

New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes,
April 12, 2017 10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

Bruce Blumenthal	Christopher Lucca	Connie Greene
Darlema Bey	Ellen Tanner	Jim Romer
John Calabria	John D. Pellicane	Joseph Gutstein (P)
Judy Baner	Marie Verna (P)	Michael Litterer (P)
Pamela Taylor (P)	Phil Lubitz (P)	Rocky Schwartz
Thomas Pyle		

DMHAS, CSOC & DDD Staff:

Geri Dietrich	Irina Stuchinsky (P)	Jan Rudder
Mark Kruszczyński	Steve Fishbein	Suzanne Borys

Guests:

Alic Warren (P)	Hailey Mazucha	Joan Barugel
Louann Lukens	Montsine Nshorn	Nick Loizzi
Rachel Morgan	Roderick Bell (P)	William Cole (P)

I. Administrative

- A. Introduction.
- B. Quorum reached.
- C. Revised minutes accepted from the March 2017 meeting.

II. Expansion of Municipal Court Liaison Program (S. Fishbein, DMHAS)

[See two documents provided]

- A. Advisory group looked at interface between the Mental Health System and the NJ Judiciary.
- B. Inter-branch Advisory Committee (2010)
 - 1. Final report made in 2012, accepted by the NJ Supreme Court
 - 2. There were 18 recommendations made: some of the key ones were:
 - a. Develop an Implementation Committee (chairs: the Honorable Ramone Santiago & Steve Fishbein) with representatives to the committee, including provider agencies, families and judges.
 - b. One of the recommendations was to expand the existing Prosecutor Diversion Program as resources become available.
 - 3. Many of the recommendations have been implemented.
 - 4. One important recommendation was the expansion of the Municipal Court Liaison
 - a. Hudson County
 - i. The Liaison spoke to program participants to inform them about existing services.
 - ii. The Hudson County Municipal Court Liaison program is very successful.
 - b. Atlantic County (JFS of Atlantic County)
 - i. Has strong working relationship with Judge Belasco.

- ii. Court Liaison program is successful.
 - 5. Center for Court Innovations, Plea Court in Newark NJ.
 - a. Participant must plea to charges, but then is enrolled in program.
 - b. Newark Community Solutions
- C. Expansion
 - 1. Statewide bail reform movement is ongoing.
 - 2. There are currently 15 counties with Justice Involved Services (JIS) programs.
 - 3. Referrals to services from jails are decreasing.
 - 4. Consideration to re-deploy JIS Resources in selected counties.
 - 5. Court Liaisons make themselves available at different times, depending on the needs of the courts.
 - 6. The key is to assist the individuals and prevent people from getting deeper into the criminal justice system.
 - 7. A study in the state of Florida indicates that 17% of individuals who come through the court system have a mental health issue.
 - 8. Court Liaisons may help consumers navigate the court system and link them to available mental health resources.
- D. Q&A
 - 1. J. Romer - “This is great...”, in ocean county there is a screener that reports to the municipal court.
 - The issue of mentality of the police seems to be that if they pick up a perpetrator they must be brought to jail.
 - Recommendation that Immigration and Customs Enforcement is at the table.
 - 2. C. Green – Curious about how many individuals select this program instead of going to jail.
 - 3. Julia B. – Municipal Court Mental Health Liaison is not IOC.
 - 4. T. Pyle – The earlier we can get people screened, the better, so that law enforcement doesn’t have to get involved [unnecessarily].
 - 5. Configuration
 - a. Current locations: Jersey City, Newark (Not funded by DMHAS), Atlantic County
 - b. Redeployment: Cumberland, Camden, Mercer, Monmouth, Passaic.
 - 6. Q: How many people will be reached out to by this? A: We don’t know yet.
 - 7. R. Morgan:
 - a. Prisons/Jails are not meant to be rehabilitative, so this (Municipal Liaison Expansion) is a great first step (on the judicial side) for helping those who have mental illness who should not be in jail”.
 - b. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is another way we try to avoid those who should not be in jail (by training officers and giving them resources in the MH system).
 - 8. D. Bey – Q: When will other counties have these program? A: We don’t know yet, it’s a matter of resources.
 - 9. P. Lubitz – The 2012 Inter-branch Advisory Committee report is finally being acted-on.

III. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Children’s System of Care Subcommittee – No activity.
- B. Substance Abuse – Publically funded consumers access to detox.
- C. Data/Housing/Advocacy – Working with the Supportive Housing Association (SHA) of

NJ to augment their housing guide.

1. By October 2017 the subcommittee wants to submit a housing guide to the Planning Council.
2. The subcommittee is in contact with the new Executive Director of SHA, Diane Riley.

IV. Announcements

- A. Recent passing of former Planning Council member Angel Gambone- her significant service to the Council, sustained advocacy for mental health issues, and gentle spirit will be greatly missed by all of us who had the privilege to know her and work with her.

V. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting of the Planning Council,
Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 10:00 am
222 South Warren Street, Trenton NJ 08625, Room CR-1000

12:00 Housing/Data/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting