

**MORRIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY
BOARD – September 11, 2014**

Members Present:

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Charlie Berman, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, OTA Rep.
Carol DeGraw, United Way of NNJ
Cheryl Garodnick, Citizen Representative
Julian Hill, MC Prosecutors Office
Peggy Himsl, Citizen Representative
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Representative
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative
LaJuan Tucker, MC Prosecutors Office
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative
Deborah Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS
Valerie Fox, Public

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Jennifer Carpinteri, MCDHS
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS

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

Ms. Barb Ward, MHSAAB Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 5:23 p.m. Mr. Chris Chernick stated that there was one correction to the minutes and that his name needed to be added to the attendance. Ms. LaJuan Tucker made a motion to approve the July 10, 2014 minutes with the noted corrected. Motion was seconded by Mr. Julian Hill. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition.

II. Welcome and Introductions –

Ms. Barb Ward welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

III. Chair Report –

Ms. Ward testified on behalf of the MHSAAB at Saint Clare's Public Hearing on July 22, 2014. These hearings were a chance for people to give testimony to the importance of Saint Clare's services to the community. At the core of the MHSAAB's mission is to make improvements in the continuum of human services

for residents and their families who live with mental illness, addictions and other difficulties. Thus the board voted to provide testimony at these hearings. Ms. Ward testified that as the Chairperson for MHSAAB she and the board give their full support to the Prime Health Care's acquisition of St. Clare's Health System with acute care hospitals in Denville and Dover, NJ and a most important service component – a full continuum of behavioral health care. Without Saint Clare's local continuum of behavioral health services enriched with medical treatment it would not be possible for many Morris County residents with mental health and addictions disorders to experience wellness and recovery. Mr. Chernick also testified on behalf of the MHSAAB for Saint Clare's at a second Public Hearing on July 23, 2014.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

Funding – Closed Session – 2015 funding recommendations

There was a motion to close the meeting made by Mr. Charlie Berman and seconded by Mr. Gregg Benson. There was no opposition and no abstentions.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act and per the board's normal resolution language and the closed session began at 5:30 p.m. All those in conflict with any of the funding streams were asked to leave the meeting.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 5:50 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Carol DeGraw stated that the funding subcommittee met, reviewed and discussed all funding applications. The subcommittee recommends that the MHSAAB approve all 2015 funding recommendations as discussed in closed session.

On motion of Ms. Linda Csengeto, seconded by Mr. Chris Chernick, the 2015 funding recommendations for Grant-in-Aid and Chapter 51 are approved. There was one abstention and no opposition. The motion was carried.

Funding – Ms. Jacobson

Ms. Jacobson presented a subgrant modification request from New Hope Foundation to move \$9,900 from Adolescent to Detoxification services to meet current and projected needs through the end of 2014. A motion was made by Ms. Carol DeGraw and seconded by Gregg Benson. There was one abstention and no opposition. The motion was carried.

Planning – Ms. Jacobson

Ms. Jacobson advised that the County Comprehensive Planning meeting is scheduled for Sept. 15th at 2:00 p.m. These Planning meetings are taking place every two months to develop a draft of the plan for submission to the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) in May. The September meeting will be used to

review past progress reports, develop a consumer survey, and begin development of logic models for each domain.

Legislative/Advocacy – No Report

County Alliance Steering Committee – Mr. Steve Nebesni

The Governor’s Council of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) has accepted nominations for Alliance Volunteer of the Year. Ms. Annelise Catanzaro has been named Morris County’s Volunteer of the Year. Ms. Catanzaro’s award will be presented at the (GCADA) meeting in Princeton on Sept. 17th. Mr. Nebesni will accept the award on her behalf since she will not be able to attend.

V. State Liaison Report – Division of Mental Health and Addictions Services (DMHAS) Ms. Eileen Alexander – see attached written report

Check the website to see current RFPs and awards. Further information can be found on DMHAS at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/divisions/dmhas/.

VI. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni

The fiscal year 2015 County Plan is on the GCADA agenda for Sept.17th. After that the letter of agreement should be received from the state. Supplemental funding went through. There will be free training on Narcan/Naloxone, the Good Samaritan Law, Opiates and general addiction at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy on Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. There is no registration required for this free training so anyone who is interested can just show up.

