

MORRIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
ADVISORY BOARD – APRIL 14, 2011

I. Call to Order and Approval of April 14, 2011 Minutes –

LaJuan Tucker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. There was a motion to approve the March minutes as distributed. The motion was approved with two abstentions and no opposition.

II. Welcome and Introductions –

LaJuan welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

III. Chair Report – No Report

IV. Presentation – Daytop-New Jersey – Deborah McKinley, LPC, Associate Administrator

The mission of Daytop-New Jersey is to deliver comprehensive substance abuse co-occurring treatment and education program to male and female adolescents. The program is multi-disciplinary in nature. Special emphasis is placed on treating those adolescents without adequate financial resources and/or in need of an alternative to incarceration.

Daytop provides male and female adolescents:

- A comprehensive alcohol and drug treatment program.
- The highest level of certified substance abuse and mental health professionals.
- A professional medical team and full services for residential clients.
- A full education in the new preparatory school.
- A program that is family based, cost effective and peer-oriented.
- An alternative to incarceration in some cases.
- A full continuum of care either directly or through affiliation with other healthcare providers.
- A program based on the proven concepts of the therapeutic community and contemporary treatment modalities.
- CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) Accredited. Recognized for superior standards of care and excellence in outcome.

For further information on Daytop visit their website at www.daytopnj.org or call 1-888-4DAYTOP for their information and referral line which is open 24 hours a day.

V. Subcommittee Reports:

Funding Letter to DMHS/Supportive Housing – Laurie Becker

The MHSAAAB had reviewed the Supportive Housing Services application submitted by the Mental Health Association of Morris County to the Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS).

The MHSAAAB sent a letter to the DMHS recommending that DMHS award funding to the Mental Health Association of Morris County. The Mental Health Association did not receive this award from this statewide Request for Proposal (RFP).

The MHSAAAB also reviewed the Supportive Housing Services for Persons Discharged from State Psychiatric Hospitals application submitted by Community Hope, Inc. The MHSAAAB sent a letter of recommendation to DMHS recommending that DMHS award funding to support Community Hope's proposed "Medically-Enhanced Supported Living Program".

Copies of both letters of recommendation from the MHSAAAB to DMHS were enclosed in member's folders.

Planning

2012 MHSAA Funding Priorities Summary – Laurie Becker

Ms. Becker distributed the draft of the 2012 Grant-In-Aid Funding Mental Health and Substance Abuse Priorities Summary for review and approval.

Ms. Tucker asked if there was a motion to approve the 2012 Funding Priorities Summary as distributed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2012 Funding Priorities Summary. Motion was passed with no opposition and no abstentions.

Legislative/Advocacy – 2011 Public Forum – Laurie Becker

The Save-the-Date is out for the 17th Annual Public Forum for Consumers and Families. The date is June 2 from 5:30 p.m. to – 8:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center in Whippany. The focus this year is on Self-Help, and there will be a personal story from a consumer who utilized many self-help resources on her road to recovery.

Ms. Tucker stated that last year was the first year she attended the Forum and she really enjoyed the event. It was an opportunity to hear from those people who are in need of services. There were personal stories shared. Consumers had an opportunity to talk about what changes they would like to see. The moderator did an excellent job, the food was good and it was a nice venue.

County Alliance Steering Committee (CASS) – Steve Nebesni

The CASS met last Monday and adopted the new by-laws. The Supplemental Award letters went out on Friday, April 8. The Supplemental Letters of Agreement will be sent out for Alliance signatures next week.

VI. Staff Reports:

Mental Health - Laurie Becker

Disaster Mental Health Preparedness training will be held on April 26 at the Public Safety Training Academy. The State Disaster Branch and Ms. Becker will give presentations on emergency operations mental health teams and how the State and

County mental health disaster plans work. This was an opportunity for current and prospective Disaster Response Crisis Counselors (DRCC's) to receive training. A session on working with Veterans will be a part of the agenda and CEUs are available. A goal of this community education day is to recruit additional DRCC candidates. Ms. Becker reported that one is not required to be a clinician to be a DRCC.

The Mental Health Association of Morris County will welcome Mr. Lou Schwarcz (who currently works for Family Service of Morris County) as the new CEO/President starting May 2.

Community Hope will be holding its triennial State licensing review in during June. Ms. Becker is preparing the summary report from referral agencies as part of the review.

There was discussion about the letter from DMHS to the Screening Center, Saint Clare's Hospital, asking if there will be an application for a one-year waiver of rules pertaining to the operation of the designated screening service. If a waiver is requested, the application is due to DMHS with a copy to the Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board by April 30. The Board is required to submit a letter to DMHS approving or denying the waiver request. Ms. Becker will give a follow up report at the May MHSAB meeting.

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Steve Nebesni

The Natural High Skating Event on March 24 was a tremendous success. There were about 350 in attendance. Carol Spencer and Steve Nebesni sent out an online evaluation for feedback on the event. There has been much positive feedback. A suggestion was made that it would be great to have more natural high education materials available.

Stephen has conducted eight Municipal Alliance site visits so far and has another scheduled for next week. He will continue to set up visits with the Alliances throughout the year, as required by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA).

