

**MORRIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
ADVISORY BOARD – MAY 12, 2011**

I. Call to Order and Approval of April Minutes –

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

II. Welcome and Introduction –

LaJuan welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

III. Chair Report – LaJuan Tucker

Ms. Tucker reported that she attended a presentation on Veterans services. The presentation was given by Nancy O'Donnell, an attorney for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Mark Correale, LICSW, with the Veteran Justice Outreach. They want to meet with LaJuan and see how they can get more involved with the Veterans and the mental health issues of the veterans. They want to learn more about the Programs the Prosecutor's office has. Ms. Tucker suggested having them come to one of the next meetings and give a presentation. LaJuan will try to schedule a presentation in July. Ms. Tucker will send Nancy the information and see when she is available to give a presentation to the MHSAB. Veteran's services are becoming a high priority.

Laurie Becker added that she and Shelia Carter met with Charles Jurgensen, the Veteran's Service Officer for Morris County, regarding the priority that Veterans have been given related to the Morris County Housing and Urban Development (HUD) application for funding homeless services. The Division of Behavioral Health and Youth Services is working to become more closely connected with resources and contacts to assist Veteran's and will be looking to Mr. Jurgensen as a resource.

IV. Presentation Family Service of Morris County, Sylvia Lippe

Ms. Lippe distributed booklets on the many services provided by Family Service of Morris County. Family Service's mission is to strengthen the community by empowering individuals and families to overcome life's challenges. Family Service offers over twenty innovative programs that provide counseling, education, advocacy and support to over 6,400 children, families and seniors.

Ms. Lippe talked about the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC). Family Service of Morris County has had this contract with Morris County since 1986. Ms. Lippe reported that 60% of IDRC's are privatized statewide. This is a 12-hour program for 1st time and multiple offenders from Morris County and is completely client fee-supported. There are seven providers across the county that the IDRC refer clients to for assessments.

Ms. Lippe spoke about the changes to the IDRC program and the implications associated with those changes. Some of the issues are the inconsistency between what the IDRC regulations require and current practices as required by IDP, the fact that the DUI law has been changed, added to, or altered so many times that it is almost impossible for clients to sometimes meet all of their legal requirements, the fact that the RASSI assessment tool has been altered and is now invalid, and the cumbersome affiliation agreement and DUII funding process.

Ms. Lippe suggested that a letter be written to Raquel Jeffers, Director, NJ Division of Addictions Services, to bring some of these issues to the forefront. The letter will request that the DUI Task Force be reinstated to address these issues. Ms. Jacobson will get bullet points from Ms. Lippe to draft a letter to bring to the committee for approval. Gregg Benson will collaborate on this letter via email.

For further information about Family Service of Morris County please see www.fsmc.org or call 973-538-5260.

Subcommittee Reports – Funding – Laurie Becker

Mary Jo Buchanan gave the good news recently that the Board of Chosen Freeholders will continue 2012 Grant-in-Aid at level funding. The 2012 Request for Funding Applications (RFA) was mailed out Friday, May 6 and is announced on the County of Morris website.

Ms. Becker will pass around the sign up sheet for 2011 Grant-in-Aid site visits. The visits will be conducted from June through the end of July and Board members are encouraged to participate. This is a great opportunity to learn about the funded agencies and service provisions pertaining to the County subgrants.

As a result of the annual Morris County Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care application, there is a new award for homeless services. Community Hope will receive \$116,000 funding to provide permanent supportive housing for veterans and families of with mental health disabilities. The Mental Health Association of Morris County will provide the support services.

Planning – No Report

Legislative/Advocacy - 2011 Public Forum - Laurie Becker

The 17th Annual Forum for Consumers and Families is scheduled for June 2 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian Center in Whippany. The focus this year is on Self-Help. There will be a personal story from an individual who utilized many self-help resources on her road to recovery. Ms. Buchanan will be attending as well as Freeholder Gene Feyl. All MHSAAAB members are invited to attend.

County Alliance Steering Committee (CASS) – Steve Nebesni

The CASS met last Monday. The 2011 fully executed Letters of Agreement were sent out to the Alliances two weeks ago. Supplemental Letters of Agreement will be going to the Freeholders for signature. There were six program modification requests from the Alliances and the CASS is conducting an email vote on the program modifications due to lack of quorum. The CASS meetings are the second Monday of the month at 3:30 p.m. if anyone is interested in attending the meetings.

V. Staff Reports:

Mental Health Administrator – Laurie Becker

The Governor has announced that May is Mental Health Month with a Proclamation. A copy of the Proclamation was distributed to Board members.

The Morris County Co-Occurring Disorders Task Force will hold the 2011 Annual Conference on June 24th. The title is “The Psychology & Treatment of Cross Addictions” and it will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center in Whippany, NJ. Fliers on this conference are in each folder and all are invited to attend.

At the last months meeting, Theresa Wilson, DMHAS program analyst, reported that DMHS contracts for Community Hope, Saint Clare’s, NewBridge and Hope House are up for renewal. The deadline was extended to May 13. The MHSAB will conduct the review and recommendation process after that date.

