

**MORRIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY  
BOARD – April 10, 2014**

**Members Present:**

Charlie Berman, Citizen Representative  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative  
Claire Cooney, Citizen Representative  
Linda Csengeto, OTA  
Carol DeGraw, United Way of NNJ  
Cheryl Garodnick, Citizen Representative  
Julian Hill Jr., MCPO  
Peggy Himsl, Citizen Representative  
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative  
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative  
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative  
Deb Ward, Citizen Representative

**Also Attending:**

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS  
Lynne Chandler, Saint Clare's Behavioral Health  
Kathryn DeFillippo, M.C. Freeholder  
Valerie Fox, Public  
Robert Parker, NewBridge  
John Robbins, CSPNJ

**Staff in Attendance:**

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Mary Jo Buchanan, Assistant County Administrator  
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS  
Patricia Mocarski, MCDHS  
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS

**I. Call to Order and Approval of March minutes –**

Ms. Barbara Ward, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.  
Ms. Ward made a motion to approve the March 13, 2014 minutes. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition.

**II. Welcome and Introductions –**

Ms. Barb Ward welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Ms. Mary Jo Buchanan, Assistant County Administrator, introduced and welcomed Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo.

**III. Chair Report –**

Ms. Ward turned her time over to Ms. Becker for a special thanks to Ms. Valerie Fox.

Ms. Becker, Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Parker, Ms. DeGraw and others all thanked Valerie for her many her years of dedication and hard work. They thanked her for sharing her life stories and her insight. For 22 years Ms. Fox has been writing newsletters for the Mental Health Coalition and interviewing people for their newsletters. The newsletters have been high quality and very informative. Several board members stated that they always look forward to receiving them and will miss them.

Ms. Fox thanked everyone for their kindness and hard work. If anyone would like to keep up with Ms. Fox she offered folks to friend her on her Facebook page. She will post new stories and information there.

#### **IV. Subcommittee Reports**

##### **Funding – DMHAS Supportive Housing Request for Funding Proposal (RFP) - Ms. Laurie Becker**

In everyone's packet is a copy of a letter dated March 31 to Deborah Gravely-Lefkowitz, NJDMHAS. In the letter the MHSAB ranked proposals from the Mental Health Association of Morris County (MHAMC) and Community Hope in response to the Supportive Housing Request for Funding Proposal (RFP). They ranked MHAMC number one with rationale and Community Hope number two with rationale. The board felt both agencies are high quality supportive housing providers and either agency would be great choice for this award.

Ms. Himsl commented that the proposals would have been stronger if written with more clarity and detail. Several board members also commented on this.

Ms. Alexander stated that many agencies don't have grant writers. She suggested the board let the agencies know that they would prefer a more detailed proposal.

##### **Planning – 2015 Funding Priorities**

Ms. Becker provided copies of the 2015 Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Funding Priorities for the board to review and approve. Ms. Marcy McMann made a motion to approve the 2015 GIA Funding Priorities and Ms. DeGraw seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions.

Ms. Jacobson provided copies of the 2015 Chapter 51 Funding Priorities. The board was asked to review and approve. These are similar to GIA; however, the focus is addictions and co-occurring illness. Chapter 51 is in a renewal year. They are currently working on their plan and next year should be a full year application.

Ms. McMann made a motion to approve the 2015 GIA Funding Priorities.

Ms. DeGraw seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions.

##### **Legislative/Advocacy – No Report**

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

The CASS is currently reviewing revised applications. They should be ready to bring to the next board meeting for their approval. May 12 is the next CASS meeting.

**V. State Liaison Report – Ms. Eileen Alexander - Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) - April**

**Request for Proposals**

**\*Residential Intensive Support Team for Essex and Hudson Counties for Individuals Discharged from State Psychiatric Hospitals**

Within this initiative, DMHAS is announcing the availability of funds to develop a Residential Intensive Support Team (RIST) to cover Essex and Hudson Counties. This service is being specifically developed to address the housing and community support needs of discharge-ready individuals as identified by the DMHAS, from Greystone Park, Trenton and Ancora State Psychiatric Hospitals. Many of these individuals have co-existing medical conditions, co-occurring substance abuse disorders, and/or have experienced long periods of institutionalization (2+ years) that require enhanced services to promote true community inclusion and the integration of primary health care.

The RIST approach to intensive residential support is flexible in design. Services are provided “en vivo”, in the individual’s natural environment. The average RIST team provides approximately six (6) hours per week of support services per consumer, and this is the minimum expectation for RIST awarded through this RFP.

