

**MORRIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY  
BOARD – NOVEMBER 10, 2011**

Members Present:

Charlie Berman, Citizen Representative  
Karen Cutaneo, Citizen Representative  
Carol DeGraw, United Way of Northern N.J.  
Peggy Himsl, Citizen Representative  
Lauren Hirtes, Citizen Representative  
Marcy McMann, Citizen Representative  
LaJuan Tucker, MCPO  
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative  
Deborah Ward, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Carmine Deo, Community Hope  
Patricia Mocarski, MCDHS  
Valerie Fox, Public  
Kathleen Gronet, Saint Clare's  
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS  
Charles LaRussa, Public  
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS  
John Robbins, Morris Self Help Center  
Robert Parker, NewBridge Services, Inc.  
Theresa Wilson, DMHAS

- I. **Call to Order and Approval of October minutes –**  
LaJuan Tucker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. There was a motion to approve the October minutes. The motion to approve the October minutes was made by Marcy McMann and seconded by Charles LaRussa. All were in favor; however, there was one abstention by Charlie Berman. There was no opposition.
- II. **Welcome and Introductions –**  
Ms. Tucker welcomed everyone and introductions were made.
- III. **Chair Report –**  
**2012 Slate of Officers**  
Ms. Tucker presented a slate of officers for 2012. Proposed as 2012 officers are Carol DeGraw, Chair, and Barbara Ward, Vice Chair. After Ms. DeGraw and Ms. Ward excused themselves from the room, the Board submitted no additional nominees. After some discussion on taking the vote at this meeting or waiting until January, Mr. Berman made a motion to vote at this meeting. Lauren Hirtes seconded the motion. All were in favor of voting now with no opposition and no

abstentions. The committee voted unanimously in favor of the new slate of officers. This vote is pending both Ms. DeGraw and Ms. Ward's Freeholder reappointment to the MHSAAAB for 2012. When Ms. DeGraw and Ms. Ward returned to the room all congratulated them on their new positions as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Ms. Becker thanked Ms. Tucker for serving as Chair for the last two years.

- IV. **Presentation by Kathleen Gronet and Lynne Chandler from Saint Clare's Behavioral Health on Changes in Saint Clare's Behavioral Health Services –** Kathleen Gronet handed out information detailing Saint Clare's Outpatient Behavioral Health Reorganization. She spoke about the significant changes today in health care, especially in New Jersey. Many organizations are identifying what changes need to be made in order to position themselves for the future in the face of increased costs and declining revenues.

Saint Clare's has been undergoing an analysis of its Behavioral Health programs. As a result of this analysis, reorganization has been made of Outpatient Behavioral Health Services in order to consolidate services and reduce costs.

The reorganization has resulted in the closing of several programs and the elimination of staff positions in a number of departments. In all cases, sufficient notice has been given in order to assure clients are not negatively affected and that staff has time to make plans. The information distributed listed the locations of the facilities closed and changes made.

Ms. Gronet and Ms. Chandler stated that Saint Clare's is still providing many services and they are not closing their doors. The total picture is Saint Clare's still has many services available and in many ways believe they will now be stronger than ever. Some discussion ensued. Ms. Hirtes stated that often rumors get around and she is glad that Saint Clare's is keeping the public informed of the changes taking place. Ms. Hirtes also mentioned how important to be kept informed of all these changes.

There was discussion about Saint Clare's Wellness and Recovery Center and how this program has been very successful. Morris and Atlantic Counties were pilot counties for this program. The hope is that this program will continue and be duplicated in other counties.

Ms. Becker asked about the new medical contract. Ms. Chandler stated that the medical services are being subcontracted out to another company called CFG.

Ms. Becker also asked about CARES Program. Ms. Chandler believes there will be another Request for Funding Proposal (RFP) out for the CARES Program. She said, however, that not many people had been using this program since many folks would rather be getting services in their own home. Ms. Chandler explained that CARES program is a five bed crisis housing program at Saint Clare's. This

program closed in October. Ms. Chandler stated that in its current form the program wasn't meeting the needs of the people today and its closing will not have a significant impact. It has been advised that the State explore a new respite service model to meet the current needs of the community. Tess Medina, the Saint Clare's Program Administrator who had oversight of the CARES program will be invited to a future MHSAB meeting to further discuss the now closed CARES service and to address any concerns.

There was also some discussion on the transition of clients from group homes to supportive housing. The State is gradually shifting clients from congregate living into apartments and other independent living situations with support services. The majority of Saint Clare's clients who had resided in group homes have already moved or are scheduled to move. Individuals not ready to move will be given some additional time to transition.

Ms. Gronet and Ms. Chandler also handed out detailed information on the changes and sites that will remain open.

**V. Subcommittee Reports –  
Funding –**

Ms. Becker reported that the Board will be asked to review and provide recommendations on three 2012 DMHAS contracts renewals for Chilton, Mental Health Association of M.C. and Morristown Medical Center. Ms. Becker would like a motion to empower the Funding Subcommittee to review these contracts on the full Board's behalf. The motion to empower the Funding Subcommittee to review these contracts was made by Ms. Cutaneo and seconded by Ms. DeGraw. All were in favor and there were no abstentions and no opposition.

Ms. Jacobson presented a subgrant modification request for the Hope House Chapter 51 Adolescent Services Subgrant. This modification involves no change in money; however, a change in level of service for the remainder of 2011. Hope House is asking to increase individual units, evaluations and urine monitorings and decrease psychiatric evaluations and groups. Groups have been restructured to be more specific to the level of care (prevention, level I and level II) as well as gender. The motion to approve the subgrant modification request was made by Ms. McMann and seconded by Ms. Cutaneo. All were in favor; however, there was one abstention by Ms. Tucker. There was no opposition.

Ms. Jacobson will have another subgrant modification request from Saint Clare's for their Adolescent Early Intervention and Adult Probation Program, both of which were discontinued in October. They will be returning unspent funds back to Morris County. Ms. Jacobson requested that the MHSAB empower the Funding Subcommittee to review the subgrant modification request and make recommendations on these modifications. The motion to empower the Funding Subcommittee to review this contract and make recommendations was made by

Ms. Hirtes and seconded by Ms. Cutaneo. All were in favor and there were no abstentions and no opposition.

**Planning – No Report**

**Legislative/Advocacy – No Report**

**County Alliance Steering Committee (CASS) – Steve Nebesni**

The Countywide Prevention Forum is next Wednesday, November 16, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It will be held at the Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph, NJ.

The next CASS Meeting is scheduled for next Monday, November 14, in the Blue Room at 30 Schuyler Place – Third Floor. There will be discussion of recruitment of more members and the possibility of changing the meeting day.

**VI. Staff Reports –**

**Mental Health Administrator – Laurie Becker**

The 2012 Grant-In-Aid acceptance and declination letters went out today.

The Morris County Disaster Crisis Counselor Response (DRCC) team offered support to the staff at the Mental Health Association of Morris County (MHAMC) during the recent shooting that occurred in the building. Ms. Becker spoke with Louis Schwarcz, President and Chief Executive Officer of the MHAMC and he said that the staff is doing well. He issued a press release about the incident. The press release states that those with mental health issues are rarely connected to violence. This incident at the MHAMC building had nothing to do with MHAMC or any of their clients. Ms. Becker stated that the DRCC team is looking for more crisis counselors.

On December 7 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. the Cross Systems Subcommittee will meet at the Human Services Building at 340 W. Hanover Avenue in Morris Twp. Raquel Jeffers will come at 3:00 p.m. to give an overview of the State Medicaid Waiver proposal. There will be time allotted to ask questions. Ms. Becker invited the Joint PAC and the MHS AAB to this meeting to hear this presentation.

Ms. Becker mentioned the DHS Fall Budget Forum for Fiscal Year 2013 will be held on December 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Hamilton Township, NJ. This is a great opportunity for stakeholders and public to provide oral and written testimony for the FY2013 state budget. Oral presentations are strictly limited to 3 minutes. For further information call (609) 292-3703 or email [Sandra.Graves@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:Sandra.Graves@dhs.state.nj.us).

Project Homeless Connect will be held on December 8, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 70 Maple Avenue in Morristown.

The Mental Health Association of Morris County (MHAMC) has taken on the lead in coordinating this event in collaboration with the community and the United Way of Northern N.J. The idea behind the day is to connect the homeless or at-risk of homelessness to services that could facilitate the assistance needed from those becoming homeless, or provide shelter, or get them on the road to housing. To make a donation or volunteer your time call Lisa Falcone, Director of Homeless Outreach Services, at the Mental Health Association of Morris County at 973-334-3496 x105.

**Municipal Alliance Report – Steve Nebesni**

The upcoming Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) training will be held in January, May and October. Mr. Nebesni is seeking Alliance members to participate in this training.

The County will be working with Morris County Prevention is Key (MCPIK), and the Morris County Municipal Alliances on a Countywide Sticker Shock Campaign in January and February of 2012.

On March 22, 2012 the annual National High Event will be held at the Mennen Arena in Morris Township, NJ. Mr. Nebesni is trying to book Dr. Matt Bellace to emcee the event as he has done in previous years.

In reference to the 2012 Alliance Applications, Mr. Nebesni is working on correcting and resubmitting some of the Applications to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse by November 16. He also has four more site reviews to conduct.

**Addictions Services Administrator – Beth Jacobson**

The 2012 Division of Addiction Services (DAS) application was submitted via CIMS. The hard copy and the required documentation are awaiting Freeholder signature. Ms. Jacobson reported that Ms. Jeffers from DMHAS was at the October Director’s Association and there was discussion regarding the Medicaid waiver proposal. DMHAS will need to respond to approximately 250 questions from CMS on the proposal, then can begin to have a meaningful conversation about what the RFP for the Managed Behavioral Health Organization (MBHO) should look like. The plan is to start with a no-risk contract and move to partial risk. The plan is to use Block Grant funding and State Discretionary funds as Medicaid matching dollars, but the loss of State Discretionary funds to the counties is not an official decision. The goal is to “braid” the funds to help draw down as much federal money as possible.

