

**MORRIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY
BOARD – Dec. 13, 2012**

Members Present:

Gregg Benson, Citizen Representative
Charles Berman, Citizen Representative
Karen Cutaneo, Citizen Representative
Peggy Himsl, Citizen Representative
Fran Libasci, Citizen Representative
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Representative
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative
LaJuan Tucker, MCPO
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Valerie Fox, Public
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS
Julian Locket Hill Jr., MCPO
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS
Patricia Mocarski, MCDHS
John Robbins, Morris Self Help Center
Lou Schwarz, MHAMC
Vivian Schwartz, NJDMHAS/NRO

I. Call to Order and Approval of October 2012 minutes –

Ms. Barbara Ward, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There was a motion to approve the October 12, 2012 minutes made by Gregg Benson and seconded by Karen Cutaneo. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition.

II. Welcome and Introductions –

Ms. Ward welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Board members names were submitted to the Freeholders for their approval at their Jan. 4 meeting. Ms. Tucker needs to go off the board since her term has expired. Prosecutor Julian Hill has submitted his name as a candidate to be the Prosecutor's Office representative.

III. Chair Report – No Report

IV. Nominating Committee – Ms. B. Ward

The Nominating Committee, Charles LaRussa and Karen Cutaneo, recommended Carol DeGraw as Chair and Barbara Ward as Vice Chair for 2013. Ms. Ward asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Since there were no nominations from the floor the committee took a vote on the presented slate. Motion was made by Mr. LaRussa that Ms. DeGraw be elected as Chair and Ms. Barbara Ward as Vice Chair. Motion was carried with no abstentions and no opposition. Ms. Becker

expressed her appreciation to Ms. DeGraw and Ms. Ward for all their hard work and for agreeing to a second term.

Presentation by Mental Health Association of Morris County – Lou Schwarcz

In anticipation of the MHSAB's providing a recommendation to the State to approve the MHAMC contract renewal for 2013, Mr. Schwarcz gave an overview of the services and was available for question and comment.

MHAMC is a non-profit, charity organization dedicated to serving people with mental illness and their families. MHAMC envisions a just, humane, and healthy society in which all people with mental illness or having other issues affecting mental health are accorded respect, dignity and the opportunity to achieve their full potential, free from stigma and discrimination.

Their mission is to promote mental health and to support and empower people in recover from mental illness through effective services, education and advocacy. Some areas in which the MHAMC impacts the community:

- Helping people with mental illness to transition out of psychiatric hospitals and into the community.
- Helping people with mental illness transition from homelessness to housing.
- Helping people with mental illness in the criminal justice system receive treatment and other services before, during and after incarceration.
- Increasing wellness in the community through the promotion of self-help services.
- Increasing community education on mental health issues.
- Advocating for improved services, policies and resources that help people with mental illness and their families.
- Assisting the community in mental health responses to community disasters.

Mr. Schwarz suggested checking the website for further information and for various testimonials and clients recovery stories. Please see www.mhamorris.org for further information. MHAMC gets approximately \$3.8 million from New Jersey Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (NJDMHAS). The MHAMC contract includes: systems advocacy, social clubs, integrated case management services (ICMS), PATH (homeless outreach), Residential Intensive Support Team (RIST), Supportive Housing, At Risk Housing, and Forensics. Most recently MHAMC has been awarded two new grants for the peer specialist position connected with ICMS and a RIST expansion for 10 additional individuals discharged from Greystone. MHSAB recommendations supported both these awards.

Mr. Benson stated that MHAMC provides many excellent services and he made a motion in favor of writing a letter of support for MHAMC to NJDMHAS approving the 2013 contract renewal. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Some further discussion ensued.

Ms. Becker stated they also need a letter of support for Chilton Hospital for Crisis Intervention Services. Ms. Becker did question the on-call vs. in hospital staff time of the psychiatrists per the screening law. Vivian Schwartz said she would inquire about these staffing concerns and get back to the MHSAB with clarifications. After some discussion, the MHSAB voted to provide a letter in support of Chilton's DMHAS contract renewal with the expectation that there would be additional information provided by DMHAS on Chilton's psychiatric staffing capacity.

V. Subcommittee Reports

Funding – Beth Jacobson

There was a subgrant modification request from New Hope Foundation for their Adolescent Residential program. They have requested to move \$17,000 from their Adolescent Residential Treatment program to their Adult Inpatient program. There hasn't been as much need to use the funding for Morris County adolescents in 2012, but the Adult Inpatient program can use the funding. Ms. Jacobson reported that New Hope historically spends down all of its funding and always works to serve Morris County residents through scholarships if necessary. There was a motion made by Mr. Benson to approve New Hope Foundation's Subgrant Modification request moving \$17,000 to the Adult Inpatient Program. Ms. Cutaneo seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition.

Planning – Ms. Becker

Saint Clare's is spearheading a community health care needs assessment with area hospitals and providers. Part of the assessment includes behavioral health and addictions components. Information was distributed to the board on the assessment. The needs assessment identified the health needs in the Morris County area by using a phone survey of area residents. Some priority areas emerged. The information collected may be useful to the MHSAB for funding priorities. Ms. Becker suggested having someone come to speak about this at a board meeting.

Legislative Advocacy – Mr. LaRussa

Recently a horror film was released entitled "Greystone Park" that is stigmatizing to the mental health community. Some discussion ensued on whether the film may lead people to think the movie is about Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital. The general consensus of the group was that any action might draw more attention to the movie so no action will be taken. Ms. Schwartz stated that she would talk to the DMHAS Legal Department about any ramifications specific to the name of the film.

County Alliance Steering Committee (CASS) – Steve Nebesni

The last meeting of the year was held on November 19. The 2013 schedule was set up with the group meeting every other month. The CASS will be trying to get additional members for 2013. The 2013 County Plan was submitted to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) and we are hoping that the plan will be reviewed during the January GCADA meeting. The first CASS meeting of 2013 will be held on January 14 at 3:30 p.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services office (30 Schuyler Place, Morristown).

VI. Staff Reports – Laurie Becker

Ms. Becker has reviewed 2012 fiscal records to ensure that funded providers are spending down the subgranted funds. To date, mental health providers are on schedule to expend all dollars. 2013 Grant-in-Aid funding awards have been approved by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Ms. Becker is overseeing the discharge planning component of the Morris County Ten Year to End Homelessness Plan. She will give a follow up report when the drafted report is prepared.

The Cross Systems Review Committee and Professional Advisory Committee are working on a project to address an infrastructure and service gap for intensive co-occurring services and community supports for individuals discharged from State hospitals with primary addictions treatment needs. Ms. Becker will be looking to MHSAB representation on this project.

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Steve Nebesni

The Annual Countywide Prevention Forum was held on November 28. The evaluations for the event were very good. On December 20, Mr. Nebesni attended the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) Coordinator meeting. On December 27 the GCADA site review of Morris County will be conducted. The Morris County Department of Human Services will be using supplemental funds to support First Night Morris County's New Years Eve Event in Morristown. First Night Morris County will be using these funds to sponsor a battle of the bands and the winner will be awarded \$250 and some recording time at a local recording studio. The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) training is completed. Ryan's story is rescheduled for January 7 at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There are over 100 registered.

Addictions Services Administrator – Beth Jacobson

Ms. Jacobson is drafting 2013 subgrants. DMHAS (Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services) has announced that they are working on a Memorandum of Agreement with Rutgers School of Social Work to develop and provide an education, training and technical assistance program for all County Alcohol and Drug Directors. The program will be in development during the first quarter of 2013 and there should be monthly classes beginning no later than April 1. This training will relate directly to the planning process. At this point the 2014 Comprehensive Plan is due in May 2013, but the Monmouth County Board has submitted a written request to Lynn Kovich asking for consideration in revising the currently established dates for submission, given several factors, including that the state training and operational timelines have been pushed back, the timelines for implementation of Healthcare Reform have been pushed back, the fact that data hasn't been delivered, and implementation of the Administrative Service Organization has been pushed back.

There may be further information at the Association meeting tomorrow or on the next conference call. There is a need to start thinking about the planning process. Most are waiting for some guidance before they begin in order that a uniform planning process is maintained. They also want to ensure there is a mental health component.

VII. Joint PAC Report –

Kathleen Gronet will soon be attending our board meetings and will be providing Joint PAC Reports. There was a Joint PAC meeting on December 7. The 2013 officers were elected. Both Kathleen Gronet and Dave Roden will be Co Chairs for 2013.

They haven't heard a lot after the Sandy storm. Although the FEMA Center closed Saturday there were 5,000 individuals that checked off that they needed additional help.

Project Homeless Connect was again a very successful day. This day gave folks an opportunity to get enrolled for services and sign up for case management. The Boy Scouts helped at this event as well as many others that volunteered their time and efforts. Coats and various other items were given away.

The next meeting will be on January 4 at Atlantic Health Care's Corporate Office. They are the technical assistance arm to the board.

VIII. State Liaison Report – Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) – Vivian Schwartz

- Statewide Suicide Prevention Hotline and Coordinate Call Response with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to increase Suicide Prevention Efforts for Youth and Adults in New Jersey.
 - Mandatory Bidders' Conference: Dec. 20, 2012, 1:00 p.m.
 - Notify Date: February 22, 2013

IX. Old Business –

Mr. LaRussa stated that he and Ms. Fox made presentations at Greystone in September. Ms. Fox talked about the eight dimensions of wellness and Mr. LaRussa talked about recovery from alcohol, drugs and mental illness.

Mr. Berman thanked Ms. Fox for continuing to do her newsletters the board appreciates her hard work.

X. New Business –

Ms. Becker stated that possible presentations for 2013 might be:

- Community Health Plan
- Drug Court presentation by Julian Locket Hill Jr. from the Prosecutor's Office on the adult drug court.

Ms. Becker also stated that the 2013 Board Members will be officially appointed on January 4, 2013. Members will receive welcome letters at the next meeting or they will be sent in the mail. Board orientation will be done at the February meeting.

Orientation packets will be distributed at the February meeting as well.

Ms. Hirtes handed out brochures on Jewish Vocational Services. She wants all to be aware of the many services they have available.

XI. Open to the Public

Ms. Fox advised that when she started her “Journey of Hope” mailings she was told there was another agency with this name and was challenged on using this name. She was able to keep the name even though another agency had the same name. She thought that in regard to the Greystone movie they may also be allowed to use the same name even though there is a real “Greystone Park” with this name. Ms. Schwartz will look into this.

Ms. Becker thanked the board for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

XII. Adjourned –

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on January 10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide