



# 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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**REFERENCE:**  
☐ Council  
☒ Mental Health  
☐ Youth  
☐ Disabled  
☐ Substance  
Use Disorder  
☐ Transportation

Approved May 19, 2022

### PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE

#### Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 1:00 p.m.  
Via Webex

#### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

R. Walker  
D. LaClair  
K. Bloodgood  
J. Denlinger  
L. Esposito  
L. Raineri  
M. Dematos  
S. Carew  
M. Margulies  
L. Painter

#### EX-OFFICIO

D. Davis

#### STAFF

S. Becker  
S. Nekola

#### GUESTS

R. Coleman, Jr.  
J. Ege  
K. Travino  
P. Vitale  
H. McIntosh

- I.** “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.”

\*Due to the recent public health crisis, COVID-19, this meeting was held via Webex ONLY\*

S. Becker opened the meeting by reading the Open Public Meeting Statement.

S. Becker asked the group to go around and introduce themselves. She began and introduced himself.

S. Becker stated she is the Assistant Mental Health Administrator and Drug and Alcohol Director for Hunterdon County.

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

H. McIntosh stated she is the Clinical Director with Anderson House/Turning Point Program.

J. Denlinger stated she is a Family Support Advocate with the Sharing the Hope Family Support Center of Prevention Resources.

J. Ege stated she is the Clinical Supervisor at Veterans Haven North in Glen Gardner.

K. Travino stated she is the Peer Specialist for the Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care Maternal Wrap-Around Program in Central New Jersey.

K. Bloodgood stated she is the Senior Director of Admissions at New Hope Integrated Behavioral Healthcare.

L. Ranieri stated she is the Lead Clinical Marketing Liaison with the Hackensack Meridian Carrier Clinic.

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

M. Dematos stated he is with the Hunterdon Medical Center and Navigator for the Opioid Overdose Recovery Program.

P. Vitale stated he is representing Sober Fit, a sober house in Clinton, New Jersey.

R. Denlinger stated she is with Prevention Resources for the Overdose Fatality Review Team.

R. Coleman, Jr. stated he is with the Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care Maternal Wrap-Around Program in Central New Jersey

D. Laclair stated she is a Case Manager for the Hunterdon County STAR team and support team for addiction recovery.

L. Esposito stated she is a peer that works with the Hunterdon County STAR program.

M. Margulies stated he is from Summit Oaks Hospital.

- II. **MINUTES:** After two attendee corrections, a Motion was made by K. Bloodgood and seconded by R. Walker to approve the meeting minutes of January 20, 2022. All were in favor. No oppositions. The motion carried.

III. **REPORTS:**

- A. **Mental Health Board (MHB) Update:** S. Becker stated the MHB continues to be open for new members. If anyone is interested or knows of anyone who is interested to join, please notify her. They meet the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm with the exception of August. Currently, the board is discussing the new EISS RFPs that are coming out. Comments were documented and forwarded onto the state for consideration.
- B. **Division of Mental Health Services Update:** D. Davis stated a new RFP had been announced. 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 assist licensed mental health (MH) and licensed substance use disorder (SUD) programs in

developing the capacity to offer SUD medications, i.e., buprenorphine, naloxone, naltrexone, methadone and acamprosate. This RFP is funded through the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response grant (SOR). The SOR grant period is September 30, 2020 to September 29, 2022. Total annualized funding is \$300,000 subject to Federal appropriations. Four (4) contracts were previously awarded to build capacity in MH programs only. Through this RFP, DMHAS anticipates making up to an additional four (4) awards (each not to exceed \$75,000). This initiative will be funded through cost-reimbursement contracting. The proposal was announced on February 22, 2022 and the submission deadline is March 29, 2022. The notification date will be on or before April 19, 2022.

D. Davis conveyed there is an update to NJMHAPP (NJ Mental Health Application Payment Processing). A revenue template had been added for their residential providers to collect residential fees or nutritional fees. They would complete the residential template and reflect that those fees have been collected. This would reduce what the providers would be reimbursed. This update went live February 23, 2022 and the new appendix to the Fee For Service manual which has the new template was also released the same date.

The governor's budget address was held on March 8, 2022. There was reference to funding regarding the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. One hot area of discussion was staffing issues. There is some consideration for additional funding towards increases in payments for staff to have an increase in hourly rates. This would be under the deficit funded programs. There was also reference to Medicaid rates increasing that would cover the Fee for Service programs. She reiterated this is a budget proposal as nothing has been finalized at this time.

The last Quarterly Providers Meeting was held on March 10, 2022 via Zoom. There was a presentation given by their CFO, Morris Friedman regarding the budget. M. Friedman provided a more in-depth analysis of the budget proposals as they relate to the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

D. Davis reminded all of the screening program that the waiver requests must be submitted to the division 60-days prior to the expiration of that waiver. Hunterdon County no longer has any waivers.

The Acting Commissioner, Sarah Adelman announced contract award for the Cultural Competency Training for opioid treatment providers to narrow the treatment gap experienced by African American residents who are statistically less likely to receive and access to services. That was a family connection to provide training, coaching, consultation services to counselors and leadership employees at state licensed opioid treatment providers. A request for a letter of interest will be issued to providers to be selected to provide that training assistance.

Short-term Care Facility Units and screening centers were given some additional technical assistance regarding the BEDS system which is the live tracking for STCF beds across the state. A letter was sent out on March 1, 2022.

For the Community Support Services providers, H. Reyes stated that providers can send staffing waiver requests to the division reminding to contact him or D. Gravely with questions or concerns regarding staffing. Those waivers requests for staffing go to the Department of

Certificate of Need and Licensing. The contact is L. Johnson.

There are some learning applications coming up for CSS providers for IRP development and measurability that will be held on March 23 and March 24, 2022.

Spring Documentation Training is coming up in April. This is for new staff or to be attended as a refresher course.

The CSS team developed a technical assistance quick reference online which has Medicaid regulations, Medicaid newsletters, information on DCA and support housing connections. Hopefully, this will be a helpful tool for the CSS providers.

On March, 18, 2022, a supervisor learning training from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm.

- C. **County Update:** M. O'Reilly reminded the group that the utility moratorium for shutoffs has ended. The Department of Community Affairs announced a Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) that can be used for water and sewer arrears. The eligibility requirements can be located on the DCA website. She will add this information to the Chat Box. The application can be found online and anyone requiring any assistance can either call 2-1-1 or can call 1-800-510-3102 to be referred to a local agency to help apply for that assistance.

The Tri-County Care Management Organization has an RFP opportunity. S. Becker forwarded the information and details out earlier. A maximum total of \$68,678.46 is available to fund one or more projects. Funding is to be used for expansion or creation of resources available to tri-county youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs, and their families. All types of projects that result in the creation or expansion of community-based resources that meet cited multi-source needs data will be considered.

Information had been shared by the Department of Children & Families regarding vaccines and booster shots that are available through the New Jersey Department of Health. There was information in an email to contact the Department of Health for any pop-up clinics. S. Becker will provide the information in an email. Hunterdon County still has their COVID-19 testing site open for rapid and PCR test. This is at the old Pier One location on Reaville Avenue, Flemington.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None at this time.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **Presentation by Kelly Travino and Rudolph Coleman, Jr. – M-WRAP Program:** K. Travino introduced herself as working with the Central New Jersey Maternal Wrap-Around Program and thanked everyone for inviting to present. She commented she presented a few months prior and noted there have been some positive new changes for the M-WRAP program. She explained the M-WRAP program is a grant funded community program that helps women who are struggling with substance use disorder who are prenatal or postpartum. The only requirement for the women to receive services from the program is to have had a baby within the last year or be experiencing postpartum symptoms and struggling with substances.

One of the big changes they had in the program is that they no longer just serving opiates; they are serving all substances. This includes alcohol, marijuana, etc.

The program helps the women through community services. They have case manager and peer support, which is herself. The case manager helps links them to any services that they need. They get assistance with WIC, navigation with the Division of Social Services, treatment, early intervention; any services they do not know how to access that is what the case manager is there for. They also help build a family dynamic. If someone in the household is also struggling, the case manager has the ability to help them as well. The peer aspect is the strongest point. They have that have that peer support from someone who had already experienced what they have been through and be able to walk them through that path; understanding what they are going through.

The program is also able to help the women with diapers, car seats or any supplies they may need for a new baby.

Some women are in the program that are doing dual training. This is newer so she is unsure what it may look like; the logistics are not ironed out yet, however the new support system is coming and really awesome.

K. Travino conveyed a new referral form had been forwarded to S. Becker and she will also put the information in the Chat Box, as well as the new pamphlet they have for the M-WRAP Program. She noted they currently serve Central and Northern New Jersey, including Hunterdon County. She encouraged to please share these services are available. Overall, they serve Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset Counties for Central New Jersey. They also have a peer specialist and a case manager in North Jersey which serves Essex and Union Counties.

K. Travino stated that if there are questions to please reach out to her as she will put her contact information along with the referral process in the Chat Box.

S. Carew suggested to K. Travino to reach out to Shu Chiang with Public Health Nursing. S. Becker provided K. Travino with S. Chiang's contact information.

**B. Nominations for New Chair and Vice Chair:**

S. Becker informed the group that it is time to nominate a new Chair and Vice Chair. She asked for nominations. With no new volunteers, S. Becker asked if M. Margulies and R. Walker would like to remain in those positions for another year. Thank you Mike and Rose!

*All were in favor with no oppositions.*

**VI. AGENCY NEWS:**

Hunterdon County STAR Program – D. Laclair conveyed most practices are status quo. They are still meeting some clients in the community and virtually. The STAR program recently partnered with recovery court which is going well, and they are continuing to utilize their social media to promote any resources, local activities and small businesses for anyone in the community who needs that information.

Prevention Resources – J. Denlinger stated Prevention Resources received some grant monies for expansion of the Open Door Recovery Center. They are also able to open a recovery center in Asbury Park. Prevention Resources will be having a grand opening of their new facility on April 26, 2022.

Everyone is invited. This a facility at 5 East Main Street, Flemington. The facility is not only home to Sharing the Hope and Open Door Recover Center, but also to the Harvest Success Center. This April 26<sup>th</sup> event will also honor and wish Carmen Gettings her best on her retirement. A flyer had been distribution providing details.

Anderson House – H. McIntosh stated Anderson House is working on their 23<sup>rd</sup> annual golf outing that will be held on Monday, June 6, 2022 at Stanton Ridge. She conveyed to please share they are looking for sponsors.

GenPsych – R. Walker stated this week her agency has lifted the virtual and social distancing mandate. All personnel and clients are invited in.

New Hope Integrated Behavioral Health Care – K. Bloodgood stated New Hope had lifted most of their COVID precautions. They are wearing masks and doing temperature checks. They are able to book people back to regular status and back to normal.

Summit Oaks Hospital – M. Margulies conveyed inpatient is functioning as normal. Summit Oaks is still accepting patients for all levels of care. For outpatient services, the hospital saw a need to go back to hybrid model. With that being said, they still have their live groups; the only difference is they are doing a live Zoom into the live groups as opposed to having a separate Zoom room for the people doing telehealth.

There being no further business. A motion was made by R. Walker and seconded by C. Isaac. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.