

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

Date: September 19, 2014

Attendance: Connie Greene, Manuael Guantez, Jean Hennon, Barry Johnson, Diane Litterer, Alan Oberman, Dharmesh Parikh, Jass Pelland, Vera Sansone, Michael Santillo, Barbara Schlichting, Sue Seidenfeld, Donald Starn

State Staff: Suzanne Borys, Adam Bucon, Andrea Connor, Jean DeVitto, Nitin Garg, Lynn Kovich, Harry Reyes, Dona Sinton

Secretary Barry W. Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. He said that Chairperson Barbara Schlichting will be arriving at the meeting shortly.

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

Presentation: Adam Bucon of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services reported that the Division has provided funds for six months for four “emergency” naloxone-distribution projects (at John Brooks Recovery Center; Urban Treatment Associates; The Lennard Clinic and JSAS HealthCare), serving in five (5) counties (Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Monmouth and Ocean, respectively). The Division will develop and issue an RFP for such services following the end of the six-month emergency project.

Margaret B. Rizzo, JSAS HealthCare, gave an overview of their recently-begun Opioid Overdose Prevention Project. Credentialed counselors and nurses make presentations to groups of families and friends (approximately twenty people) on the topics of addictions, treatment for addictions and administration of naloxone along with their distribution of Narcan Kits (2 intranasal dosages) and a voucher for 30 days of treatment to attendees. There were many questions and much discussion.

Barry distributed copies of a recent article from *The New Yorker* about naloxone use in Staten Island.

Alan Oberman said CVS is looking to sell naloxone over-the-counter.

Dr. Robert Eilers, DMHAS Medical Director, has posted a short training video about the use of intranasal Narcan on the Division’s website.

Updates/Discussion:

ASO/Rates/Timelines: Assistant Commissioner Lynn Kovich said that the Division awaits a fiscal analysis of the budgetary impact of the new proposed draft Medicaid

reimbursement rates. She shares everyone's exasperation about the length of time it has taken to finalize the new rates. She anticipates that a day-long Division-sponsored meeting will take place in late October or November at which the new proposed rates will be announced. During the morning portion of the meeting, their consultant will explain the process for rate-setting including assumptions, etc. In the afternoon, the rates will be distributed and discussed. It is likely that DMHAS will utilize some new rates prior to the establishment of the ASO. She answered several questions.

NJSAMS: Dr. Suzanne Borys said new the NJSAMS is "ready to go" but is being held-up by negotiations with the American Psychiatric Association (APA) about the fees APA wants to charge the State for using DSM-V information. Several people said there will be need for training about the new NJSAMS.

EHR implementation and how agencies can eventually secure EHR's: There was much discussion about Electronic Health Records (EHR).

Manny Guantez said they are using a "modular approach."

Vera Sansone said CPC Behavioral Healthcare has replicated their paperwork onto EHR screens.

Alan Oberman is optimistic that EHR will be time-saving.

Sue Seidenfeld that in small agencies, the challenges are significant, especially related to costs.

Lynn Kovich said that the Division will work with NJAMHAA to provide technical assistance to agencies concerning implementation of EHR.

Other: Many people spoke favorably about the Legislature's recently-announced package of 21 bills to address the heroin epidemic. There will be more detailed information in the near future, hopefully including the endorsement and backing of these bills by the Governor.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05p.m. This is the last meeting of the current group of PAC members. New members will be appointed and join 20 current PAC members who recommitted their membership for the next meeting on November 21, 2014.