

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)

MEETING – Feb. 11, 2016 – 30 Schuyler Place, Morristown

Members Present:

Linda Csengeto, OTA Representative
Carol DeGraw, United Way of NNJ
Cheryl Garodnick, Citizen Representative
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Representative
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative
Deborah Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, NJ Division of Mental Health/Addictions Services
Valerie Fox, Public

Staff in Attendance:

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

I. Call to Order and Approval of January 14 minutes –

Ms. Marcy McMann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. Mr. Chris Chernick made a motion to approve the January 14 minutes. Ms. Linda Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion was carried.

II. Welcome and Introductions –

Ms. Marcy McMann welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

III. Orientation – Ms. Laurie Becker

Orientation packets were in board member's folders. Materials in the packet were reviewed. Members were asked to return biographical profiles to Ms. Becker's attention, if anything has changed.

IV. Chair Report – Ms. McMann

Updated list of the PAC Agencies was distributed. Members were asked to take a minute to look over the list. The board needs to approve this list for 2016. Ms. Csengeto suggested reaching out to some of the agencies on the list that don't attend the meetings. Ms. Carol DeGraw made a motion to approve the updated PAC list. Ms. Barb Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. The motion was carried approving the 2016 PAC Agency listing.

**V. Subcommittee Reports –
Funding – Ms. Jacobson**

Turning Point has notified the County of Morris that they will not be collaborating with Willow Tree to provide IOP services in Morris Plains for 2016, after a planned merger of the two facilities fell through and Turning Point was bought by John Clancy (Community Education Centers).

Therefore, it is necessary to reallocate the **\$12,000** in Chapter 51 funding that had been awarded to Turning Point. Ms. Jacobson sent around a sign in sheet for a subcommittee to work on reallocating this money. Ms. Jacobson requested the board empower the funding subcommittee to reallocate this money. Ms. Melo made a motion made to empower the subcommittee to review materials and make a decision on the reallocation of this funding. Ms. Barbara Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion was carried.

Planning – No Report

Legislative/Advocacy – Ms. Becker

The first Consumer & Family Forum Planning meeting will be held on Feb. 19. Mr. Peter Basto will be joining us again this year to help with the Forum. He will facilitate the evening. It looks like the Forum will be held at the Arboretum again this year. There is also a possibility of having the Mental Health Players present.

County Steering Alliance Subcommittee (CASS) – Mr. Nebesni

The CASS met on Feb. 9 and voted to approve the Fiscal Year 2017 Alliance funding recommendations. There is a new member of the CASS, Tom Mulligan. The next meeting will be on April 12.

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

Some discussion ensued about her report. DMHAS is now “assigning” residential placements instead of making “referrals” to providers. There are currently some availability to supportive housing for individuals leaving Greystone. Ms. Becker asked Ms. Alexander for further information.

The Assisted Outpatient Treatment program is doing well under the auspices of the Mental Health Association of Morris County (MHAMC). Ms. Alexander believes there are 12 people involved (6 in the program and 6 potential).

Addictions contracts with DMHAS will be transitioning from slot based to fee for service in July 2016. The rate setting analysis has concluded and DMHAS will be holding meetings beginning February 18th to discuss the new rates with stakeholders and the transition to fee for service. Rates are reported to be significantly higher.

VII. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Report – Mr. Steve Nebesni

Renewal applications were received. The next Countywide Alliance meeting is scheduled for March 15th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Office of Temporary Assistance, ground floor conference room. Ms. Barbara Kauffman from Morris County Prevention is Key (MCPIK) will be at the meeting to present on some of the environmental initiatives the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris (CCSHM) is working on for 2016 and to see if any Alliances would like to participate in the initiatives. Examples of these environmental initiatives include Parents Who Host Lose the Most, Sticker Shock, Get your ID Out, Pinwheel Projects, etc. Though participation is highly encouraged, it is strictly voluntary.

Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Beth Jacobson

GIA subgrant packages will go out next week. Chapter 51 subgrants will be held up until a reallocation is complete. Ms. Jacobson will bring the Comprehensive Plan to the March meeting.

Ms. Jacobson participated in workgroup on January 15th at DMHAS regarding the use of AEREF and/or Discretionary Funds to provide assistance with insurance deductibles and/or copays. After legal review, it was determined that the use of AEREF funds for insurance deductibles and copays to assist individuals seeking addiction treatment is consistent with the legislation, as long as that use is included in the County Plan. The purpose of the workgroup is to take a look at the policy/practical considerations and develop a paper with recommendations for moving forward. At the current time the Annex A prohibits use of AEREF (Chapter 51) funds for copays.

The proposed recommendations would be brought to the Alcohol/Drug Directors first to have discussion in the counties, then come back together with an integrated document for the Commissioner's consideration. Next steps from the meeting were to survey the counties and providers to find out what the implications have been thus far. In addition, DMHAS staff was planning to reach out to other states to see how they are addressing this. The hope is for a draft of the paper in six months.

There was an Opiate Task Force meeting held on January 19th. The Prosecutor was in attendance. There was a lot of discussion surrounding getting recovery coaches into the ER after Narcan reversals. The group is currently working on getting the key people around the table (hospital, prosecutor, MCPIK, etc.) to discuss logistics and move forward. The next full meeting scheduled for April 19th.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Laurie Becker

Ms. Becker reported on the potential for Morris County to implement the Stigma-Free Initiative, similar to that of Bergen County. She shared some information from the Bergen website as well as from Jefferson Township. She will update the board on Morris' plans in March, after she has spoken to Ms. Jenn Carpinteri.

VIII. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Laurie Becker

In Lynne Chandler’s absence, Ms. Becker reported that the February meeting included discussion on the State’s move to fee for service reimbursements and some concerns from providers that there could be inadequate funding as a result.

The Mental Health Association and Community Hope have been talking about some problems that have recently happened since Housing Finance Mortgage (HMFA) took over management of housing vouchers and rental payments to landlords. Some mistakes have been made in making timely accurate rental payments. The concern is that a few landlords are ready to evict these tenants. The clients are also getting late fees. HMFA is a statewide agency. HMFA is addressing any problems related to warnings to terminate, termination letters or terminations.

IX. Old Business – None

X. New Business – None

Funding – Closed Session – CASS – Mr. Steve Nebesni (closed session moved to end)

Mr. Nebesni asked that anyone in conflict with Municipal Alliance Funding leave the room. Ms. Valerie Fox excused herself. Motion was made to begin the closed session of the meeting.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 6:22 p.m.

Return to Meeting

The meeting reopened at 6:26 p.m. Ms. Fox came back into the room.

Actions Resulting from Closed Session

Mr. Nebesni stated the CASS had met, reviewed and approved all funding applications. He explained that 33 of 39 municipalities in Morris County receive Alliance Funding. Six of the smaller municipalities choose not to participate. FY 2017 is a renewal year. The funding amount to Morris County for FY 2017 is the same as it was in 2016. In closed session the board voted in favor of the FY 2017 Alliance funding recommendations.

Ms. Carol DeGraw made a motion the MHASAB approve all FY 2017 Alliance funding recommendations as discussed in closed session. Ms. Mary Jane Melo seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion was carried.

XI. Open to the Public -

Ms. Fox stated that there has been a reduction of 3,000 housing vouchers statewide. These vouchers are part of a housing assistance program for those on General Assistance. The vouchers are from the Division of Family Development. Ms. Fox stated that Governor Christie cut this program. Ms. Fox believes that this is not right and there are some folks that really can’t work. Ms. Becker said she will look into this and revisit this next month.

XII. Adjourn –

There was a motion made by Mary Jane Melo to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Linda Csengeto. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 10, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide