

**MORRIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY  
BOARD – APRIL 12, 2012**

**Members Present:**

Charlie Berman, Citizen Representative  
Carol DeGraw, United Way of Northern New Jersey  
Peggy Himsl, Citizen Representative  
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative  
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative  
Deborah Ward, Citizen Representative

**Also Attending:**

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Valerie Fox, Consumer  
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS  
Charles LaRussa, Consumer  
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS  
Patricia Mocarski, MCDHS  
Vivian Schwartz, NJMHAS/NRO

**I. Call to Order and Approval of February 9, 2012 minutes –**

Ms. DeGraw, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. There was a motion to approve the February minutes. The motion to approve the February minutes was made by Barbara Ward and seconded by Deborah Ward. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition.

**II. Welcome and Introductions –**

Ms. DeGraw welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

**III. Chair Report – Carol DeGraw**

The Consumer and Forum will be held on June 12, 2012. Ms. Deb Ward stated that the Forum “Many Faces of Recovery – Standing Up to Stigma” will be held at Saint Francis Conference Center on 122 Diamond Spring Road in Denville. It is an interactive evening that will include a forum for public comment, information on community resources as well as personal recovery stories. Light dinner and refreshments will be served. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this event.

Ms. DeGraw mentioned that Ms. Becker was honored recently at the annual NewBridge Gala. Ms. Becker was honored for her dedication in promoting recovery and all of her work in the mental health field.

Ms. DeGraw encouraged the committee to try to attend some of the Freeholder’s meetings. These meetings are a great place to find out what is going on in Morris County. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The locations vary and are on the County website. Please see

[www.co.morris.nj.us/freeholders/publicmeetings.asp](http://www.co.morris.nj.us/freeholders/publicmeetings.asp). At this time there are two new freeholders and it is especially important for them to hear the community's voice. Ms. DeGraw said these meetings are interesting as well as informative. Often the public speaks at these meetings. As nonprofits there isn't often a chance to hear the public's opinions or the community's voice. Ms. Becker encouraged the committee members to attend the Freeholder meetings; however, members must be aware that attendance at these meetings is as a private citizen and not as a representative of the board.

Ms. DeGraw stated that the Caregivers Coalition attended the Freeholder's meeting last night. The Coalition wanted to thank the Freeholders for supporting the County's Medicaid beds. Some counties are privatizing their nursing homes and thus losing some of their Medicaid beds.

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

##### **Funding – 2013 GIA Funding Priorities**

Ms. Becker distributed 2013 Grant In Aid Funding Priorities Summaries. The Funding Priorities are similar to last years. They were emailed out and Ms. Becker did get some comments and edits back from board members. Grant In Aid is funded through County taxpayer dollars. About two thirds of the total is designated for mental health and substance abuse services. The total funding amount is almost \$3 million. A motion was made to approve the 2013 GIA Funding Priorities by Ms. McMann. Mr. Berman seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. The motion was carried.

Ms. Becker stated that the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) provided contract review training for boards and administrators on March 27 at Greystone. Ms. Ward, Ms. Libasci and Ms. Becker attended this training. Ms. Susanne Rainier and Ms. Vivian Schwartz gave the training. They spoke on the benefits of having providers give presentations to advisory boards. Most counties have providers come to board meetings and make presentations. They would like Morris to do the same.

The Board will be making recommendations next month to DMHAS on FY 2013 contract renewals for NewBridge, Hope House, Saint Clare's and Community Hope. Ms. Becker should be getting the draft contracts by May 1. This year the agencies will be required to make presentations to the board. They will need to give a basic overview and highlights of any major changes. Ms. DeGraw suggested it might be helpful to have agencies make presentations at full board meetings. Ms. Becker agreed that presentations would be good if there is sufficient time. Ms. Schwartz suggested limiting each presentation to 15 minutes. Ms. Himsl agreed that agency presentations should be given at the full board meeting this year and see how it works. Ms. McMann stated that it might be better if the presentations were given to a subcommittee instead. There was further discussion about which process might work best. Ms. Becker was in agreement with Ms. McMann that a subcommittee might be the best place to first hear

the agency presentations and address any questions from the Board. Ms. Becker agreed to ask funded agencies to give presentation at full board meetings during the year.

In preparation for the DMHAS contract review, Ms. Schwartz suggested asking the DMHAS contract analyst for a Variance Report. If this report isn't requested it won't be sent. This report will show the new budget compared to the last approved budget modification.

Ms. DeGraw stated that it is necessary to get the Board to vote on the Funding Subcommittee providing recommendations to DMHAS on the contracts on behalf of the full board. She asked if the Board would empower the subcommittee. It was agreed that the subcommittee will review the 2013 contract renewals in May. A motion was made by Ms. B. Ward and Marcy McMann seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. A sign up sheet was passed around for those who want to be on the subcommittee to review these contracts. The first meeting is tentatively set for 3:00 p.m., May 10, before the MHSAAAB meeting. The second subcommittee meeting, when providers will make presentations, is scheduled for May 22 at 3:30 p.m.

#### **Legislative/Advocacy – Ms. Becker**

On May 9 there will be a Freeholder Work Session at 9:30 a.m. at the Administration Building, 5 Floor, on Court Street in Morristown. At this meeting a Proclamation will be awarded in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month. Please be there for the presentation of this award. Ms. DeGraw and advisory members will be in attendance to accept this Proclamation on behalf of the board. There will also be a Proclamation for the Parents Who Host Lose Most. Representatives from the Municipal Alliance will be there for the presentation of this award.

#### **County Alliance Steering Committee (CASS) –**

There was a meeting on March 12 and three program modifications were reviewed and approved by the CASS. There were two new guests in attendance at this meeting and expecting a few more new guests at the May 14 meeting.

The Countywide Prevention Forum has been scheduled for November 28 at the Meadow Wood Manor. Kevin Wanzer will be the keynote speaker for the event. Mr. Nebesni reported that 439 people attended the skating event at the Mennen Arena on March 22. There were 38 evaluations returned and all feedback from the skating event was positive. Ms. Becker thanked Mr. Nebesni for a job well done.

There will be a Natural High Comedy Night on April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Academy (PSTA) on West Hanover Avenue in Parsippany. On September 13 Connie Greene and Robert Goldschlag J.D. will be giving a presentation entitled "Bullying: Breaking the Trend" at the PSTA. It will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

On November 1 there will be a presentation entitled Ryan's Story at the PSTA, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Ryan's father, John Halligan will be telling the story of his son who committed suicide because of bullying.

**V. Staff Reports –**

**Mental Health Administrator - Laurie Becker**

Ms. Becker stated that there are copies of letters in everyone's packet signed by thirteen people that expressing their disappointment in the closing of Saint Clare's C.A.R.E.S. Program. This program helped many individuals having mental health problems. It gave folks 21 days of support, respite and medication so they would not have to go to a psychiatric hospital. Ms. Becker asked Ms. Schwartz if the state is looking to have another resource where people could go to in place of C.A.R.E.S. Ms. Schwartz said the state is looking to have another facility. This other facility could be in another county; however, the issue is still not resolved. Ms. Schwartz said that it looks like there is another residence not too far away that has beds available. She will follow up and check on the status of things. They would have to make an affiliation agreement and get things in place for a smooth transition. It would make sense to have a more regional center vs. one center in every county. This would be more cost effective. Ms. Schwartz or Ms. Alexander will give an update of this at the next meeting.

Ms. Becker asked if the board would like a letter to be sent expressing concern over the loss of C.A.R.E.S. Program and ask what the plan is. There was a motion made by Ms. B. Ward and seconded by Ms. McMann to send a letter expressing concern over the loss of C.A.R.E.S. Program and asking what the plan is. The motion was passed with no opposition and no abstentions.

**Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Steve Nebesni**

Mr. Nebesni reported that the 2011 final reports have been submitted to Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA). The first quarterly report for 2012 has been handed into the Treasurers office, and Mr. Nebesni is processing the Alliance reports as he receives them.

Mr. Nebesni announced that the Freeholders have made supplemental funding available to the Alliances for 2012. Applications for this funding went out to all the Alliances, and completed applications are due by April 30. The next quarterly Alliance meeting is scheduled for May 1, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Allen Bradley from New Pathway Counseling Services will be speaking about their SOAR program and their expanding prevention program.

**Addictions Services Administrator: Beth Jacobson**

Ms. Jacobson stated there are no new updates regarding the County Comprehensive Planning process. The protocol for the plan and process is still under review. Raquel Jeffers attended the last Directors Association meeting in March and said that she realized that it doesn't make sense to have a protocol without a definitive answer as to what the County role will be and what the service array will be. They planned to meet internally to look at the process and revise the timelines.

The A/D Directors Association has submitted a concept paper to Lynn Kovich and Raquel Jeffers regarding the role of the counties in Managed Care Reform, as did the MH Administrators. Lynn Kovich has also requested a joint document from the two associations, and there will be a joint meeting with the Mental Health Administrators Association on May 9.

Ms. Becker stated that purpose of these concept papers is to educate new state leadership and educate on administrative process. As changes from the Medicaid Waiver come about they will move away from a local system. Other counties are looking to Morris to see how our county has integrated areas. Many counties still have addictions and mental health as two different departments.

Ms. DeGraw asked if there is any advocacy the board can do on this. Ms. Becker will bring this up at the next Association meeting. She will also express the boards concern over many essential services not being covered by Medicaid.

#### **VI. Joint PAC Report – Laurie Becker**

The next meeting will be on April 27 at 10:00 a.m. at Family Service of Morris County in Morristown. Starting in June the meetings on the first Friday of the month will be at Atlantic Health Care in Morristown.

Mr. LaRussa stated that he gave a report at the PAC meeting on telepsychiatry waiver request by Saint Clares. He was told that all questions that were asked are addressed in the regulations.

#### **VII. State Liaison Reports – Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) – Vivian Schwartz**

##### **Requests for Proposals (RFPs):**

##### **Supportive Housing Services for Consumers Discharged from Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital**

- Easter Seals was awarded 2 slots in Essex County.
- CCDOT (Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton) was awarded 5 slots in Burlington County.

##### **Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)**

- This RFP is specifically for Monmouth, Mercer and Essex Counties.
- Monmouth Medical Center was preliminarily awarded in Monmouth County.
- UBHC was preliminarily awarded in Essex County.
- No award in Mercer; no submissions.
- Final decisions are scheduled for 4/12/12.

##### **For the Development of Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) Programs**

- There is annualized funding of up to \$2 million available to award one or more IOC programs in up to 7 counties during the first year of implementation.
- Preliminary awards will be by April 4, (misreported in Feb. Minutes-thought it April 12, but that is the date for appeals; and final awards are scheduled for April 19, 2012.

**Other DMHAS Announcements:****DMHAS Contract Review & Award Process:**

- Letters were sent out to providers of fiscal year renewals.
- If the timeframe is similar to last year's. Recommendations from the mental health board should be around the first week in June.
- Morris County FY renewals: New Bridge; Community Hope; Saint Clare's; Hope House (bilingual).

**DMHAS/DD:**

- 4 DD/MI beds in Morris County; the DMHAS has 4 beds (previously a group home in Morris County and owned by Saint Clares); target is CEPP and DDD enrolled at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital and Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital; DDD qualified providers will be eligible.

**Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital (HPH):**

- There was a public hearing concerning the closure plan on Monday, March 19, 2012.

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Budget:**

- Governor Chris Christie's Budget Address for State Fiscal Year 2013 includes the announcement that services for adolescents with addictions disorders will be transitioned from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

**Department of Human Services (DHS) Facebook:**

- DHS has a Facebook site, the link is on the DHS website. There is a calendar of events section where the events are open to the public.

**DMHAS Suicide Prevention Training:**

- The DMHAS is sponsoring several suicide prevention trainings for funded mental health and substance abuse providers. The trainings will be presented by Dr. Kelly Posner on the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale. The target audience is non-clinicians. More information will follow.
  - May 16 at the Burlington County Human Services Building
  - May 18 at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy
  - June 11 at the Middlesex Fire Academy

**DHS Budget Appropriation Hearings:**

- April 4 at 10:00 a.m. – Assembly Budget (DHS appeared before the Assembly budget committee) Link <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/> and click on "live proceedings".
- May 3 at 10:00 a.m. – Senate Budget

**DMHAS County Mental Health Board (MHB) Contract Training:**

- Training held on March 27 for MHB members.
- Reviewed Annex A & B information.

**DMHAS Strategic Planning:**

- The planning session on the treatment of individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders has been rescheduled to May 11, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Greystone. Invitations will be emailed.
- Overall, the goal is to review the treatment services being provided to individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in the

region, especially for those with opiate addiction, and to develop a plan for building a continuum of services that will better meet their needs.

**DMHAS Staffing Change:**

- Vicki Fresolone is moving from her current position as assistant to the Assistant Commissioner to the role of Clinical Lead in the Office of Care Management. (T.O. not updated).

**DMHAS Northern Region Advisory Group (NRAG):**

- NRAG meeting took place on March 15, 2012. The next NRAG meeting is June 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**DMHAS Survey:**

- During a disaster, the Director of the Disaster and Terrorism Branch is responsible for activating the state's behavioral health disaster response plan in coordination with the NJDHS Mass Care Coordinator and the NJ Office of Emergency Management.
- DMHAS has issued a survey to providers that will assist in assessing their ability and willingness to respond during times of crisis and disaster and to identify resources needed to support participation in the response process.

**DMHAS Designated Screening Service Waiver:**

- Letters went to the Designated Screening Service of each county regarding applications for a waiver of rules pertaining to the operation of a DSS which must be submitted on an annual basis.
- Waiver requests are due to DMHAS prior to April 30. Waivers must be sent to the County Mental Health Board and to the local SRC. Also, requests should be submitted to any locally active mental health facility, consumer and advocacy organizations that have been identified by the County Mental Health Board as a part of this review process. The copies of the application that are sent to these additional organizations should include a cover letter that invites these organizations to submit their comments to the County Mental Health Board and the DMHS Regional Office within 30 days of the receipt of your waiver request. Comments from these organizations may be discussed at the County Mental Health Board meeting. Also, the discussion of the waiver at the county mental health board after the close of 30 day comment period should appear as a distinct item on the published agenda of the board consistent with the open public meetings act. Any decision by the county mental health board to recommend granting or denying the waiver should be documented in the board minutes with all public comments recorded. The finale approval to grant waiver(s) will be made by the Division as soon as possible after consideration of any comments and receipt of the mental health board's recommendations.

**VIII. Old Business**

Ms. Himsl asked if the board could have quarterly reports on agencies with subgrants to see if the agencies are meeting their service levels. This could help the board stay on top of agencies that aren't spending their money. If a provider falls behind, the board could send them a letter asking them why they are behind and what they are going to do to correct problems. Ms. Becker and Ms. Jacobson will bring the board quarterly

reports to keep the board informed. Ms. Becker stated that she will announce this at the PAC meeting so the agencies are informed of this quarterly review by the board.

**IX. New Business –**

Ms. McMann stated that Denim Day rally will be on April 26 at the Morristown Green in support of prevention of sexual assault. The annual proclamation will be made for this.

Ms. DeGraw said there was a presentation at a meeting she attended last night on a program they would like to have at Greystone. They would like to hire people released from prison to do some agricultural work at Greystone. There are regular meetings at Greystone. There was also had a presentation on what they are doing for their geriatric patients. They are hiring some staff from Hagedorn and doing a lot for the elderly. They are trying to make the geriatric patients more comfortable and letting them bring in some of their personal items so they may feel more at home.

Mr. LaRussa stated that he heard Daytop is going bankrupt. Ms. Jacobson stated that another Daytop facility is going bankrupt but not Daytop NJ.

Ms. Becker stated that June 22 is the Co-Occurring Conference at the Public Safety Training Academy on West Hanover Avenue in Parsippany. It will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the topic is Dialectical Behavior Therapy. The cost of the conference is \$20. The next planning meeting in regard to this will be on April 20 at 9:30 a.m.

**X. Open to the Public –**

Ms. Fox asked about the designated screening center request that was supposed to be submitted by April 30. Ms. Becker will send information out to the group by email for comment.

**XI. Adjourned –**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Fetzer MocarSKI  
Program Development Aide