



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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(Location: 8 Gauntt Place)

REFERENCE:

- ☐ Council
- ☒ Mental Health
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Disability Services
- ☐ Substance
- ☐ Use Disorder
- ☐ Transportation

Approved October 6, 2022

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 1, 2022 5:30 p.m.
Via Webex

MEMBERS PRESENT

W. Dudzinski
M. Deo
R. Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT

L. Cartwright
L. Hartman

EX-OFFICIO

D. Davis

STAFF

M. O'Reilly
S. Nekola
S. Becker

GUESTS

A. Bassetti
E. Santiago
A. Grossman

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."

ROLL CALL:

The regular public meeting was opened at 5:30 p.m. Introductions were made.

Due to the recent public health crisis, COVID-19, this meeting was call in and Webex ONLY

S. Becker stated she is the Assistant Mental Health Administrator for Hunterdon County.

A. Grossman stated she is with Legal Services of North West New Jersey.

A. Bassetti stated he is with Hunterdon County Screening.

D. Davis stated she is the Program Analysts for Hunterdon County with the Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services.

E. Santiago stated she is with Norwescap.

M. Deo stated she works at Catholic Charities for the Children's Mobile Response Unit.

M. O'Reilly stated she is the Human Services Administrator in Hunterdon County.

R. Walker stated she is with GenPsych.

S. Nekola stated she is the Division Head of Social Work Services for the county.

W. Dudzinski stated he is the Chairman of the Mental Health Board and CFO of NewBridge Services, Inc.

- II. *A. MINUTES:** With the removal of the last sentence of the first paragraph of the State Update, a motion was made by M. Deo and seconded by W. Dudzinski to approve the minutes of June 2, 2022. R. Walker abstained. The motion carried.

- B. CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence at this time.

III. REPORTS:

- A. County Update:** M. O'Reilly stated the Human Services department is seeking approval from the County Commissioners at their next meeting, to begin a project to collocate Naloxone in our AED machine that are installed in the Building of the Rt 31 Complex. The plan includes detailed procedures, training, and outreach to staff. M. O'Reilly is hoping if this project is successful, that it will expand to other public facing departments within the County.

M. O'Reilly conveyed there is a Request for Proposals (RFP) out for Community Development Block Grant Funding. She stated it is specifically for Covid-19. The funding is designed to help agencies prepare, respond, or prevent Covid-19. The application is available by contacting the Purchasing Department. R. Rule is the contact and M. O'Reilly added his information to the chat box. She stated there would be a bidders' conference regarding the funding on September 2, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. to answer questions. There is over \$600,000 available through the CDBG-CV funding. M. O'Reilly reported that she believes this is the first time the county has received this funding, because Hunterdon County is not an entitlement county. She stated it has a lot of guidelines to follow, but it is a great opportunity for new programs or programs the had a lot of expansion, in order to help with public services.

M. O'Reilly stated the Health Department for the County continues to offer at home test kits, as well as Covid-19 Vaccinations for those 6 months of age or older. More information can be found on the county website.

- B. State Update:** D. Davis reported that there are some Request for Proposals (RFPs) issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and

Addiction Services (DMHAS). The first Request for Proposal is for Prevention Services for LGBTQ Youth in New Jersey middle or high schools. Funding for services will be provided by the Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Total annualized funding is \$450,000 and DMHAS anticipates making two \$225,000 awards – one in the central, and another in the southern region of the state as indicated below. Central: Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and Union Counties. South: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem Counties.

There is already currently one in the Northern region. There is no mandatory bidders' conference, questions are due by September 2, 2022 by 4:00 p.m. The deadline to submit a written intent to apply, and to request DHS secure file transfer protocol (SFTP) site login credentials are due by September 16, 2022 by 4:00 p.m. Proposals are due September 23, 2022. The notify date will be October 28, 2022.

A Community Peer Recovery Center is another Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). The intent is to expand regional Community Peer Recovery Centers (CPRC) to eleven counties. The CPRC will be a place where individuals can access peer support, information about substance use disorder treatment, recovery support services, and information about other community resources in a supportive substance free environment. This RFP is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response to Grants (SOR) funding. The SOR grant funding period is through September 29, 2022, however other sources of funding may be available depending on federal appropriations. Contracts are intended to be for one year. Total funding is \$200,000 subject to federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to two awards in the amount of \$100,000 each. There is no mandatory bidders conference.

The timeline is the same, questions are due by September 2, 2022 no later than 4:00 p.m. The deadline to submit a written intent to apply, and to request DHS secure file transfer protocol (SFTP) site login credentials are due by September 16, 2022 no later than 4:00 p.m. Proposals are due September 23, 2022. The notify date will be October 28, 2022.

The DCA Recovery Housing Program (RHP) provides stable, transitional housing for individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder (SUD). It is to assist Government entities and nonprofit organizations to provide safe, supportive, and stable housing for individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder (SUD). Projected outcome of three new recovery houses. The counties targeted for this RFP include Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Monmouth, and Ocean. Additional information can be found on their website.

The Department of Human Services Special Populations. This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to provide direct services, reach specialized

populations that are often underserved, help to assist those that may benefit from services, and those that may be in crisis. Total annualized funding is \$1,800,000 for mental health and \$1,650,000 for substance use disorder services subject to appropriations. DMHAS anticipates awarding up to 12 grants of up to \$150,000 each for the provision of mental health services and 11 grants of up to \$150,000 each for the provision of substance use disorder services. DMHAS anticipates awarding this grant for 1 year with possible additional years. Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. on September 27, 2022. The bidders will be notified on or before November 2, 2022.

Additionally, D. Davis reported the quarterly provider meeting will be on September 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. There was an agenda that was sent out. 9-8-8 will be one of the topics covered during the meeting. Since the 9-8-8 program has launched and is fully active, there is a landing page on the division. SAMHSA has FAQs posted and any questions can be sent to the www.988questions@dhs.nj.gov email address.

Coordinated Specialty Care Programs for First Episode Psychosis were awarded to CarePlus New Jersey and Rutgers UBHC. They will serve a case load of seventy consumers in the early stages of experiencing psychotic symptoms or psychotic episodes for the fiscal year of 2023. CarePlus will cover Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren counties. Rutgers will cover Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, and Union counties.

D. Davis stated she would post all links she discussed in the chat box for those who may need them.

- C. **NAMI Hunterdon, Update:** W. Dudzinski reported they were very pleased with the response they received for their expressive arts contests. NAMI Hunterdon went to all of the high schools in Hunterdon County, and they had fourteen participants with submissions including: poetry, painting, wood carving, as well as songs. They have chosen a winner and W. Dudzinski stated the winner would be announced within the next couple of days. A first-place award of \$2,000.00 will be given, as well as two runner up awards, one of \$250.00 and another of \$100.00. W. Dudzinski stated they anticipate doing this on an annual basis. He stated they are also hoping to display the work of those who participated in the Getting Together Center. W. Dudzinski stated all the submissions were wonderful and really showed the feeling and expression of each participant. He conveyed it was difficult to make a choice. They are hoping to have even more participants next year.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **EISS Program:** S. Becker stated EISS Program was awarded to Rutgers UBHC. Rutgers UBHC has acquired a space, and they are currently working on licensing and staff. They hope to be up and running by the end of September.

B. Advocacy Letter: S. Becker stated this had been sent to the county as a suggestion whether we wanted to meet with our Mental Health Boards and whether we wanted to support this. She stated they have discussed at previous meetings how long and how difficult it has been to find enough counselors and staff. S. Becker conveyed since it takes a long time to obtain a license, Bergen County stepped up to request some changes in order to resolve the staffing and counseling issues. The requested change includes letting staff start work sooner, rather than waiting for their complete license. S. Becker requested feedback from the group whether Hunterdon wanted to make changes or add anything to Bergen's letter. R. Walker and W. Dudzinski both stated they were on board and support this. There were no revisions to be made. S. Becker stated there is a long process which is why there is a delay.

C. Harvesting Hope: S. Becker conveyed Hunterdon County has been trying to become stigma free for quite a long time now. Commissioner J. Kuhl's slogan is "Stigma Free by 2023." Since his involvement, Hunterdon County has gone from two stigma free towns, up to twenty! The Stigma Free Task force will be hosting a county wide festival on October 1, 2022 called Harvesting Hope. The event will be free and family friendly. They are still looking for vendors and agencies to participate. All stigma free towns have been invited to make a scarecrow to participate in a scarecrow contest. Activities will include face paintings, making corn husk dolls, and cornhole games. Anyone interested in being involved or who may know someone who would like to be involved can contact Stacey Becker.

S. Becker reported about a new registry Sheriffs program. The program allows individuals with disabilities; whether it is a mental health, substance abuse or developmental disability, to complete a form stating what his/her disability is/are and what the disability looks like. This information will then be relayed to any first responders CAT system when dispatched to his/her house. S. Becker stated this would allow first responders to know what kind of situation they may be walking into, allowing the first responders to better deal with the situation. S. Becker will be sharing the information.

D. GenPsych: R. Walker stated GenPsych in Flemington will be opening an Adolescent Care Program for full-day, half-day, and evening care beginning in October. January of 2023, after moving to their larger space, they will also have an Eating Disorders Program. Brochures will be distributed soon. The Eating Disorder Program is also open to teens and adults. R. Walker conveyed GenPsych offers a virtual eating disorder program, but it is difficult to monitor the clients' weight and blood virtually. R. Walker was excited to announce they will be expanding to Flemington, Wayne, and Marlboro. Out of county residents are welcome.

A motion was made by W. Dudzinski and seconded by R. Walker. All were in favor. The motion passed. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m. The next meeting will be on October 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.