The quarterly Alliance meeting was held on April 13. David Bratton from Morris County Prevention Is Key presented on a program geared towards college students called New Social Engine (NSE). NSE addresses drug and alcohol abuse on college campuses. The students advocate with school officials about policy and enforcement and offer alternatives to drug and alcohol use. They recently sponsored an event at the Funplex to teach students about natural highs.

All Alliances were asked to distribute information on *Parents Who Host Lose Most* campaign. The Morris County Partners in Substance Abuse Prevention is partnering with Morris County Prevention is Key for this countywide campaign with the support of the Freeholders. On May 11 a proclamation will be issued by the Freeholders and all are encouraged to attend in support. This campaign will run from May 14 – June 30, to

coincide with prom and graduation season. Approximately 20 Alliances are participating in this initiative. These materials bring awareness to parents about consequences they may face if they choose to host under age drinking. Ms. Jacobson will email everyone the website where you can find this material.

Addictions Service Administrator – Beth Jacobson

As discussed at the last MHSAAB meeting, DAS had been proposing the centralization of detox funding in addition to the \$250,000 reduction in the detox budget. However, after much discussion and debate, DAS has stated that they would not go forward with the centralization of detox services. Of the \$7,033,344 in State Discretionary funds, there still will be an overall \$250,000 reduction. DAS has outlined a formula to take the \$250,000 reduction that would proportionally distribute the cut to each county. While the reduction is not ideal, the fact that the detox dollars will remain in the counties is very positive.

The County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Directors have been participating in regional conference calls in preparation for the new planning cycle to begin in 2012. At this point the process will be changed a bit, with regional “task forces” meeting in Trenton to discuss the different parts of the continuum, from prevention to recovery support, in relation to needs, capacity, data collection and evaluation. It is hoped that these task forces will be more productive.

VII. Joint PAC Report – Laurie Becker

There was a meeting on April 1. Warren Ververs from Saint Clare’s made a presentation on the RAISE program, a new early intervention program for young adults 18-40 yrs who have had their first experience with serious mental illness. Saint Clare’s is seeking referrals to this program.

There was some discussion on the Intoxicated Drivers Resource Center. Sylvia Lippe will be invited to the MHSAAB and give a presentation on this program in May.

VIII. State Liaison Report:

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services: Theresa Wilson

DMHS is in the 2012 contract review process with Community Hope, New Bridge and Saint Clare’s. Ms. Becker will conduct the contract reviews with the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Advisory Board within DMHS’s requested timeframes.

The Division of Mental Health Services, the NJ Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians and the NJ Hospital Association developed a standardized medical clearance protocol and transfer forms in collaboration with representatives from state and county hospitals and short term care facilities. The process began on April 25.

The DMHS Executive Staff continues to search for an Assistant Commissioner.

IX. Old Business – None

X. New Business –

Ms. Buchanan reminded everyone that the nonprofit conference is coming up at the Meadow Wood Manor on April 28 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The facility will accommodate 250 attendees. There is a sign up fee of \$5. Brochures on this event are in member folders.

Mr. LaRussa mentioned that there are some upcoming events the group might be interested in:

- Celina Gray, Executive Director, Governor’s Council on Mental Health Stigma, will make a presentation on “combating stigma” on May 19, 7:00 p.m., at St. Francis Residential Community, Denville. Intensive Family Support Services is sponsoring and the contact is Ro Klingener.
- Family Service will host training on April 21 on Understanding Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Seniors.

Mr. Berman from the Willow Tree mentioned that he will be doing a Relay Race on May 22 at 9:00 a.m. at Central Park on the grounds of Greystone. This is the Willow Tree’s major fundraiser for the year. Fliers are on the table for further information.

XI. Open to the Public –

Valerie Fox mentioned that she hasn’t heard yet about the Community Hope Forum. Laurie Becker will email everyone the brochure on the Community Hope Forum. Ms. Fox stated she will be attending the COMHCO conference this Saturday, April 16.

Ms. Fox also stated that regarding the whole waiver issue, she would rather have an experienced screener evaluate her than a Doctor who is not as in tune with the field. She would be willing to speak on this topic if there is a need for advocacy.

XII. Adjourn –

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 12; however, there will be no June meeting since the Public Forum will be held on June 2.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocariski
Program Development Aide

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board
Attendance
Thursday, April 14, 2011

Members Present

Charlie Berman
Margaret Himsl
Lauren Hirtes
Fran Libasci
Marcy McMann
LaJuan Tucker
Barbara Ward
Deborah Ward
Charles LaRussa
David Walker

Affiliation

Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Prosecutor's Office
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative

Members Absent

Gregg Benson
Karen Cutaneo
Carol DeGraw
Spiro Milonas
Susan Tietjen

Affiliation

Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
United Way of Morris County
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative

State Staff Present

Theresa Wilson

Affiliation

DMHS

County Staff Present

Laurie Becker
Mary Jo Buchanan
Beth Jacobson
Pat Fetzer-Mocarski
Steve Nebesni

Affiliation

MCDHS
MCDHS
MCDHS
MCDHS
MCDHS

Public and Guests

Marijean Bissell
Deb McKinley

Affiliation

Student
Daytop