussion. Steve said the Division is "very aware of this concern." There was agreement that this item would be a continuing PAC agenda item

in the future. Because Halfway Way House residents are finding it difficult to find employment and there is currently a wait list for Halfway Houses beds (2-3 months) and for Long-Term Rehabilitation beds (1 month and increasing), there was a suggestion that Sober Homes be considered for future funds.

Presentation: Donald Hallcom (Director of Prevention and Early Intervention DMHAS) provided an overview of early intervention and prevention. Don invited Connie Greene, Diane Litterer and Don Starn to share some of their prevention programs with the group. Connie spoke about prescription monitoring. Alan Oberman asked if the coalitions could include pharmacists. Diane described the medicine drop box program. There are 17 prevention coalitions throughout the state. Don Starn discussed the Strengthening Families program.

State Update:

Roger Borichewski, Assistant Director for the new DMHAS office of Olmstead, Prevention, Compliance, Planning and Evaluation provided an overview of his new office. He briefed the group on Olmstead and its implications on CEPP for those consumers in the state hospitals. He discussed that the PSCU is in his office and that they are working with other offices such as vital statistics to have the correct paperwork together for the consumers when they leave the hospital. Discussion continued around the gap in housing for clients with addiction issues.

Rates: Not yet completed. Matt Shaw and staff from the fiscal office at DMHAS are going through the delivered rates from Myers and Stauffer. Lynn Kovich wants to meet with the providers in the near future to reveal the rates.

Community Support Services (CSS) is another current initiative of DMHAS and involves working with individuals to provide ongoing services separate from housing (this does not pertain to clients with addictions).

December 5th State meeting in room 3000 from 9:30 – noon on behavioral health home models for addictions populations.

Next meeting January 16, 2015

Adjournment 12:10