



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



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- ☐ Council
- ☐ Mental Health
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Disability Services
- ☒ Substance Abuse
- ☐ Transportation

Approved November 9, 2022

COUNTY ALLIANCE STEERING SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 3:30 p.m.
Via Webex

MEMBERS PRESENT

C. Honthy J. Griffith
C. Montelius R. Neiber

STAFF

M. O'Reilly
A. DeLuca

GUESTS

I. CONVENE: OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:

"This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting has been provided in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News. A public notice announcing this meeting has also been placed in the lobbies of the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, the first floor of the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street Building #1, Flemington, NJ; the first floor of the Route 12 County Complex, Building #3, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ and County Clerk's Office."

A. DeLuca opened the meeting of CASS at 3:30 p.m. with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Introductions were made by committee members.

II. MINUTES:

R. Neiber made a motion and J. Griffith seconded to approve the minutes of January 12, 2022. There were no abstentions. All were in favor.

III. PRESENTATION: CASS Overview/Vision – A. DeLuca provided her presentation to the group. She began CASS – County Alliance Steering Subcommittee is a subcommittee of LACADA, the Local Advisory on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. The meetings are held the Second Wednesday of January, May, September, and November beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Purpose: Oversight of matters relating directly to the County Municipal Alliances. Five Municipal Alliance Clusters, composed by grouping municipalities according to high school sending districts, present a comprehensive spending plan for State allocated funds. CASS approves spending plans developed by the Clusters for recommendation to the Council Review Team (GCADA).

What Does CASS Membership Mean?

CASS members hold a variety of responsibilities such as:

- Review and make recommendations regarding Municipal Alliance Proposals for the expenditure of Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund (DEDR) funds (Fines collected from persons convicted of drug offenses)
- Contribution of the implementation and development of the Annual Plan
- Vote on meeting minutes, grant plans, updates, budget modifications, Chairperson, Vice-Chair and other matters that would require a vote from members

Who Should Serve on CASS?

A. DeLuca conveyed she would like to build the membership and increase participation to service on CASS. She feels this is important and invited all who knows anyone to fill the roles. C. Montelius stated that effective June 24, 2022, she will be separating from Hunterdon Medical Center and is unsure who her replacement may be at this time. A. DeLuca will review the by-laws to check the requirements to be a member of CASS.

Members of CASS could be the following:

- Private Citizens
- County HSAC (Human Services Advisory Council)
- Superintendent of Schools
- Existing County Council
- County Prosecutor's Office
- Family Part of the Chancery Division of the Family Court
- Youth Services Commission
- County School Board
- County Health Department
- County Mental Health Board
- Local Businesses
- Service Providers

Municipal Alliances:

Alliances, comprising mostly of volunteers, encompasses local perspectives and grassroots prevention organizations.

In Hunterdon County there are:

- 26 Municipalities
- 5 Alliances: Central Hunterdon, Delaware Valley, North Hunterdon, South Hunterdon & Voorhees

Some Counties have single municipality alliances. Hunterdon County is unique where the entire program consists of all consortiums.

Responsibilities of Municipal Alliances:

Alliances plan, coordinate, and conduct alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) abuse prevention education to benefit their communities based on identified needs/priorities.

Two Samples of Hunterdon County's Municipal Alliance Prevention Education are as followed:

- **Alcohol Literacy Challenge** – An evidence-based prevention program challenging students' risk of harm about the effects of drinking alcohol. It is a classroom-based program teaching students both the real and physical effects of consuming alcohol, and the placebo-caused social & emotional effects people associate with drinking. This program is offered to both middle school and high school students.

- **Michael Fowlin** – This program discusses change in community norms and youth attitude. The program and curriculum will expose individuals to information and experiences that will increase their knowledge, resiliency skills, and promote positive peer pressure through role model behaviors.

How Are Prevention Education Programs Funded?

Prevention education programs are funded through GCADA. GCADA is The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

As stated on the Hunterdon County website, GCADA was established in 1989 as an independent planning and coordinating body covering State, County, and local efforts regarding alcoholism, tobacco, and other drug abuse (ATOD). Since its earliest implementation, GCADA has had two primary missions:

1. The development of a Master Plan with a State Government Component, and
2. To provide funds and maintain Municipal Alliances in all 21 New Jersey counties.

Funding Continued:

"Funding for the GCADA and the Municipal Alliance program comes from the Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction (DEDR) Fund. The 1989 legislation established a set of fines on convicted drug offenders specifically to be collected into the DEDR Fund for the purpose of being returned to communities and used for local substance abuse prevention activities."

Goals for Hunterdon County's CASS:

- Build Membership
- Increase Participation

Alyssa DeLuca stated she was interested in understanding how everyone participating in this meeting got started with CASS and how they feel would be the best way to build membership in Hunterdon County. R. Neiber, J. Griffith and T. Honthy offered their background and insight. Discussion ensued.

A timeline of meeting dates, deadlines, and vital information regarding the grant plan review and approval was discussed.

Timeline:

May 11, 2022	1. CASS Meeting
	Presentation – CASS Vision/Municipal Alliance Overview
May 17, 2022 OR June 21, 2022	1. GCADA Council review and approval
	This meeting determines if Hunterdon County is approved to accept funds. Once the Council Review Team votes to present the plans to the full GCADA Council, the plans will be presented at the May and June Council meetings for the Council's review and approval
June 23, 2022	1. 2022 GCADA Quarterly Meeting
July 1, 2022	FY2023 STARTS
September 14, 2022	1. CASS Meeting
	Agenda - TBD

September 22, 2022	1. 2022 GCADA Quarterly Meeting
November 09, 2022	1. CASS Meeting
	Agenda - TBD
December 8, 2022	1. 2022 GCADA Quarterly Meeting

A. DeLuca offered her sincere heartfelt “Thank You” to all for everything that had been done and continue to be completed.

IV. REPORTS:

A. County Update: M. O'Reilly recognized this is the 50th anniversary of the Division of Senior, Disabilities and Veteran Services. There is a 60-second survey found on the senior center website, as well as a housing survey that has been put together by the Human Services Advisory Council. She provided those links in the Chat Box.

M. O'Reilly shared the division applied for a Communication Access Services grant in the amount of \$75,000.00 from the State and had been awarded this full amount. These monies will be installing hearing loops in three County meeting locations, as well as purchasing portable hearing loops. Additionally, the plan is to develop a program for American Sign Language. This is the first time the State has awarded an opportunity like this and there may be additional opportunities in the future.

M. O'Reilly reported that the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services has awarded funding to Rutgers for Early Intervention Support Services. This will bring urgent mental health care to Hunterdon County. The State will have this service available in every County. More details to follow.

M. O'Reilly reiterated that the County has a COVID testing site (Rapid and PCR) open at the former Pier One location, Reaville Avenue, Flemington. It is anticipated that this site will operate until the end of June. Each month, the need for this site and funding is examined. This service is free. Vaccinations continue to be offered at the County's Route 12 facility.

B. Municipal Alliance Program: A. DeLuca reported the alliances are doing well. The quarter will be coming to a close on June 30, 2022 for this grant year. Since the school year is getting ready to close out, the Municipal Alliance coordinators have been stressing for any outstanding bills that need to be submitted to them. The process is the bills get submitted to the Municipal Alliance coordinators and then the coordinators review all of the documents that have been submitted to them. Once they approve it, they submit the bill to herself to ensure all is in good order and then she submits to the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (ESC) for payment. She stated she sent a friendly reminder to each alliance to gather documents needed to submit to their coordinator.

In regard to programming, she had received positive feedback from the alliances for this school year. Central Hunterdon Municipal Alliance meets tomorrow morning for their May meeting. As far as bills from the Central Hunterdon Municipal Alliance, all have been submitted to her. The last outstanding bill had been addressed and will be completed timely. Currently, the task for the alliances is tying up loose ends for this school year and are gently conversing about programming for the next school year. Voorhees Municipal Alliance is fully staffed now.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. FY2023 County Municipal Plan Grant Process Update: A. DeLuca discussed this in her presentation. All program funding amounts remain the same for next year as they were this

year.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. DMHAS Funding: A. DeLuca stated there is an opportunity for a one-time funding that would be stretched out over a three-year period. This is new and the Counties were made aware of this new funding source just recently. GCADA informed the groups and gave them a short period of time to do the grant application. The Commissioners were made aware of this opportunity. As she obtains more information, she will provide to this subcommittee. The deadline for submission to GCADA is Monday, May 16, 2022. The grant is coming from the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and GCADA. They are looking for brand new programming. The program that was decided on is called the Matt Bellace presentation which is based on natural highs and coping/resilience for students. Matt Bellace has a PhD in Clinical Psychology with a specialty in Clinical Neuropsychology. His program focuses on natural highs, emotional resilience, and mental health. He empowers students to seek out positive friendships, express their feelings in productive ways and pursue healthy natural highs. During the program, he also discusses how to use emotions to be more resilient and do something great. This programming will be for all seventh-grade students with the intention to have programming for the same grade level, for consistency. The next component of programming is a parent component called "Hidden in Plain Sight", which is presented by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). As stated on the DEA website, the program is an interactive drug educational program offered to parents and a mock teenage bedroom will display everyday items that can be indicators for drug use or risky behaviors. Another component that will be added are wellness and coping tips that will be provided to the schools to offer tangible interventions and strategies that provide support for the programming goals. A wide variety of resources will be provided to the schools for support. A. DeLuca asked if anyone has any objections to the proposed programming and if not, she is seeking a vote. T. Honthy complimented A. DeLuca for doing a wonderful job outlining the two programs and asked if the link to both websites could be added to the Chat Box.

T. Honthy made a Motion to accept a one-time DMHAS funding from GCADA to pursue Matt Bellace programming. R. Neiber seconded. All were in favor. The Motion was approved.

Discussion ensued regarding the program, Hidden in Plain Sight.

Matt Bellace Website - <https://www.mattbellace.com/business/>
"Hidden in Plain Sight" description - <https://www.dea.gov/events/2018/2018-09/2018-09-18/hidden-plain-sight-presentation>

B. MAGS System: A. DeLuca stated that the MAGS System is from GCADA and currently, she does not have a lot of information. She noted that it is important that CASS is aware and informed of the system. The MAGS System is the Municipal Alliance Grant System. GCADA's goal is to have all 21 counties use this system to streamline their entire process. The hope is to roll it out soon and to put the coordinators into training on how to use the system either during the summer or into the fall; a date had not yet been defined. Instead of documents completed by hand or in-person, this would make the entire grant process paperless. There will be more information to follow.

T. Honthy made a Motion and J. Griffith seconded. The Motion passed. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 3:30 pm via Webex.