This funding (\$1M) will provide new housing opportunities for a minimum of 25 individuals who are in a NJ state psychiatric hospital and designated as Continuing Evaluation Pending Placement (CEPP). The proposed program services will be provided in Essex and Hudson Counties.

Proposals due: April 23, 2014

Preliminary awards: May 26, 2014

Final award: June 9, 2014

**Development of Involuntary Outpatient Commitment**

Mandatory Bidders’ Conference: Monday, March 24, 2014

Due Date: April 25, 2014, no later than 4:00 p.m.

Notify Date: June 6, 2014

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services seek proposals to provide an Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) program in the following 15 counties:

Atlantic, Bergen, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Salem, Somerset and Sussex.

Applicants may submit proposals to provide IOC in one or more counties.

**Supportive Housing and Community Support Services for Individuals Discharged from State Psychiatric Hospitals who are Dually Diagnosed (DD-MI)**

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services seek proposals to develop Supportive Housing (SH) and related community support services for individuals, identified by DMHAS who are dually diagnosed with a developmental disability and a mental illness who are on CEPP status in State Psychiatric Hospitals, some of

whom may also have co-existing medical conditions, co-occurring substance abuse disorders, have experienced periods of extended institutionalization, and/or are reluctant to leave the hospital.

This funding will provide new housing opportunities for a minimum of 14 individuals statewide.

Annualized funding of \$1.498 million, subject to State appropriation, is available statewide to provide enhanced supportive housing and related community support services to serve a minimum of 14 individuals, who are on CEPP status at a New Jersey State Psychiatric Hospital and are dually diagnosed with a developmental disability and a mental illness

Mandatory Bidders' Conference: February 24, 2014

Due Date: March 24, 2014, no later than 4:00 p.m.

Notify Date: April 30, 2014

Final Awards: May 14, 2014

### **Super Storm Sandy Recovery and Rebuilding Initiatives - Supportive Housing for Individuals with a Substance Use Disorder**

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services has received a grant for \$ 24,744,000 to expend between now and September 30, 2015 through the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to provide time-limited supportive housing and supportive housing services which include 354 individuals with a substance use disorder and/or mental illness who were or are residents of the ten counties identified (Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Union) as suffering great impact from the Super Storm Sandy.

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is issuing the current Request for Proposal (RFP) to engage a provider to temporarily develop approximately 141 of the aforementioned 354 supportive housing beds and housing support services to individuals diagnosed with a substance use disorder

Mandatory Bidders' Conference: February 20, 2014

Due Date: March 20, 2014, no later than 4:00 p.m.

Notify Date: April 23, 2014

### **Provide Supportive Housing Services for Persons Discharged from State Psychiatric Hospitals**

The DMHAS is announcing the availability of funds to develop Supportive Housing for 105 consumers in four different initiatives.

**Generic Supportive Housing:** The DMHAS seeks to award a minimum of 50 supportive housing opportunities for individuals in a NJ state psychiatric hospital through this initiative. Applicants may submit a proposal to serve a maximum of 10 individuals in this initiative. Additionally, a minimum of 10 supportive housing opportunities will be

developed in each of the state hospital catchment areas. The state hospital catchment areas are as follows:

- a. *Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital catchment area includes Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Sussex, Passaic, Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset and Union.*
- b. *Trenton Psychiatric Hospital catchment area includes Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex.*
- c. *Ancora catchment area includes Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, Ocean and Burlington.*

All proposals will be scored and ranked together and for the initial three awards, the highest ranking proposal in each hospital catchment area will be awarded. Once these initial three awardees are determined, the DMHAS will award the remaining top ranking proposals out of all of the proposals submitted. The DMHAS will award a total of \$2,000,000 to serve 50 individuals in this initiative.

***Forensically-involved commitment – Supportive Housing:*** - The DMHAS seeks to award a minimum of 15 supportive housing opportunities for individuals in a NJ state psychiatric hospital with forensic involved commitment to be served by enhanced Supportive Housing statewide. Applicants may submit a proposal to serve a maximum of 5 individuals in this initiative. Additionally, a minimum of one proposal will be awarded in each hospital catchment area. All proposals will be scored and ranked together and for the initial three awards, the highest ranking proposal in each hospital catchment area will be awarded. Once these initial three awardees are determined, the DMHAS will award the remaining top ranking proposals out of all of the proposals submitted. The DMHAS will award a total of \$1,125,000 to serve 15 individuals in this initiative.