Mr. Nebesni highlighted the Hanover Alliance. They are involved in a variety of programs. They have an Elementary School Prevention Program where they have activities for the children and parents. During this program the participants identify the needs in each class and address these needs. They have a Family Teen Recreation program and coffee houses for teens. The high school has some proactive programs. They address underage drinking. They have DARE programs in the middle school which includes Red Ribbon Week, pre-prom events and programs for parents. The Hanover Alliance has served about 2000 residents in 2013. Ms. Ward suggested that it might be nice to have one of the Alliances come in and give a presentation. Mr. Nebesni will work on getting an Alliance to come to a board meeting and give a presentation.

Addictions Service Administrator – Ms. Beth Jacobson

There will be an open house for the CARES (Center for Addiction Recovery Education and Success) Recovery Center at Morris County Prevention is Key on Tuesday, September 23rd from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. CARES delivers peer to peer recovery support services through volunteers.

Ms. Jacobson attended the DMHAS Quarterly Provider meeting this morning. There was a presentation on the Olmstead progress, and Dr. Eilers, the Medical Director at DMHAS spoke about the Naloxone Bystander training. There are four Opioid Treatment programs offering Overdose Responder Training in Atlantic, Ocean and Monmouth, Essex and Camden, but anyone can attend any one of these trainings. There is a webinar on the DMHAS website, along with information on opioid overdose response and Naloxone (Narcan) availability and use, and information from the NJ Board of Medical Examiners on prescribing Naloxone.

The initial meeting of the Heroin/Opiate Task Force was on August 25, 2014. Over 50 individuals were in attendance. Many different groups were represented at the meeting. The first order of business is the countywide conference, which is tentatively scheduled for November 12th at the Skylands in Randolph. Ms. Barbara Kauffman has contacted Dr. Mario Finkelstein, an Addiction Psychiatrist, to be the keynote speaker. There will also be a panel of experts and family members, moderated by Mr. Doug Collier from the Attorney General's office.

In addition, work groups are being developed based on discussion at the August 25th meeting. They are currently as follows:

- Enhancing Access to Quality Treatment
- Public Education and Awareness
- Schools/Education
- Prescription Monitoring and Prescriber Education

Anyone that might be interested in participating in any of these groups please get in touch with Ms. Becker or Ms. Jacobson.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Laurie Becker

Ms. Lauren Hirtes has resigned from the board. She recently took a position with the Mental Health Association of Morris County and is no longer able to serve on the board due to a conflict of interest.

The New Jersey DMHAS Disaster and Terrorism Branch sent out a letter of request to providers interested in being pre-certified as potential disaster response agencies in the event of an overwhelming disaster. New Bridge Services and the Mental Health Association of Morris County were both approved for pre-certification in Morris County.

There is an open house to promote Mental Health Awareness to be held at Greystone Hospital, 59 Koch Road, Morris Plains, New Jersey. The date is October 2, 2014 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

VII. Joint PAC Report – No Report

VIII. Old Business – None

IX. New Business –

Ms. Peggy Himsl stated that Jewish Vocational Services is celebrating its 75th year. There will be an open house and celebration at Temple B'nai Abraham, 300 E. Northfield Rd. in Livingston. It is free and open to the public. There will be a special performance by Matt Savage, Jazz Pianist and Composer and a dessert reception to follow.

Mr. Gregg Benson mentioned that the NJ Chapter of Family Courts will be holding an Addiction Conference at Farleigh Dickinson University on September 20. The cost of the Conference is \$99. Mr. Benson will be presenting at the conference.

Ms. Garodnick stated there will be some training in October and November at Rutgers on neurobiology. These are new trainings related to addictions. Ms. Garodnick will email further information to Ms. Jacobson. The cost of these trainings is \$15 and includes lunch. Ms. Garodnick found the trainings to be very interesting and worthwhile.

A flier was distributed for a seminar to be held on September 16 at 6:30 p.m. on Addiction, Opioids, The Good Samaritan Law, and Naloxone. The purpose of this conference is to explore these topics in an effort to educate and work together towards solutions to opiate overdoses. It will be held at the Public Safety Training Academy at 500 W. Hanover Ave. in Parsippany. All are invited.

Ms. Becker will contact Janet Monroe, CEO of Greystone Hospital, to request that she give an update report to the board in either October or November.

X. Open to the Public

Ms. Fox stated this was a very informative and good meeting.

XI. Adjourn –

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Gregg Benson at 6:38 p.m. Mr. Charlie Berman seconded the motion. The next meeting will be on October 9.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide

