I. Call to Order and Approval of October 8 minutes –
Ms. Barbara Ward, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. Ms. Mary Jane Melo made a motion to approve the October 8 minutes. Ms. Peggy Himsl seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion was carried.

II. Welcome and Introductions –
Ms. Barbara Ward welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

III. Presentation by Jennifer Malec – Mental Health Association of Morris County (MHAMC) – Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)
MHAMC applied for this grant and got the award for Morris and Sussex Counties. There are four clients currently in the program in Morris County. Ms. Malec explained the AOT program.
• AOT/Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) refers to mental health laws that allow for mandated, community based, mental health treatment for individuals with mental illness who, as a result of their mental illness, meet a legal standard for commitment.

• Mental Health Association of Morris County’s AOT is an alternative to involuntary hospitalization for eligible consumers in Morris and Sussex County. Individuals are assessed by a mental health screener and psychiatrist and if commitment to involuntary treatment is necessary, the screening staff and psychiatrist shall determine what type of treatment is least restrictive to meet the needs of the individual. If the individual meets the criteria for AOT, the individual will be mandated to participate in mental health treatment in the community.

• The goal of AOT is to enable individuals to live safely within their communities, to avoid repeated hospitalizations and/or incarcerations, and to ensure that they have access to outpatient mental health services. She further explained the program and some discussion ensued.

So far three referrals have been from Greystone and one from Saint Clare’s. MHAMC is trying to work with Psychiatric Emergency Services to get more referrals.

Individuals with SMI and pending charges/ d convictions are eligible for the program.

MHAMC does complete a monthly report on this program. They will send the report to Ms. Becker to forward to the board.

IV. Presentation by Lee Ann Cianci, Hope House
Adolescent Services Subgrant Modification
This is a standard outpatient program for those 14-18 years old. The amount of case management with adolescents is very extensive. Ms. Cianci explained that there is a lot of clinical time involved to help adolescents get treatment and stay in treatment. They are trying to intervene as early as possible and keep the youth engaged in their program. She further explained the program and clarified the reasons for the subgrant modification. Brochures were distributed.

V. Chair Report – Ms. Ward
Reminder that there will be no December board meeting. The next board meeting will be on Jan. 14, 2016.

VI. Nominating Committee – Submission of 2016 slate for Chair and Vice Chair
Ms. Tucker presented Ms. Marcy McMann for Chair and Mr. Julian Hill for Vice Chair for 2016. There are no other nominations. The slate can be voted on tonight or at the next board meeting. If voted upon now, the slate will be pending final approval of 2016 membership by the Freeholder board.

Ms. Mary Jane Melo made a motion to elect Ms. McMann as Chair and Mr. Hill as Vice-Chair for 2016. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion was
carried. Ms. Ward congratulated them on their new positions. Ms. Ward was thanked for all her work as Chair.

VII. Subcommittee Reports –
Funding – Ms. Becker
The funding subcommittee will meet on November 16 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at 30 Schuyler Place in the Blue Room. They will review 2016 DMHAS contract renewals for Legal Services, Mental Health Association, Chilton and Morristown Medical Centers. Agencies will give presentations.

Subgrant Modification Request – Ms. Jacobson
Alfre is requesting the flexibility to utilize $10,000 from the Chapter 51 Halfway House subgrant for Intensive Outpatient and Aftercare (Outpatient) services. This request is based on the need to provide a full continuum of care to the women of Morris County. During 2015, Alfre has been mindful of the needs of the community to access all levels of care. By expanding the IOP and OP program, the agency has been able to more efficiently adjust services according to medical necessity and housing needs. The GIA for $19,600 has been fully expended. CH 51 expenditures are at 54% as of the end of Oct.

Motion to approve the subgrant modification request was made by Ms. Marcy McMann and seconded by Mr. Gregg Benson. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion was carried.

Planning – No Report

Legislative/Advocacy – No Report

County Steering Alliance Subcommittee (CASS) – Mr. Nebesni
On Oct. 22 the CASS met. It was a quick meeting since there wasn’t a quorum. They discussed ways to reach the municipalities that don’t participate in the Alliance programs. It seems often the smaller towns don’t participate. They end up with a small amount of funding and don’t feel it’s worth the amount of paperwork involved. Mr. Benson suggested that perhaps some towns might want to work together in order to make things easier.

Their next meeting is on Dec. 8.

VIII. State Liaison Report – Division of Mental Health and Addictions (DMHAS)
Ms. Eileen Alexander

- Effective November 1, 2015 Barbara Burke-McAllister is no longer the contact for complaints or incidents related to Addictions Providers and Consumers. Below are the staff responsible for these complaints and incidents by county by county:

  - **Izabel Galka (973-977-4397):** Bergen, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Sussex
  - **Vanessa Coquillo (609-984-9355):** Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Somerset
  - **Marcus Trinidad (609-777-0763):** Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Ocean
• **Ebonik Gibson (609-777-0068):** Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester, Passaic, Union  
• **John Williams (609-777-1211):** Essex, Salem, Warren  

• The Annex C has been revised to incorporate new requirements for Unusual Incident Reporting. It is now uploaded to our website. A letter is going out informing providers; it is not new information, but rather confirms the requirements about which they already received training.

For CY providers who have already submitted the previous Annex A with their renewal, please contact them and have them download the updated version from our website (also attached), sign and send it to you to include with the CY 16 renewal packet.

Since we are already one third of the way into FY 16, we are not requiring FY providers to modify their contracts to include the new Annex C, however the letter that Roger/Rosita is sending will notify them of their reporting requirements. We’ll have them use the new Annex C for the FY 17 renewal cycle.

• The next Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services' (DMHAS) Statewide Designated Screening Directors meeting will be held on **January 28, 2016 at 10:00 AM.** The meeting will be held at the Division Office at: Department of Human Services Building, 222 South Warren Street, Trenton (Conference Room 3-000).

• The ASL RFP is being posted **American Sign Language Interpreter Services**  
**Due Date:** December 8, 2015, by 4:00 p.m.  
**Notify Date:** January 14, 2016

• Self Help Clearing House has been posted, Mandatory Bidders conference November 13 10 a.m. in Trenton, Due date December 10, notify day January 19.

• Public Meeting dates for the psychiatric Hospitals, Greystone November 12 at 3:00 p.m., Ancora December 8 at 1:30 p.m. and Anne Klein Forensic November 16 at 11:30 p.m. Must register through [https://njsams.rutgers.edu/training/APM2015/register.aspx](https://njsams.rutgers.edu/training/APM2015/register.aspx)

• Mary Jo Kurdiak is the CEO of Greystone, she started November 9, 2015.

• Morris County Prevention is Key is the provider for the Northern Region for the NARCAN training 52 trainings per year, one a week. You can call to schedule for the training, focus on family members and caregivers. Providers can attend however will not be given a free kit.

IX. **Staff Reports**  
**Municipal Alliance Report – Mr. Steve Nebesni**

The County received the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Letter of Intent. It is the same amount as it’s been the last two years. There was a conference call today with the GCADA regarding FY 2017 application. This will be a renewal year which means the application paperwork will be a little easier.

There will be a quarterly Alliance meeting on Dec. 16. Joe Costantino will facilitate a training for the volunteers to help them do a better job of filling out forms and providing the required documentation for future quarterly reports.
Addictions Service Administrator – Ms. Beth Jacobson
Ms. Jacobson submitted the 2016-2019 Comprehensive Plan to the Division of Mental Health and Addictions Services. The next step will be to submit the 2016 application and to await feedback on the plan and approval of the application. She hopes to bring a draft to the next MHASAB meeting and then to ultimately publish copies for the public.

Ms. Jacobson reported on the prevention conference that was held on November 4th featuring David Sheff. It was very successful, with approximately 225-250 in attendance. Feedback has been very positive, and Mr. Sheff’s message was well received. In addition to the keynote, Prosecutor Knapp attended and spoke about the efforts of his office. There was also a trailer for the documentary film being produced by two young filmmakers entitled Epidemic H. The film was very powerful, and features footage from Jessie Morello and his mother Maureen. Jessie is a Pequannock resident who overdosed on heroin when he was a teenager and is as a result permanently disabled. Mrs. Morello also spoke at the event, and her message was very powerful about the need to raise awareness and fight this epidemic, as well as to battle the stigma attached to addiction.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Laurie Becker
Ms. Becker spoke about the press releases on the John Brooks Recovery Center (JBRC). Copies of these releases were placed in the board members’ folders. JBRC may close its long term residential facility in the spring next year due to a shortage in funding. Due to a sequence of negative fiscal events, including no increase to date of the State’s rate of service reimbursement, this program is in serious jeopardy. The Morris/Sussex Drug Court refers clients to JBRC as well as Straight and Narrow, Turning Point, Daytop and other facilities. If JBRC closes there will be an increase in the delay to access beds and longer waiting periods. Drug Court cannot release clients to the streets and for many the only other option is the MC Correctional Facility. Ms. Becker reported that the board could prepare a letter of advocacy to the state on the importance of the John Brooks Recovery Center’s long term program staying open. Ms. Barb Ward made a motion for sending a letter of advocacy in support of the John Brooks Recovery Center. Mr. Chris Chernick seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. Ms. Becker passed around a sign in sheet for anyone interested in working on this.

X. Joint PAC Report – Ms. Picard
The PAC discussed the challenges of drafting 2016 budgets without knowing what they are being paid by the state for service reimbursement. The PAC will be creating an advocacy group to address the reimbursement rates along with a couple of other issues. Ms. McMann suggested that agencies work with existing rates to set budgets.

Ms. Picard reported that the PAC also had a presentation from Morris County Prevention is Key on the CARES program. The next meeting PAC meeting is on December 4.

XI. Old Business – None
XII. New Business – Ms. Becker
There are two new DMHAS RFPs set to be out before the end of the year. The board may receive some proposals to review and make recommendations upon. Due to tight timeframes, Ms. Carol DeGraw make a motion to empower the funding subcommittee to review any proposals received and provide recommendations to DMHAS on the full board’s behalf. Motion seconded by Ms. Marcy McMann. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion was carried.

Ms. Becker reminded the board that earlier in the year, there was discussion on changing its name to include addictions other than “substance abuse”. Ms. Becker suggested the board’s new name be the Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB). Ms. LaJuan Tucker made a motion for the board’s new name to the Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board. Ms. Carol DeGraw seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion was carried.

XIII. Open to the Public-
Ms. Cheryl Garodnick stated that she recently moved her practice to 6 Dumont Place in Morristown. She has a for profit private practice that takes challenging clients. She is hoping that her practice can offset some of the organizations closing down and give them another avenue. They have a sliding scale and try to accommodate patient’s needs. She will bring brochures to the next meeting.

The board applauded Ms. Barbara Ward for her two years’ leadership as board chair and thanked her for her significant time commitment.

XIV. Adjourn –
There was a motion made by Ms. Mary Jane Melo to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaJuan Tucker. Ms. Becker reminded everyone there will be no December meeting. The meeting was adjourned.