



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 July 21, 2022

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE

Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Via Webex

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

R. Walker
D. LaClair
J. Denlinger
S. Lax
G. Rearick
H. McIntosh

L. Raineri
M. Dematos
C. Isaac
M. Margulies
R. Denlinger

EX-OFFICIO

D. Davis

STAFF

S. Becker
S. Nekola

GUESTS

J. Panico
J. Ege
K. Van Lanningham
A. Hicks
A. Sumpter

K. Travino
P. Vitale
L. Mermini

- 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

M. Margulies opened the meeting by reading the Open Public Meeting Statement.

M. Margulies asked the group to go around and introduce themselves.

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

Amy Hicks stated she is a Recovery Advocate Coordinator at the Open Door Recovery Center under Prevention Resources.

C. Isaac stated she is a Community Relations Representative with Princeton House Behavioral Health.

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

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

G. Rearick state he is with the Hunterdon Opioid Overdose Recovery Program.

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

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

K. VanLaningham stated she is the Operations Manager for Freedom House.

L. Mermini stated she is the Clerical Supervisor with Catholic Charities.

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

R. Walker stated she is with GenPsych.

S. Lax stated she is with Hunterdon Helpline, Inc.

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

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

N. Sumpter stated she is a Recovery Navigator for the Pathways for Recovery Program for Hunterdon County.

M. Margulies stated he is from Summit Oaks Hospital.

- II. MINUTES:** A Motion was made by L. Ranieri and seconded by R. Walker to approve the meeting minutes of March 17, 2022. All were in favor. No oppositions. The motion carried.

III. REPORTS:

- A. Mental Health Board (MHB) Update:** S. Becker stated the MHB remains to be status quo. They had discussed the 988 switch that will occur in July 2022. She conveyed Rutgers won an RFP for a new EISS program which is a mental health urgent care style model. Rutgers is looking for a location to open and should be up and operating hopefully by July 2022. Once they are operable, S. Becker will ask the team to provide a presentation to this group including all of the services they offer.

- B. Division of Mental Health Services Update:** D. Davis stated the EISS (Early Intervention Support Services) awards were issued and finalized. The division is in the process of

negotiating the contracts with the providers. In Hunterdon County, Rutgers University of Behavioral Health received the award. The service includes a medical capacity, quick access to prescribers and clinicians and case management. It is a very exciting new service to come to the county. This program is in every county. Other counties included: Catholic Charities-Burlington County, Bridgeway -Union County, Rutgers UBHC- Somerset County, Acenda - Cape May and Gloucester Counties, Health Care Commons Inc. -Salem County, St Clare's - Warren County, CBH Care -Passaic County and Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris -Sussex County.

A Medicaid provider training that is tailored towards partial care programs. Useful tools for compliant a Medicaid provider; the virtual presentation for partial care providers will be held Wednesday, June 8, 2022 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm via Zoom. The Medicaid Fraud Division, the Office of State Comptroller, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, both within the Department of Human Services and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and Attorney General's Office are working together with the managed care organizations to identify and recover the overpaid funds due to fraud waste and abuse in the Medicaid program often referred to as New Jersey Family Care. This session is designed to provide stakeholders, specifically Medicaid partial care providers a better understanding of best practices to prevent, avoid and detect fraud abuse in the Medicaid program. The goals are to help attendees understand the Medicaid program regulatory oversight structure, the Medicaid regulatory framework and compliance requirements, Medicaid documentation requirements for providers, third party liability requirements, fraud, waste and abuse obligations by providers for prevention and reporting and consequences for non-compliance by providers. The representatives from Medicaid state government agencies mentioned earlier in this report in addition to the MCOs, will be speakers at this training event. She put the registration email in the Chat Box. The training is limited to 500 participants.

Assistant Commissioner, Valerie Mielke received a partnership award from Acenda Integration Health this month. A YouTube link is available for anyone who is interested in viewing.

A new RFP, Mental Health Screening, Referral, and Support Pilot Diversion Program for Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) Pretrial Released Defendants was issued to develop a county based mental health pilot program for justice involved defendants who are subject to the Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) Act and identified with a serious mental illness. The total annualized funding is up to \$1.25M subject to State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making at least one award. The deadline for receipt of proposals - no later than 4:00 p.m. on June 24, 2022. Bidders will be notified on or before July 27, 2022. More detailed information can be located on the DHMAS website.

- C. **County Update:** M. O'Reilly notified the group that the department applied for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communication Access Grants and was awarded \$75,000.00 to install hearing loops in three of the county buildings. Additionally, that funding will purchase and install some portable hearing loops at some of the public reception areas. The benefit of the portable hearing loops is that they can be moved to other locations if needed for emergency situations.

The county is still operating a COVID testing site at the prior Pier 1 on Reaville Avenue, Flemington. This is a free testing site provides both PCR or rapid tests and will be open until

the end of June.

The county is continuing to provide vaccines including any boosters. More information can be located on the county's website to find out when the appointments are available. She will put the website address in the Chat Box.

The Human Services Advisory Council's Housing sub-committee currently has a survey for providers, renters and landlords. M. O'Reilly will put the details in the Chat Box if anyone is interested in sharing and/or complete as a provider.

S. Becker stated she will share a link reflecting the baby formula shortage that is of some concern now. It discusses the dangers of mixing formula with water as well as give some resources where additional formula may be obtained.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Substance Use Agency Fee for Service Rate Changes: S. Becker provided an attachment to the group referencing this topic, Fee for Service. The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services is targeting to increase the reimbursement rates effective July 1, 2022.

