



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
- ☐ Disabled
- ☐ Substance Use Disorder
- ☐ Transportation

Approved September 15, 2022

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE

Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 21, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Via Webex

MINUTES

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>EX-OFFICIO</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
L. Piazza	L. Ranieri	E. Alexander	S. Becker
M. Margulies	M. Dematos	M.O'Rielly	J. Ege
J. Denlinger	G. King		J. Luyster
G. Rearick	P. Manzini		A. Vitale
R. Walker			L. Mermini
			A. Jones
			A. Hicks
			P. Palma
			A. Villano

- 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.

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

A. Hicks stated she is a Recovery Advocate Coordinator at the Open Door Recovery Center for Hunterdon County.

A. Villano stated she is the senior director for Recovery Services at Acenda Integrated Health, Inc.

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

J. Luyster stated she is from RWJ Barnabas.

J. Denlinger stated she is from Family Support Sharing the Hope at Prevention Resources.

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

M. DeMatos stated he the Navigator for Hunterdon County Opioid Overdose Recovery Program.

P. Palma stated she is a Recovery Specialist from Barnabas Health.

R. Walker stated she is with GenPsych.

G. King stated he is Executive Director of Freedom Housing.

E. Alexander stated she is from the division of Mental Health and Addiction filling in for Denise.

J. Ege stated she is a Clinical Supervisor at Veteran at Veteran's Haven North.

II. MINUTES: A Motion was made by L. Ranieri and seconded by R. Walker to approve the meeting minutes of May 19, 2022. All were in favor. No oppositions. The motion carried.

III. REPORTS:

A. Mental Health Board (MHB) Update: S. Becker stated there is no update due to the summer break. They plan to discuss the 9-8-8 task force during the September meeting and will hopefully have more information on EISS to present during the September meeting as well.

B. Division of Mental Health Services Update: E. Alexander stated the Medicaid Business Rules for PCPH and APH Telehealth billing will continue through August 15, 2022. Mental Health fee for service claims should continue to be submitted. The waitlist for state rental assistance opened and low-income residents can qualify for vouchers for safe and sanitary housing through the state rental assistance program. The program is now open for pre-applications for people with family who fall into a category of elderly, disabled or homeless. In order to qualify as elderly, applicants need to be 62 years of age or older with the head of household over the age of 18. To qualify as disabled the head of the household or spouse must be permanently disabled. And to qualify as homeless, applicants must not have a fixed location to live.

A RLI was issued to provide funds for capacity building of staff in response to the two

current NJ lifeline member centers.

A new RFP has been issued to support college students in recovery for substance free living environments. The amount through the RFP totals \$2.250M and they will be distributing up to seven awards to two-year and four-year public institutions. Up to three awards will be provided to two-year institutions not exceeding \$250,000 per award. And there will be up to four awards provided to four-year institutions that are not to exceed \$375,000. There is no mandatory bidders conference. The due date is July 13, 2022. The proposal due date is August 3, 2022. And the notify date is August 26, 2022.

CSS Webinar trainings will be held through July and August. Self-care for Those Who Serve was held on July 15, 2022. COVID-19, the Impact of Those Who Serve was held on July 29, 2022. A Cultural Sensitivity and Social Justice webinar training will be held on August 12, 2022. Virtual mental health awareness trainings for Question, Persuade and Refer, as well as What's Next, Wellness for the New Normal will continue through July. Dates for the trainings will be posted on the website.

COVID Connect is a counseling program offered to those have severe and persistent mental illnesses as well as caregivers to those with mental illnesses. Insurance is used first, but if you are unable to pay the copay, the copay can be covered by the grant. Deductibles can also be waived for those with higher deductibles so immediate counseling is available. Flyers were sent out, and the grant will be extended in order to allow those seeking counseling to obtain it without having to wait. The program is available in person in Somerset County or remotely. Those who are interested can contact Eileen Alexander at 973-769-3377.

- C. **County Update:** M. O'Reilly stated that there have been changes in the county administration staff. She notified the group that Kevin Davis, the Hunterdon County Administrator has retired. Brad Myer, previously Deputy County Administrator, is now the County Administrator. Shana Taylor was previously County Counsel and has replaced B. Myer as Deputy County Administrator. Katrina Campbell is now County Counsel. And Andrew Russano is the new Clerk of the Board. Jeff Kuhl was appointed by the board as Commissioner Liaison. J. Kuhl was previously on the Raritan Township Counsel.

A transportation study is in process to study our LINK system. Client meetings will be available on July 27, 2022 in the jury lot from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Flyers are available, and Stacey shared them with the group.

The Stigma Free group has been gaining a lot of attraction. M. O'Reilly stated that nine towns have claimed themselves as stigma free thus far. Our Commissioner Liaison is in full support of this and we are excited with the amount of attraction we have gained over the last month.

The Health Department as well as Social Services have been receiving calls about Ukrainian refugees who are looking for support. M. O'Reilly stated the refugees are potentially eligible for some of the programs through Social Services. The programs are income based and those interested can be referred to Social Services. Lisa Long is the contact for this program and any questions can be directed towards her.

The County has cooling centers available for the upcoming heat wave. The sites include the library, as well as the Division of Social Services on RT 31 located in building #2. The

county operated COVID test site has closed but the Health Department is still providing at home kits.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. 988 Implementation:** S. Becker informed the group that DMHAS has started the roll out the 988 information. The number is up and running. S. Becker has met with counterparts from across the state and has not heard anything yet, with the exception on one county who had a serious incident of someone accidentally calling 9-8-8 instead of 9-1-1. Those who dial 9-8-8 are not suicidal but might have a mental illness or other issue going on, will be assisted and directed to the proper resources. SAMHSA is offering free resource giveaways on their website. 9-8-8 also has an email up and running for general questions. S. Becker will share this email address.
- B. Comprehensive County Plan:** The Comprehensive County Plan is published every three years. The next CCP plan is being written for the years of 2024-2027. The plan overviews all the drug and alcohol funding and the priorities for those three years. There is a county wide survey going on for community members, stakeholders, agencies and everyone involved in hopes to collect more information. A PAC, PACADA and LACADA meeting will be held, and a survey will be given to those interested to discuss information related directly to the agencies and what those who are interested would like to see.
- C. Hunterdon County Stigma Free Festival:** S. Becker stated the Hunterdon County Stigma Free group is interested in planning a Harvest Hope Festival. The Festival is scheduled to be October 1, 2022 at Deer Path Park with a rain date of October 9, 2022. They are working on planning this to be a family friendly event with hopes of it to include yoga, touch a truck, as well as games and activities for kids. They are seeking donations, volunteers, and referrals in order to make it a successful event.

VI. AGENCY NEWS:

Open Door Recovery Center at Prevention Resources – A. Hicks stated the center just hosted a successful Pride in the Park Event in July celebrating the LGBTQ+ community. There is a new Spanish language AA group using our facility that meets Fridays from 8:00-10:00pm. The Refuge Recovery meetings take place on Saturday nights beginning at 8:00pm in Flemington. And the Smart Recovery Program continues to meet hybrid on Thursday nights from 6:30-7:30pm.

Acenda Integrated Health, Inc. – A. Villano conveyed Acenda is offering in person visits as well as virtual. They have completed the IDRC affiliation agreement for Hunterdon and Somerset. Their partnership with LabCorp allows them to send orders to them for clients who are unable to make it to the facility. She stated they are continuing to build up the substance and mental Health program there.

Prevention and Recovery Resources – J. Luyster from RWJ Barnabas for Prevention and Recovery stated they hold the ORC grant for seven counties for peer support for individuals in the hospital. The newest pilot program offers peer support to those with Horizon Insurance for no additional cost. P. Palma stated, interested clients are required to have two interactions totaling up to a minimum of 30 minutes per month and it is then billed to their insurance at no cost to them.

Carrier Clinic – L. Ranieri stated the clinic is running full with just a few adolescent beds and a few detox and rehab beds available.

Summit Oaks Hospital – M. Margulies conveyed all is going well. The hospital was able to hire a new peer and July was quiet whereas June was incredibly busy.

GenPsych – R. Walker stated there are no updates.

High Point– A. Vitale reported they have been bringing back their Mental Health Partial Care clients and are up to running four days per week. They have increased their clients' average visits to three or four visits per week, which is exciting news. The substance abuse program is very busy but still accepting referrals. She stated they are just about in full swing with an additional infostructure of one or two counselors that will be hired. There is an evening substance abuse cooccurring back as well. She stated High Point provides transportation for any day services if need of transportation, not just for surrounding areas.

New Hope – A K. Bloodgood stated there is no update however, they are always taking admissions for detox, rehab and adolescence.

Freedom House– G. King stated there are currently no beds available. However, he said they also have housing in Warren County and Morristown. He said they have some funding for Warren County residents and can easily assist with relocation and employment.

Prevention Resources – J. Denlinger stated they have weekly meetings for family members who have loved ones with substance abuse disorders. The meetings are hybrid so they can be attended either in person in Flemington or virtually.

There being no further business. A motion was made by R. Walker and seconded by G. King. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.