

MORRIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY
BOARD – OCTOBER 13, 2011

Members Present:

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

Also Attending:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Valerie Fox, Public
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS
Charles LaRussa, Public
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS
Susan Salvatore, Saint Clares

I. Call to Order and Approval of October Minutes –

LaJuan Tucker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 Deborah Ward. All were in favor; however, there were two abstentions by LaJuan Tucker and Karen Cutaneo. There was no opposition.

II. Welcome and Introductions –

Ms. Tucker welcomed everyone. Ms. Becker stated that there is a new procedure for parking reimbursement. There is a memo in each person's folder to the Parking Authority that must be handed to the parking lot attendant along with the parking ticket. Meeting attendees will no longer have to pay for parking. The parking fee will be paid by the Department of Human Services.

There is a new internal system for Morris County employees called McContact. This will be used for emails and mailings. This system will only be used by on by the County. The membership list was passed around for updates to enter into McContact.

III. Chair Report – No report.

**IV. Subcommittee Reports -
Funding –**

2011 Morristown Medical Center Program – Marcy McMann

The Funding Subcommittee met to review the 2011 Subgrant Modification request made by Morristown Medical Center. This modification involved \$96,879 issued for outpatient services. These services are also funded by Chapter 51. There is a decline in

individuals using the services available through the outpatient program. It appears that many uninsured are using Charity Care and therefore this money is not being spent down. Morristown Medical Center is requesting a change in scope to provide an inpatient rather than outpatient level of care to indigent residents who have been deemed in need of inpatient admission on the Franklin 5 unit for treatment of mental illness with co-occurring chemical dependency treatment needs. The modification would continue to serve Morris County residents and it would be reasonable to expect that those patients served through the inpatient program under this grant would be referred to outpatient behavioral health services and continue to be followed on county grants. There was some discussion on this. The subcommittee recommends reallocating \$15,000 of these funds to New Hope's Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program for adults, and using the remaining \$81,879 for inpatient treatment for indigent Morris County residents with mental illness and co-occurring treatment needs. Many of these patients have co-occurring problems. There was a motion by Marcy McMann to approve these recommendations as stated. The motion was seconded by Fran Libasci. All were in favor of these recommendations with one abstention by LaJuan Tucker and no opposition. The motion was carried.

2012 Saint Clare's Core Services Subgrant Planning – Laurie Becker

Ms. Becker introduced Susan Salvatore from Saint Clare's. Susan is here to discuss and answer questions on the request for shifting 2012 funds from residential to supportive housing services specific to the Grant-In-Aid core mental health subgrant.

Ms. Salvatore explained that Saint Clare's is moving away from the group home concept and moving toward supportive housing. Saint Clare's will transition clients from group homes to supportive housing by the end of the year. A further discussion ensued about the supportive housing program. Saint Clare's Wellness and Recovery Center is good resource for these clients if they experience any problems during the transition from to their new homes where there is less staffs support. When asked about how families have reacted to this change, Ms. Salvatore said that overall they are fairly positive about the upcoming changes. Ms. Becker asked Ms. Salvatore to give a status report on how the transition is progressing early in 2012. Ms. Salvatore agreed.

Charles LaRussa entered the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Motion was made by Karen Cutaneo to move the funds to from residential to supportive housing. Carol DeGraw seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and two abstentions made by Charles LaRussa and LaJuan Tucker.

Ms. Becker suggested that Kathleen Gronet, Administrator of Behavioral Health Service at Saint Clare's, be invited to the November meeting to give a presentation on all of the changes at Saint Clare's regarding Behavioral Health Services.

Planning – Beth Jacobson

Division of Addiction Services Update – The Progress Report went to the State on August 31. No feedback was given. Beth is working on the 2012 application.

Ms. Jacobson is going to training on the contract management information system used to submit the application.

Legislative/Advocacy – Laurie Becker

There is still no word on the Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Law. The Request for Funding Proposal should go out in the fall.

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – Steve Nebesni

The next CASS meeting will be on Monday, October 17. 2011 program modifications were due to the County by October 1. The CASS will review seven modifications and then forward to Trenton by Monday, October 31. Steve still has a few more site reviews left. All site reviews will be done by year end.

V. Staff Reports - Laurie Becker

Morris County's Disaster Crisis Counselor Response (DRCC) team has transitioned assisting residents impacted by Hurricane Irene to NewBridge Services and Hope House. Both of these agencies received a FEMA grant to do this work. From August 26 – October 16, the DRCC team provided 206 hours of outreach services. Outreach was provided at the Mennen Arena, the FEMA Disaster Centers in Parsippany, Lincoln Park, Denville and Pequannock.