DMHAS is open to hearing ideas on how to do this in a way to best serve the clients, including what role A/D directors should play. A small group of Directors will be getting together to prepare for meeting with Raquel on December 9 to discuss their roles moving ahead.

**VII. Joint PAC Report – Laurie Becker**

Eileen Alexander, the new Program Analyst for DMHAS, attended the meeting.

Frank Pinto, Director, Department of Human Services, made a report on Governor Christie’s announcement on November 3 to convert approximately 165 acres at the original Greystone Psychiatric Hospital property in Morris County, also know as Greystone Park, to useable open space parkland in Parsippany, NJ.

Family Intervention Services will be opening outpatient services for clients with Medicaid.

Family Service of Morris County offered training on hoarding. The training revealed that 80 – 90% of Adult Protective Services (APS) clients have problems with hoarding. This program was offered through the Senior Intensive Support Program. The speakers were excellent and there was a nice turnout at the program.

Mike Armstrong announced that Community Hope’s VA Housing Program with supportive services for veterans and families opened. Through a new grant, Community Hope has formed a partnership with Hope House, Catholic Charities and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) to provide these services.

**VIII. State Liaison Reports – Mental Health and Addiction Services – Theresa Wilson**

**Supportive Housing Opportunities for Consumers who are at imminent risk of hospitalization and homelessness**

Annualized funding of up to \$978,571 is available through this announcement to create housing opportunities for 50 individuals statewide. Selected projects should anticipate serving more than one specific county, based upon identified eligible consumers. Projects may be prioritized in areas of greatest need. Counties with the largest anticipated homeless populations include Essex, Middlesex, Union, Mercer, Camden, Hudson, Atlantic, and Passaic. Counties with the largest volume of admissions to State hospitals include Ocean, Mercer, Union, Middlesex, Somerset, Morris, Monmouth and Atlantic.

Eligible consumers will be identified by primary referral sources including (but not limited to) Integrated Case Management Services (ICMS), Designated Screening Services (DSSs), Early Intervention Support Services, Intensive Outpatient Treatment and Support Services (IOTSS), Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), and Short Term Care Facilities (STCFs).

**Timeline:**

Due- November 3  
MHB input- November 25, 2011  
Preliminary award- December 15, 2011  
Final award- January 12, 2012

**Mental Health Cultural Competence Training Centers**

DMHAS is announcing the availability of annualized funding in the amount of \$470,000 to develop two (2) regional “Mental Health Cultural Competence Training Centers” to provide knowledge, training, technical assistance and serve as a resource regarding multicultural issues in mental health. Each Cultural Competence Training Center will be awarded a sum of up to \$235,000.

The service area for the Northern Region Cultural Competence Training Center consists of the following counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Somerset and Warren.

**Timeline:**

Due- December 5  
MHB recommendations- January 4  
Preliminary awards- January 19  
Final award- February 2

**Notice of Public Meeting Seeking Public Input into Revising Regulations Governing Community**

The Department of Human Services, through the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, is in the process of revising N.J.A.C. 10:37A, governing community mental health residences and supportive housing programs.

The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Department of Human Services, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Rooms A & B, 222 S. Warren Street, Trenton, NJ 08625.

The Division encourages commenters to also submit their comments in writing, either at the public hearing or by mailing them to Lisa Ciaston, Legal Liaison, Division of Mental Health Services, P.O. Box 727, Trenton, NJ 08625-0727.

Ms. Wilson reminded everyone of the importance of budget forum to be held on Dec. 9 that Ms. Becker mentioned earlier. Ms. Becker stated that the MHSAB might want to send in some comments or someone might like to attend. If anyone wants to go, please get in touch with Ms. Becker.

Ms. Tucker asked the board to empower legislative subcommittee to meet and put together some written comments to be sent in prior to the Budget Forum. The motion to empower the legislative subcommittee to send in a written statement on behalf of the Board was made by Ms. DeGraw and was seconded by

Mr. LaRussa. All were in favor; however, there was one abstention by Ms. Tucker and no opposition.

IX. **Old Business – None**

X. **New Business –**

Ms. Becker stated that unfortunately Mr. LaRussa has to resign from the Board as he recently began to work for NewBridge, and he is “in conflict of interest” as NewBridge received behavioral health funding from the County and State. Mr. LaRussa stated that he will still be attending most meetings; however, he will abstain from any voting.

Ms. Becker also said that the staff is working on 2012 advisory lists. She would like members to let her know if anyone has friends or acquaintances that would like to be considered for a position on the MHSAAAB. If so, please contact Ms. Becker, Ms. Jacobson or Ms. Carter.

Mr. LaRussa stated that he has really enjoyed working with the board and that it’s so great that everyone’s voice is heard.

XI. **Open to the Public –**

Ms. Becker stated that the board really appreciated all the newsletters Valerie Fox has written. Ms. Becker thanked Ms. Fox for her honesty and all of her contributions. Ms. DeGraw also thanked Ms. Fox for her courageousness in writing the newsletters. Ms. Fox also mentioned that she recently did a piece that was published in the Daily Record on stigma.

XII. **Adjourn –**

Ms. McMann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia MocarSKI  
Program Development Aide