***Medically Enhanced Supportive Housing (Morris, Union and Camden/Gloucester counties):*** The DMHAS seeks to award a minimum of 15 supportive housing opportunities for individuals in a NJ state psychiatric hospital who have significant co-existing medical conditions. The DMHAS will issue one award in each of the following counties: Camden/Gloucester (bi-county award), Morris or Union. Applicants must submit a proposal to serve a minimum of 5 individuals. The DMHAS will award up to \$750,000 to serve 15 individuals in this initiative.

Due Date: March 12, 2014, no later than 4:00 p.m.

Notify Date: April 16, 2014

#### **Co-Occurring Disorders Learning Community**

DMHAS invites licensed mental health provider agencies and licensed substance abuse treatment facilities from northern NJ to participate in the Co-Occurring Disorders Learning Community. Counties to be included are Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Warren, Morris, Essex and Hudson. Collaboration between the NJDMHAS and the Rutgers UBHC technical Assistance Center will support agencies' efforts to implement evidence based integrated treatment.

The COD-LC Orientation is scheduled for 10-noon, Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>  
Rutgers UBH,  
151 Centennial Avenue, Piscataway  
Applications are due by Friday, April 11, 2014  
Project status will be determined by Friday, April 25, 2014

### **DMHAS Correspondence**

- Lost to contact policies for ICMS, PACT and Supportive Housing are due to DMHAS by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Submit to your Program Analyst and State ICMS Coordinator.
- March 21<sup>st</sup> letter from Lynn Kovich regarding expanded Medicaid coverage. Providers must enroll in NJ FamilyCare, become a provider by September 30, 2014.
- New USTF Portal- NJAMHAA offering technical assistance for \$2,500.00
- Screening waivers due April 30, 2014.
- Supportive employment is being rebid if they fall under the \$150,000 grant. Because there is no longer DVR money, we want two staff in each program so these programs will be rebid to give enough financial resources for two staff.
- Clean up modifications are due no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>
- Contracts are due in by May 1<sup>st</sup>, no extensions will be given. Continuity of operations plan must be included. If you do not have one please include the timeframe in which you will be developed. Ex. Superstorm Sandy, how would you continue to operate specific to the service you provide. What if your medical records go down?
- New version of the budget Matrix 3.01, make sure you are using this new version or it will not be accepted.
- Rate settings groups started to reconvene last week

## **VI. Staff Reports**

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

Project Purple “Stand Up Against Substance Abuse” Event is to be held on April 24 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Mt. Olive Performing Arts Center in Flanders. Registration is close to 1,000 already. Capacity is 1,400.

The event will feature former Boston Celtic, Chris Herren, who will share his story of addiction and recovery.

If you are interested in attending please register by using the link on the Morris County Human Service website: [www.morrishumanservices.org](http://www.morrishumanservices.org).

The Alliances have received their fully executed letters of agreement for the 2013 grant extension which will extend the Alliance funding until the end of June 2014.

Beginning in July 2014, the Alliance program will be run on a fiscal year as opposed to a calendar year.

Mr. Nebesni highlighted the programs of the Morris Plains Alliance. He talked about the various activities they have held and distributed flyers on some of the events. Some examples are Red Ribbon Week, Kids Helping Kids, parent and child events, and the Teen Center in Morris Plains. This Alliance has kept quite busy and is a very active one.

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

2014 Chapter 51 subgrant packages were mailed out last week.

Ms. Jacobson provided an update on the Comprehensive Planning Process. The Planning Committee met on March 10 and reviewed data. The first focus group was held on April 2 with the Cross Systems Review Committee. A second focus group is scheduled for April 25 with the Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC). The planning process is taking a turn. There will soon be a technical assistance section. The committee members each got a binder to work from. Ms. Jacobson will be attending training. There is help for each county; however, they are still not sure when the plan is due.

There was discussion about the heroin epidemic in New Jersey and what is being seen in Morris County. Beth Jacobson distributed copies of the Executive Summary from Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse's (GCADA) Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use, along with the summary of recommendations from that report. (The report can also be accessed on the GCADA website [www.state.nj.us/treasury/gcada](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/gcada) ). This was a topic of discussion at the PAC meeting, and Human Services will be partnering with Barbara Kauffman from Morris County Prevention is Key to make this the focus of Morris County's annual Countywide Prevention Forum. The board discussed the fact that prescription painkillers are also being abused and causing overdose deaths, and often times lead to the use of heroin, since heroin is much less expensive. The need for a county level task force was discussed, to include mental health and addictions professionals, medical professionals, and the Prosecutor's office and law enforcement. It must be a joint effort. Ms. Becker advised that the Board should submit a proposal to Mr. Pinto and Ms. Buchanan. A sign up sheet for a subcommittee was passed around for those would like to participate in an Opiate Task Force.

Ms. McMann mentioned that it is essential that this board lead the charge for this task force, looking at the prevention and treatment aspect of substance abuse. This problem is not one that should only be addressed by law enforcement and it is important to look at the disease of addiction. Ms. McMann brought up the success of the Drug Court Initiative.

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

The annual Consumer and Family Forum will be held on June 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown. Please put this date on your calendar. Mr. Peter Basto is back and will be the facilitator for the evening. The board is currently working on getting a few people that are willing to share their recovery journeys. Freeholder Kathryn DeFillippo stated that she will be happy to make opening remarks if her schedule allows.

**VII. Joint PAC Report – Lynne Chandler**

Liz Manley, Director, NJ Division of Children’s System of Care (CSOC), talked about the integrated system of care for individuals 21 and under. 16,000 families transferred from DDD to the Children’s System of Care. Ms. Chandler believes there is a dramatic improvement using Perform Care to access services.

Ms. DeGraw stated that she has heard many folks are unhappy with Perform Care and children are not getting services they need. It was suggested by Ms. Becker that Ms. DeGraw has anyone experiencing difficulties with Perform Care call Ms. Rosemary Browne at the Children’s System of Care (CSOC).

Ms. Chandler also reported that there have been 150 families that have received respite; but there are continuing challenges with respite. Discussion ensued about 18-21 year olds that are getting short term treatment in the hospital that once released often lose their spot in the group home. Most of the time the group home is only able to hold the individual’s spot in the group home for 30 days. Thus when they are discharged from the hospital after 30 days there is often nowhere to place them.

Ms. Manley will be at the Public Safety Training Academy in May and will host a “Meet the Director” session. Ms. Ward stated that perhaps some talking points could be put together before the “Meet the Director” session. This would be a great time for families to attend and express their concerns to Ms. Manley.

Ms. Himsl mentioned that April is Autism Awareness month. Discussion ensued about concern over the lack of services and knowledge about this disability within the human service system. There is some good news in that Morristown Medical Center is building an Autism Center and Jewish Vocational Services has vocational training for individuals with Autism.

Ms. Becker reported that the Aging Out/In Task Force will be meeting on May 20 and that this would be a good topic for the agenda. All are welcome.

**VIII. Old Business - None**

**IX. New Business** –Mr. Berman passed out fliers on the Willow Tree’s biggest fundraiser of the year and their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual 5 K and Doggy Walk to help stop NJ’s heroin crisis – while preventing bullying and treating other drug use disorders. It will be held on

June 21 with a start time of 8:00 a.m. For further information and registration go to [www.willowtree.org](http://www.willowtree.org)

Mr. Berman mentioned an article in the paper on legalizing marijuana. Discussion ensued about legalization of marijuana and various members concern over the effect this may have on youth. Many individuals with addiction problems have reported starting with marijuana. Many believe it to be a gateway drug. The idea of writing a letter from the Board to the legislature against the legalization of marijuana was discussed; however, at this point it is just an issue to be aware of and monitor. There are states that have already legalized marijuana and are having problems; however, data is not yet available. A board member also explained the difference between medical marijuana and regular marijuana. It was explained that these are two different types of marijuana. Ms. Becker stated that this may be a good topic to add to the Opiate Task Force's concerns.

Ms. DeGraw brought copies of the United Way's Caregivers Coalition's "Pathways for Caregivers" guide. This guide has information, ideas and support for those providing care for loved ones. It has separate sections for caregivers of aging, disabilities and mental health. This is an excellent resource for all caregivers. For further information or to download an electronic copy see the United Way's Website [http://www.unitedwaynj.org/ourwork/heal\\_caregiversresources.php](http://www.unitedwaynj.org/ourwork/heal_caregiversresources.php)

#### **X. Open to the Public**

Ms. Valerie Fox mentioned with Medicaid many services for residential programs are not covered. She asked if DMHAS might step in and make up for that.

Ms. Eileen Alexander said this is being discussed. It is a difficult process and there are many changes. Discussion ensued about the systems wide impact of the closing of two developmental centers. There will likely be numerous staff changes at Greystone hospital as many staff that loses their jobs due to the centers' closures will be in a position to bump Greystone staff. This could affect the quality of service and the continuity of care for patients. It was suggested that perhaps Ms. Janet Monroe come to a board meeting to talk about these changes and concerns.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

Motion made by Ms. Mary Jane Melo to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned approximately 7:13 p.m. The next meeting will be May 8, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Mocarski  
Program Development Aide