Ms. Becker emailed everyone the Saint Clare’s Screening Center waiver application which includes waiver requests from Morristown Memorial and Chilton hospitals. This waiver would allow the requesting hospitals to have a medical doctor perform a function of the crisis service psychiatrist during the involuntary commitment process when a CIS psychiatrist is not available. The MHSAB will meet on June 9th to consider this waiver application after there has been a 30 day period for public comment.

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Steve Nebesni

Mr. Nebesni reported that he has completed 10 site visits and will have 6 more done by the end of June.

Mary Lou Powner, Executive Director, of the Governor’s Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (GCADA), is stepping down from her position. A replacement has not yet been named.

Mr. Nebesni reported that the County received a memo from the GCADA regarding the use of personal checking accounts. The use of personal checking accounts is not in compliance with GCADA regulations and all Alliance funds must remain under the jurisdiction of the local municipality. Mr. Nebesni reported that in completing the final report for 2010, it was discovered that six

Alliances did not meet their 25% cash match requirement. Letters went out to those Alliances to rectify the situation.

There will be an Anti-Bullying Symposium on June 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph, New Jersey. There will be discussion regarding the new legislation that is coming. If anyone is interested in registering please notify Steve Nebesni (973) 285-6860.

The Parents Who Host Lose The Most campaign will be kicking off on Saturday, May 14th at the Rockaway Mall. This campaign is will continue to the end of June. Yesterday the Freeholders gave a Proclamation acknowledging this campaign, which addresses underage drinking and serving alcohol to minors.

Addictions Services Administrator – Beth Jacobson

There was a Director's Association meeting on May 6 and Raquel Jeffers phoned in and talked about the Medicaid Global Waiver. Behavioral Health Services will be managed/integrated under a managed care structure. The timeline is for the HMO enrollment for low severity to begin in January 2012, and implementation of the Administrative Service Organization (ASO) for more severe cases in January 2013. The schedule is ambitious, but DMHAS is committed to addressing this in partnership with the counties. There are many issues to think about, such as the role of the County Directors as this rolls out, assessment tools for determining eligibility for the ASO or HMO, increased eligibility and increased capacity, and how County allocated funds will fit into the plan.

The timeline for DAS Planning activities for the next Comprehensive Plan will begin in March 2012. There will be 12 months to conduct the process and the 2014-2017 Plan will need to be written by March 2013.

VI. Joint PAC Report – Mike Armstrong

Diane Silbernagel, Executive Director, of Hope House gave a presentation on Hope House and the various services they provide.

Freedom House is celebrating its 25th anniversary and hosting an open house on June 10 & 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Freedom House has a new approach to drug treatment and alcohol rehabilitation and provides long-term residential treatment for individuals with serious addictions problems in a non institutional atmosphere. Freedom House is located in Glen Gardner and has recently expanded bed capacity. For further information or to register for their open house call Freedom House at 908-537-6043.

On June 13 the Mental Health Association of Morris County is hosting a Food for Thought event. RSVP in advance and tickets are \$50 will give you unlimited access to delectable cuisines of over 15 Morris County restaurants. The time is

from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Bretton Woods Mansion in Morris Plains. See www.mhamorris.org for further information or to purchase tickets.

The census at Greystone Hospital is 470. There are 108 Greystone residents from Morris County.

VII. State Liaison Reports:

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services: Theresa Wilson

A May 3, 2011 memo from Steve Adams, advised residential providers regarding Medicaid reimbursement for residential services. DMHS will be revising its regulations with regard to the role that residential providers play in assisting residents with their recreational needs. The division is also planning to provide an opportunity to discuss this matter in detail at regional forums.

Effective immediately, Valerie Laroseliere is currently the Assistant Director covering the Northern Region, in addition to her duties as Acting Assistant Commissioner.

VIII. Old Business – None

IX. New Business – None

X. Open to the Public –

Charlie Berman announced that there will be a fundraiser for the Willow Tree organization on May 22nd. For further information go to www.willowtree.org.

Valerie Fox reported that she heard that the DMHAS supportive housing Request for Funding Proposal (RFP) for individuals discharged from State hospitals was recalled and rescinded and that it is expected that the State will put out another RFP soon.

XI. Adjourn –

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next meeting will be on June 9; and the Public Forum will be held on June 2. All are invited to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board
Attendance
Thursday, May 12, 2011

Members Present

Gregg Benson
Charlie Berman
Carol DeGraw
Fran Libasci
Marcy McMann
LaJuan Tucker
Barbara Ward
Charles LaRussa

Affiliation

Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
United Way of Morris County
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Prosecutor's Office
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative

Members Absent

Karen Cutaneo
Margaret Himsl
Lauren Hirtes
Spiro Milonas
Susan Tietjen
David Walker
Deborah Ward

Affiliation

Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative

State Staff Present

Theresa Wilson

Affiliation

DMHS

County Staff Present

Laurie Becker
Beth Jacobson
Pat Fetzer-Mocariski
Steve Nebesni

Affiliation

MCDHS
MCDHS
MCDHS
MCDHS

Public and Guests

Michael Armstrong
Valerie Fox
Sylvia Lippe
Mindy Geary
Sue Nobleman
Kenneth Palmisano

Affiliation

Community Hope, Inc.
Consumer
Family Service of M.C.
M.C. Drug Court
The Willow Tree Center
Hope House/Dover