Charles LaRussa stated that the aftermath of Hurricane Irene is still not over. There are still many folks that have not been able to return to their homes. This has been a new experience for some areas such as Denville.

Municipal Alliance Report – Steve Nebesni

The next Quarterly Alliance meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18 at the Human Services Building on Hanover Avenue. Barbara Kaufman from Morris County Prevention is Key (MCPIK) will speak about the launching of their Sticker Shock campaign and collaborating with the Alliances on this effort. Jaime Sierfeld from the Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute (LMTI) will speak about their peer leadership program. Nelson Hadler from Treatment Dynamics Inc. will speak on about current drug trends and treatment.

The 2012 Municipal Alliance Plan and applications are due on Monday, October 17. They will be mailed out on October 14.

Mr. Nebesni passed out The Countywide Prevention Forum brochures. The Morris County Parent/Youth Summit “Bullying and Cyber-bullying: What You Need to Know” will be held on November 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph. This County Parent/Youth Summit will address the serious issue of bullying and cyber-bullying that is faced in our schools and communities. There is no cost for this event; however, you must pre-register. For registration please call Saint Clare's at 1-866-782-5273. Seating is limited and it is on a first come, first serve basis. Deadline for registration is November 1.

Addictions Services Administrator – Beth Jacobson

Chapter 51 Award letters went out on October 23. Grant-In-Aid (GIA) Award letters will go out in November. There was much discussion regarding the Medicaid Waiver that was submitted by DMHAS and how it will affect Addiction Services. For 2013, State Discretionary funds will be pulled back from the counties to be used as Medicaid matching dollars. For Morris, based on our 2012 allocation, this would decrease our award from \$848,652 to \$447,462, a significant decrease in service dollars. Some of the major concerns are the need for a local voice, and how to ensure that our clients' needs are being served if the funds are being managed by one MBHO for the entire state. There is also concern on how the role of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Directors will be affected by the Waiver, if it is not to administer the monies that are currently being given to the county by the State. Ms. Becker stated that there is concern about what role the advisory boards will have in all of this.

Ms. DeGraw voiced her concern that if all this funding only goes to Medicaid clients what will happen to others that don't qualify for Medicaid. Although many folks may be eligible for Medicaid services some individuals will not be eligible. How will the clients access these services? Ms. Cutaneo suggested sending a list of our concerns. Ms. Becker stated there is a website that answers many of these questions which might be helpful.

Ms. Becker will try to get a speaker to come and talk about these changes at one of the next meetings. There may be a power point available. Ms. Becker will try to obtain the power point and send it out to the committee.

VI. Joint PAC Report – Beth Jacobson

There was a Joint PAC meeting held last Friday, October 7. Frank Pinto joined the meeting. There was a lot of discussion about Hurricane Irene and the response to the disaster. There was discussion about the flood buyout program.

Saint Clare's reported on recent changes. New Bridge and Hope House announced Project Recovery and their role in the disaster recovery.

VII. State Liaison Reports: Mental Health and Addiction Services –

Ms. Becker stated that Theresa Wilson will be moving to the same position in another County. Laurie will try to get Theresa to attend another meeting so the committee can wish her well. Eileen Alexander will be the new State liaison covering Morris County. The State is moving the liaisons around for professional growth. Laurie will bring a card for all to sign and send to Theresa.

Ms. Becker asked Ms. Nancy Hopkins, DMHAS Regional Coordinator, about the status of the Saint Clare's Screening Waiver and Ms. Hopkins reported that the Waiver is still under consideration.

VIII. Old Business –

La Juan Tucker showed the committee the Proclamation from the Freeholders for National Recovery Month. Freeholder Chedwiggen presented this Proclamation at the last Freeholders meeting to the MHSAAB.

IX. New Business –

Ms. Becker recommended that there not be a meeting in December unless there is something that requires immediate action. The next meeting will be on November 10. At the November meeting there will be a special hot dinner served. Ms. Becker will try to get Saint Clare's to this meeting to give an update.

X. Open to the Public –

Ms. Fox stated that she googled N.J. Medicaid and found a lot of information regarding the changeover to HMOs. Though the Medicaid Waiver has not yet been approved; some individuals are signing up in advance.

XI. Adjourn –

Karen Cutaneo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide