

**MORRIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY
BOARD – Sept. 12, 2013**

Members Present:

Charlie Berman, Citizen Representative
Karen Cutaneo, Citizen Representative
Carol DeGraw, United Way of No. NNJ
Julian Hill Jr., MCPO
Peggy Himsl, Citizen Representative
Fran Libasci, Citizen Representative
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative
LaJuan Tucker, MCPO

Also Attending:

Eileen Alexander, DMHAS
Valerie Fox, Public
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of MC, LLC
John Robbins, Morris Self Help Center

Staff in Attendance:

Becker, Laurie, MCDHS
Beth Jacobson, MCDHS
Patricia Mocarski, MCDHS
Steve Nebesni, MCDHS
Frank Pinto, MCDHS

I. Call to Order and Approval of May 9, 2013 minutes –

Ms. Carol DeGraw, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. Ms. Peggy Himsl made a motion to approve the May 9, 2013 minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Barbara Ward. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition.

II. Welcome and Introductions –

Ms. DeGraw welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

III. Chair Report – No Report

Presentation on the Drug Court Program by Mr. Julian Hill Jr., Morris County Prosecutor's Office

Morris County is one of several counties in New Jersey with a Drug Court Program. Drug Court is a collaborative effort between the Judge, Public Defender, Assistant Prosecutor, Court Staff and treatment service providers to deal effectively with drug addicted clients. Drug Court is essentially a program where the state works with defense attorneys to help non-violent, addicted drug offenders by facilitating their road to recovery, as opposed to imposing a harsher sentence, such as fines and jail time. Drug court requires that an offender be (1) employed and (2) under intense supervision, which includes random and frequent drug testing and court appearances. Additionally,

a court will impose any counseling and drug treatment programs which they deem most beneficial. The amount of time that the probationary period lasts varies from case to case. The goal of drug court is to positively impact the lives of drug users in Morris County.

Some further discussion ensued about drug court. One board member asked how many people don't make it through the program. Mr. Hill stated that Mr. Charles Johnson, Drug Court Coordinator, may have this data. There are currently about 140 clients in the drug court program and 3 probation officers. Each client must have a sponsor to get into this program. Probation officers cannot have any more than 50 clients each.

The rules are currently changing and becoming a little more flexible in order to try to get more folks on the program. Another question was asked about whether Morris has a juvenile drug court. Mr. Hill stated that Morris does not have a juvenile drug court but some counties do.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

Funding – Closed Session – 2014 funding recommendations

CLOSED SESSION

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L.1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act and per the board's normal resolution language, and voted to conduct a closed session at 6:10 p.m. All those in conflict with any of the funding streams were asked to leave the meeting.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 6:30 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Ms. B. Ward stated that the subcommittee reviewed and discussed all funding applications. The subcommittee recommends that MHSAAB approve all 2014 funding recommendations as discussed in closed session. On motion of Ms. Melo, seconded by Ms. Cutaneo, the 2013 funding recommendations for Grant-In-Aid and Chapter 51 are approved. There was one abstention and no opposition. The motion was carried.

Planning – Ms. Jacobson

Ms. Jacobson has been attending monthly training on planning through DMHAS. The last session will be in October. Once the training is complete, Ms. Jacobson will be scheduling meetings to look at data and have focus groups to come up with a Morris County plan. This will involve co-occurring clients. The training was a lot of work but was a great networking and sharing experience.

Legislative/Advocacy – Public Forum – Ms. Becker

- The annual Consumer Forum Executive Summary report was completed. The annual Forum was held on June 11, 2013.
High priorities consistent to last year:

- Transportation – in western Morris, for veterans, on weekends, for work and education.
- Affordable supportive housing and increased congregate group home options.
- Medical and psychiatric services. It is very hard to find M.D.'s who accept Medicaid or when there is no insurance.

New priorities:

- Mental health and other services for families of young children
- Respite type programs. None exist in the county since the CARES Program closed.

Ms. Fox mentioned that there are pilot respite programs in some other counties. They are peer run respite programs. They are not offered in Morris County yet.

Ms. Jacobson stated that she went to a workshop on the Overdose Protection Act and there is a need to get the word out about this. Perhaps this information can be put on the County website. Governor Christie signed this into law on May 1, 2013.

County Alliance Steering Committee (CASS) – Steve Nebesni

The next meeting will be on Monday, Oct. 7. The funding review is on hold until the applications are available.

Mr. Nebesni attended training on new guidelines and application forms. The application forms and guidelines seemed a little easier and less restrictive than the current application forms and guidelines. Morris County has received the 2014 Letter of Intent today. They will be getting about \$473,000 which is about the same as last year.

The Natural High Comedy Night will be on October 29 at the Borough School in Morris Plains. Matt Bellace will be the facilitator; the event will also feature performances by The Indicators improv troupe along with comedian Marina Franklin. The event will be from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Registration information will be on the Morris County Human Services website (www.morrishumanservices.org) on October 1.

The annual Countywide Prevention Forum will be held on November 19. John Morello will give his “DIRT” performance. The event will take place at the Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

V. Staff Report – Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Laurie Becker

The board sent a letter on August 13 to Valerie Larosiliere, Assistant Director, DMHAS, in support of the Outpatient Co-Occurring Services Proposal submitted by Morris County After Care Center. The MHSAAAB was pleased that a local provider responded to the RFP. However, the agency didn't get the award and Eva's Village from Passaic County did. Eva's Village will service Morris County people.

There was a letter sent to Vivian Schwartz, Regional Coordinator, Northern Region, DMHAS in regard to Saint Clare's screening waiver request from the board on July 15. This letter stated that it was the MHSAAAB's preliminary decision to deny the waiver request submitted by Saint Clare's screening center for a screening waiver to allow Morristown Medical Center's emergency room physicians to complete clinical certificates to facilitate involuntary hospitalizations. This decision was made after much deliberation and in much consideration of the many comments against this waiver from individuals in the community. The MHSAAAB stated they were awaiting further information from Saint Clare's to DMHAS before making its final decision. Since no further information was provided by Saint Clare's, Ms. Becker suggested that the board provide its final recommendation denying the request. For the record DMHAS will send us a letter stating that Saint Clare's did not provide additional information as requested.

Once the board gets the letter from DMHAS stating Saint Clare's didn't provide any further information, the board will send a letter to DMHAS recommending the waiver is denied. Ms. Himsl made a motion to send the letter to DMHAS denying the waiver after the board receives the letter from DMHAS. Mr. Berman seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions.

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni

All but one Letter of Agreement were signed for Supplemental funding. The Morris County Alliance Volunteer of the Year was Vince Fiorito. Mr. Nebesni accepted the award in his absence.

The Countywide Alliance Meeting will be on October 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Morris County Human Service Building. Ms. Laurie Litt-Robbins from NJAS will be the guest presenter and will be giving a presentation on HIV/AIDS prevention.

The regional training for the needs assessment application process will be held on Sept. 26 at the Hyatt in Morristown from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mr. Nebesni will highlight the Chatham Alliance and what types of activities they support. Some of the activities they support include:

- High School and seniors dinner dance
- Family dinner evening
- Various parent education events
- Mentoring programs

Addictions Services Administrator – Ms. Beth Jacobson

At the last Association meeting Ms. Lynn Kovich reported that Meyers and Stauffer are still working on the rate setting process, and that they will be going on-site to agencies to look at fiscal information and records. She also reported that the Steering Committee for the ASO/MBHO met a few weeks ago and they are far along on the RFP process. Ms. Kovich talked about the effects of the sequester on funding. The Block Grant was decreased by 5%, but for Fiscal Year 2013 DMHAS has come up with an additional \$2.5 million to hold agencies harmless.

Liz Manley from the Children's System of Care also attended the meeting and talked about the transition of adolescent addictions services and the substance abuse flow chart work now in progress. She reported that there has been positive feedback about the youth being served. However, Laurie Becker reported that some providers did not express that at the Joint PAC meeting.

Ms. Jacobson reported that she attended the GCADA Summit today and it was very valuable and informative. The GCADA put together the Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use by New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults in March of 2012, and there was a panel discussion with members of that task force. Their report is scheduled to be released in November. The report will have specific recommendations for addressing this epidemic.

VI. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Becker

The Joint PAC met on September 6 at 30 Schuyler Place in Morristown. Mr. Pinto gave information on the Wellness Fair to be held at Morris View Healthcare Center. It will be on Friday, October 18. County employees and nonprofit providers are invited to participate and provide information on their programs and agencies.

Mr. Pinto stated that the Morris View is full and currently has a waiting list.

Ms. Becker stated that the County received an additional \$100,000 for the Social Services Grant for Sandy Recovery victims. Ms. Carter is going to training to learn about this grant. This money is to be used for mostly rental assistance and housing supports. The County will need to put out an RFP. There is not a great need for this in Morris County. The County is leaning towards accepting the funds in the event that community needs emerge in the next two years. The only risk is that if the money isn't spent in two years, the funds will be returned to the State. Ms. DeGraw suggested possibly generators could be purchased for residential providers.

VII. State Liaison Report – Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Eileen Alexander

- The current census at Greystone is 552. The hospital is full.
- Ms. Alexander provided copies of Advance Directives.
- The Morris County Screening Center proposal was approved. Saint Clare's will continue to serve as the County's Screening Center for another seven years.
- The number of Analysts for the North Region has gone down from 5 to 3. Each Analyst is working two counties and collaborating for our Region.
- There is a mandatory UIR (Unusual Incident Reporting) training. They will be given listing of classification of incidents and how they are being managed. Ms. Alexander will review this information with Ms. Becker. Mostly agencies are involved in incident reporting.
- The North Region Advisory Group will be held on Sept. 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital.

- On Sept. 30 there will be an open house at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital. You must register to attend.

VIII. Old Business – Residents Referred to Meadowview Hospital

Ms. Becker reported that Valerie Larosiliere, DMHAS, responded to Freeholder Mastrangelo about Mr. Lou Ferraro’s concerns that Morris County residents are being hospitalized at Meadowview Hospital in Secaucus instead of Greystone in Morris Plains. Concerns were distance for relatives to travel and lack of adequate community resources when loved ones were discharged. After some discussion, Ms. LaJuan Tucker made a motion for the board to write a letter advocating for some of the upcoming supportive housing RFP’s to be designated for individuals coming out of county hospitals to their county of origin. Ms. Barbara Ward seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and no opposition. The motion was carried.

Ms. Becker asked if any MHSAB members were planning to attend the regional mental health board meeting set for September 26 at Essex County Community Hospital. MHSAB members liked the idea of a regional meeting but could not attend at this time. Ms. Peggy Himsl suggested the board could invite Essex County to sit in on our board meeting. This would be a great experience and provide information sharing between the counties.

IX. New Business – Mr. Pinto

There have been some recent changes in staffing. Some of the Department of Planning and Development is going to Information Technology and some of the Department is going to the Department of Public Works. Community Development staff moved to Ms. Becker’s Division. The new Division title is the Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services.

X. Open to the Public –

Ms. Fox thanked the board for their support in regard to denying the screening waiver request by Saint Clare’s for Morristown Medical Center. This is very important to the community.

XI. Adjourn –

Motion made by Ms. Tucker to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on October 10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocariski
Program Development Aide