

**MORRIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY  
BOARD – March 13, 2014**

**Members Present:**

Charlie Berman, Citizen Representative  
Lisa Brett, Citizen Representative  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative  
Claire Cooney, Citizen Representative  
Linda Csengeto, OTA Rep.  
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Recourses of Morris County  
Laruen Hirtes, Citizen Representative  
Julian Hill Jr., MCPO  
Peggy Himsl, Citizen Representative  
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Representative  
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative  
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative  
LaJuan Tucker, MCPO

**Also Attending:**

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS  
Lynne, Chandler, Saint Clare's Behavioral Health Services  
Cheryl Ehrgott, Public  
Valerie Fox, Public

**Staff in Attendance:**

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS  
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS  
Frank Pinto, MCDHS  
Barbara Westenberger, MCDHS

**I. Call to Order and Approval of October 10 minutes –**

Ms. Barbara Ward, MHSAAAB Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 5:20 p.m. Mr. Chris Chernick made a motion to approve the January 9, 2014 minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Peggy Himsl. All were in favor.

**II. Welcome and Introductions –**

Ms. Barbara Ward welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

**III. Chair Report –**

Ms. Ward called everyone's attention to their Orientation folder. Ms. Ward then gave the floor to Ms. Laurie Becker. She and staff gave a presentation about the Morris County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Advisory Board (MHSAAAB) and the subcommittees of the MHSAAAB.

#### **IV. Subcommittee Reports –**

##### **Funding – Ms. Laurie Becker**

Ms. Becker reported that there was an RFP from the New Jersey Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for supportive housing. Ms. Becker reported there were 2 Morris County agencies that submitted applications: Mental Health Association of Morris County and Community Hope. She reported that due to the deadline of April 1 for board recommendations to be submitted to DMHAS, the MHSAAAB planning subcommittee needed to develop a recommendation before the April 10 MHSAAAB meeting.

**Planning** – Ms. Becker requested that the planning committee meet to review and update if needed the funding priorities for 2015 Grant In Aid. A meeting will be scheduled before the next board meeting.

**Legislative/Advocacy – No report.**

##### **County Alliance Steering Committee (CASS) – Mr. Steve Nebesni**

Mr. Steve Nebesni reported that the CASS is currently reviewing the Fiscal Year 2015 Municipal Alliance Applications. Mr. Nebesni stated that the 2013 grant extension contract resolution was approved at last night's Freeholder meeting. Mr. Nebesni also reported that the 2014 Natural High Skate Night at Mennen Arena which was originally scheduled for Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> is postponed.

#### **V. Staff Reports**

##### **Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni**

Mr. Nebesni reported that the bulk of the Alliance applications for Fiscal Year 2015 will be good for 5 years with just signature pages and resolutions being needed on an annual basis. Mr. Nebesni also reported that on Thursday, April 24, 2014, the County along with Morris County Prevention is Key's Community Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris will be sponsoring Project Purple at the Mt. Olive Performing Arts Center (18 Corey Road, Flanders) from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.. The event will feature Former NBA basketball player, Chris Herren who will share the story of his professional career, addiction and recovery. The event is free and open to students, parents, and the community. Mr. Nebesni passed around the flyer for the event and also stated that more information can be found at [www.morrishumanservices.org](http://www.morrishumanservices.org).

##### **Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Beth Jacobson**

Ms. Beth Jacobson reported that the resolution to fully execute the 2014 Chapter 51 subgrants was approved at the March 12th Freeholder meeting. Ms. Jacobson reported that the planning subcommittee met on January 29<sup>th</sup> to review the purpose of the County Comprehensive Plan and the outline of what the plan should look like. The subcommittee also met on Monday, March 10, 2014 to review data. Ms. Jacobson stated that she plans to hold focus groups with members of the Cross Systems Review Committee, Youth Services Advisory Committee and possibly youth representatives.

Ms. Jacobson reported that they are planning to view the movie “Anonymous People” at an upcoming Alcohol and Drug Director’s Association meeting. Other counties have hosted screening events and they may be something to explore for Morris County.

Ms. Jacobson distributed copies of the “Opioid Toolkit” from SAMHSA and an article about the rash of deaths attributed to the use of heroin laced with Fentanyl, which can be a fatal combination. She also gave a report from the Morris County Medical Examiner’s Office on the number of overdose deaths for 2011-2013:

|      |               |                     |
|------|---------------|---------------------|
| 2011 | Total OD – 39 | Heroin related – 7  |
| 2012 | Total OD – 56 | Heroin related – 30 |
| 2013 | Total OD – 47 | Heroin related – 21 |

Ms. Becker clarified that according to the Medical Examiner, the rise in heroin-related OD deaths since 2011 year may be attributed in part to the use of new testing processes, not necessarily a rise in use. However, the numbers are high, and so far in 2014 the unofficial numbers continue to be high.

There was discussion about ways to address this heroin epidemic, and the fact that other counties have formed task forces, particularly Ocean County, where these overdose deaths are highest. Ms. Jacobson called attention to the toolkit from SAMHSA, which has information for community members, first responders, prescribers, patients and family members, and about recovery from overdose. Charlie Berman stated that he would like to see more education around the use of Narcan and the Naloxone nasal spray. Ms. Jacobson will look into inviting Doug Collier to Morris County to speak. Doug is a former DEA agent, who now works for the Attorney General to educate about this epidemic and the Overdose Prevention Act. This is an issue being addressed by the Community Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris (CCSHM), through Morris County Prevention is Key (MCPIK), in which Beth Jacobson and Steve Nebesni are involved. Ms. Jacobson will contact Barbara Kaufman regarding addressing this issue countywide.

**Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Laurie Becker**

Ms. Laurie Becker reported that the 2014 Public Forum is on the calendar and will be held at the Haggerty Center, at the Morris County Arboretum on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, from 5 pm to 8 pm. The title of this year’s Forum will be “The Many Faces of Recovery: Wellness in Action”. The next Forum Planning meeting will be held on March 20, 2014 @ 3 pm.

**VI. Joint PAC Report –**

Lynne Chandler, who is the new co-chair of the Integrated PAC, was unable to attend the most recent meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Laurie Becker reported that a big part of the discussion was regarding the heroin crisis facing our state. Ms. Becker also

highlighted 2014 priorities identified from January's meeting, since the MHSAB didn't meet in February. Priorities included the need for access to housing with adequate supports for individuals coming out of Greystone Hospital, including group homes. Exasperating the problem is the recent decrease in fair market value for rental apartments in Morris County making it more difficult for individuals to obtain affordable housing. PAC members are also concerned about the State moving to managed Medicaid with a fee for service payment system that may not adequately cover all current service needs.

The next PAC meeting will be April 4, 2014 @ 10 am at Atlantic Health Corporate offices, 475 South St., Morristown, NJ. Liz Manley from the Children's System of Care will be in attendance at the meeting.

**VII. Guest presentation:**

Ms. Chandler reported on the changes at St. Clare's Behavioral Health Services. Ms. Chandler spoke about St. Clare's Core Services, and the fact that they still are focused on providing the full continuum of care. She addressed the fact that the facility in Budd Lake has been closed, but that those clients are still being served at their facility on 1 Medical Drive. She advised that the decision and process was a very thoughtful one, and stressed that it was one made independently from the hospital's imminent purchase by Prime. Anyone who would like more information on Saint Clare's is encouraged to call Ms. Chandler directly at 973-625-7002.

**VIII. State Liaison Report – Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Ms. Eileen Alexander**

The next North Region Advisory Group meeting is on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 am at Greystone Psychiatric, please bring identification or you will not be allowed to enter the hospital.

Izabel Galka is the Unusual Incident Report (UIR) Coordinator for the Northern Region, please contact her in the Northern office, at 973-977-4397, should you need to report an incident. A revised UIR policy for unplanned hospitalizations has been sent to providers as a memo.

Loss of contact agency policies are due to the County Program Analyst by April 1, 2014.

Request for proposals for Super Storm Sandy Recovery and Rebuilding initiatives are available in Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Union, areas that have suffered great impact from Super Storm Sandy.

A Request for Proposals is out provide supportive housing services for individuals discharged from State Psychiatric Hospitals. This RFP is divided into four areas:

- 1) Generic Supportive Housing

- 2) Forensically involved commitment
- 3) MESH beds to be developed as a RIST Team to cover Mercer and Middlesex Counties
- 4) MESH beds for 15 individuals in a state hospital for one award in each of the following counties, Camden, Gloucester, Morris or Union

Co-Occurring Disorders Learning Community (COD-LC) is beginning in the Northern Region. Agencies can be at any level of implementing integrated treatment to apply. Applications are due, April 11, 2014.

The Department of Human Services proposed 2015 Budget was released. Check the website for complete copy and details. Some points to note: North Jersey Developmental Center will close June 30, 2014 and Woodbridge Developmental Center will close 12/31/14.

**IX. Old Business – None**

**X. New Business –**

Mr. Frank Pinto reported that both the Alliance and CH51 Resolution were approved by the Freeholders at last night's meeting. Mr. Pinto also reported that the 2014 County Budget was introduced to the public at that time, with a zero percent increase. Mr. Pinto wanted the MHSAAAB to be aware that there were members of the public in attendance who questioned some expenditures for services, particularly for substance abuse services and the Municipal Alliances, since those resolutions were being approved. Invitations were extended to these individuals inviting them to attend Freeholder-appointed advisory group meetings to learn more about funded programs and advisory group responsibilities.

**XI. Open to the Public –**

Ms. Valerie Fox reported that she read an article which stated that 65% of those seeking treatment for mental health issues are not able to find help. Ms. Fox also asked if State hospitals would be required per the Olmstead settlement to discharge CEPP patients in less than the current 120 days allowed. Ms. Becker reported that she was not aware of any reduction at this time.

**XII. Adjournment –**

Motion was made by Ms. Barbara Ward to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Mr. Julian Hill. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m. The next meeting will be April 10, 2014 at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Nebesni  
Municipal Alliance Coordinator