B. 988 Implementation <http://youtube/ZuKhg-VPVjU>:

S. Becker informed the group that the 988 Implementation will roll out July 16, 2022. The 988 number will be replacing the 1-800 Suicide Lifeline number. While it is highly encouraged not to dial 988 right now; if someone does, it will be transferred to the 1-800 number so no one is left unaided. The goal is to have the entire country to switch to 988 as of July 16, 2022. New Jersey has been doing a lot more work on this compared to the other states. A lot of advertising is expected. D. Davis added that the 1-800 number will not be disconnected effective July 16, 2022.

VI. AGENCY NEWS:

Open Door Recovery Center at Prevention Resources – A. Hicks stated the center has been holding focus groups with members of the recovery community to try and identify necessary services needed and gaps in areas they can fill. They are working on taking that information back to the team and seeing what can be provided.

Princeton House Behavioral Health – C. Isaac stated that during the pandemic the facility had been doing partial care for the intensive outpatient programming at Princeton House Behavioral Health. The plan for right now is to return to in-person services in the beginning of July 2022 for both partial and IOP.

Hunterdon County STAR Program – D. Laclair conveyed the program provides case management and peer support services. She continued that most practices are status quo. Actually, they are above their census, therefore the agency is very busy. The EISS program that is coming to Hunterdon County with Rutgers will have an office in their building which is very exciting.

Prevention Resources – J. Denlinger stated the Family Support Center is going to be starting hybrid meetings soon; they are operating on a virtual basis for the family support groups. Some people prefer to be outside right now. There was a wonderful yoga class that was held for the

recovery community. Prevention Resources won the Essence of Hunterdon Award from the Chamber of Commerce a couple of weeks ago.

Hunterdon Opioid Overdose Recovery Program – G. Rearick conveyed the Hunterdon OORP is in the process of interviewing to hire a new Peer Recovery Specialist to join the existing team.

Freedom House – K. VanLaningham stated all of the programs are very busy. The halfway house, as usual, is full with a waiting list. They continue to offer hybrid services at the two outpatient clinics in Clinton and Phillipsburg. They recently opened another men's recovery house program in the Phillipsburg area, therefore there are four recovery houses that all include case management; two in Morris County; one in Hunterdon County and one in Warren County. The women's and children's program are located in Trenton. She stated she has some private funding for the women's and children's program if anyone wanted to make a referral for recovery housing. The program is full, but she is putting together a waiting list. K. VanLaningham noted she is pleased with the increase in the Fee for Service rates and stated she had been advised that the Medicaid rates also have been raised that will come out in a newsletter. Only the rates that Fee for Service raised will be raised at Medicaid; it will not be all of Medicaid. Freedom House like many other agencies continue to struggle with the workforce shortage. They are seeking a clinical director for the halfway house.

County of Hunterdon – S. Becker stated the county is in the midst of writing the county update plan. This means the county is planning all of the funding from 2024 to 2027. It's mostly looking at drugs and alcohol but also prevention, treatment, and recovery services. She conveyed if something should be included or if there is any data about how positive a program is working, please provide this information to her so she may incorporate into the plan. She will have more information through surveys, and key informants. The plan is due in December 2022.

Carrier Clinic – L. Ranieri stated the clinic is getting prepared for another round of COVID by planning for testing, etc.

SoberFit2 – P. Vitale reported the sober house is mostly full. There may be one opening right now. The census has remained steady over the last few months. If there are any interest or referrals, please go to their website at www.soberfit2.com.

GenPsych – R. Walker stated the agency just opened their Rochelle Park location. Licensing is done. Clients are beginning to come in and the next location expected to open will be in Marlboro. GenPsych offers all in-person services with the hybrid option.

Hunterdon Helpline, Inc. – S. Lax announced Hunterdon Helpline had just been awarded two grants from the county regarding COVID. They established a program called COVID Information Referral & Assistance. She stated if the agencies have clients who are 60 years or older or under 60 but with a disability, Hunterdon Helpline can help with providing information and how to receive vaccines and/or registering. Brochures had been distributed in both English and Spanish.

Pathways to Recovery Program – A. Sumpter reported she is with the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board. A new Pathways to Recovery program for residents of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties seeks to support individuals and their families dealing with substance use issues. The goal is to assist people impacted by the ongoing opioid epidemic with free training opportunities, career-readiness programming, supportive services and employment. People

participating in the program can be either directly or indirectly impacted by the opioid epidemic; meaning those who are in recovery, as well as family members and friends.

Veterans Haven North – J. Panico, Drug and Alcohol Counselor, stated this is her first meeting and wanted to join in and meet the group. She stated Veterans Haven North is trying to get a program up and running for the men both individual and group sessions. So far, all is going well.

Prevention Resources – R. Denlinger stated a new project, the RecoveryWE App which is a recovery-centered app for the Hunterdon County community. One big aspect is compiling of local treatments who offer Medication Assisted Recovery or therapy. She will be reaching out to the other agencies for input and to provide more information.

Summit Oaks Hospital – M. Margulies conveyed all is going well. The hospital was able to hire much needed staff which allowed them to open up some beds that had been previously blocked. With a new director onboard, the IOP and partial programs are able to increase census as well. Good news all around.

There being no further business. A motion was made by R. Walker and seconded by C. Isaac. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.