

**New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes,
June 14, 2017 10:00 A.M.**

Attendees:

Christopher Lucca	Connie Greene	Ksenia Lebedeva	Susan Bracco (P)
Joseph Gutstein (P)	Michael Litterer (P)	Phil Lubitz	Rocky Schwartz (P)
Thomas Pyle (P)	Winifred Chain	Harry Coe (P)	Damian Petino
Marie Verna	Ellen Tanner (P)	Susan Brocco (P)	Michael Ippoliti (P)
Patricia Matthews	Cheri Thompson	John Pellicane	Jim Romer

DMHAS, CSOC & DDD Staff:

Geri Dietrich	Mark Kruszczyński	Helen Staton	Donna Migliorino
Suzanne Borys	Don Halcom	Yunqing Li	Ilene Palena

Guests:

Alric Warren (P)	Julia Barugel	Roderick Bell (P)	Nick Liozzi
Louann Lukens	Diane Riley	Rachel Morgan	

I. Administrative

- A. Introduction.
- B. Quorum reached.
- C. Minutes accepted from the May 2017 meeting.

II. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Advocacy/Housing/Data (C. Lucca)
 1. On 6/1/17, C. Lucca. and L. Lukens met and reviewed/edited upcoming community housing document. On 6/14/17 they both interfaced with Diane Riley (Supportive Housing Association NJ) about adding content to the SHA website.
 2. C.L. & L.L. asked permission of the Council to share the housing web links they have compiled with D.R. Motion moved and approved allowing C.L. and L.L. to share its housing links with DR and SHA.
 3. Question: Could we add [SHA's?] link to the DMHAS Planning Council Website?
Answer (P. Lubitz), Yes it's possible, but it may also be possible to add new links to the state's BHPC website.
 - a. D. Migliorino will ask DMHAS if the Planning Council's website can include additional links to housing websites/resources.
- B. Nominations Subcommittee (P. Lubitz)
 1. In early June, members of the subcommittee (P. Lubitz, H.Coe, B. Johnston, M. Kruszczyński) had a conference call to discuss nominations for upcoming elections of Chair and Co-Chair of Planning Council. The subcommittee recommended the candidacies of:
 - a. Jim Romer – Chair
 - b. Rocky Schwartz – Vice-Chair
 2. In July 2017 elections will take place. [Voting members of the Planning Council/Citizen's Advisory Board may nominate themselves (or other voting members), and they may vote in the election].

III. Programs for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness(PATH): Grant Application Update
(I. Palena)

- A. See PowerPoint presentation that was presented and subsequently distributed electronically to all members of the council.
- B. Question and Answer (and Comments)
1. Q: Are there any initiatives in the Department of Children and Families/Children's System of Care (DCF/CSOC) geared towards LBGQTQ populations?
A: (G. Dietrich) The DCF Office of Adolescent Services has a lot of resources.
 2. Q: How does one access the S.O.A.R. program?
A: It is for homeless individuals with a SMI; information is available on the SAMHSA website, search for "SOAR" (I. Palena). David Vinokurov, Social Security Administration, District Manager is a good resource person
 3. Q: How is "At risk for homelessness" defined?
A: It is defined by the possibility of imminently losing one's permanent housing, and/or having fluid housing situation (e.g., 'couch surfing' where it is a violation of the renter's lease)
 4. Q: Coordinated Entry is a good idea, but it is just one piece of the puzzle.
A: It depends on which county; and how populations are prioritized to be considered "at risk" for death, due to homelessness.
 5. Q: Do "unstable housing" populations count as "at risk" for homelessness?
A: Yes, including people coming out of jails, prisons and hospitals.
 6. The DCF's strategic plan (found on their website) indicates housing as a priority (G. Dietrich). It also contains a 'safe space' directory.

IV. 2018-2019 Community Mental Health Block Grant Application: Changes to Guidance (Yunqing Li)

- A. Early June 2017, DMHAS hosted a successful site visit from the SAMHSA CMHSBG Project Officer, who informed DMHAS that:
1. In July 2017 WebBGas should be sufficiently programmed to allow data input for the CMHBSG Application.
 2. If WebBGas isn't programmed by July, then D.M.M. will review the "no responses".
- B. Changes/Addition from previous Block Grant (BG) application [See handout provided by Yunqing Li]:
1. Note: Planning Table 3 is a new table for the Substance Abuse & Prevention Treatment Block Grant (SAPTBG); requiring counts of individuals in need of service by category.
- C. What does the Planning Council see as critical needs or gaps in behavioral health in NJ?
1. Good data for mental health and research support would be desirable.
 - a. DMHAS now has funding for the development of a client level database (CLD), to comport with federal data requirements.
 2. Social media and public service announcements should be used for additional messaging [about issues relevant to behavioral health].
 3. Need for reliable transportation for consumers to get to behavioral health (and primary health) appointments
 4. Students with SUD/SED who do not have Individual Service Plans (IEPs) are underfunded.
 5. Failure of federal government to fund I.D.E.A.
 6. Many programs do not address the full and growing needs of older adults.
 7. Early Intervention and Support Services (EISS) are understaffed.
 8. No concerted state effort to develop more Advance Practice Nurses (APNs) and Psychiatrists; a general lack of incentives for professionals to work in the behavioral health field (generally) and for NJ populations who need professional help (specifically).

9. It would be desirable if NJ Legislature could pass law allowing psychologists the ability to prescribe certain medications in certain situations.
10. Problem of private providers skirting around mental health parity laws by not accepting Medicare/Medicaid, or insurance. This bespeaks of a general lack of availability of affordable behavioral health services.
11. Possible gaps with “Aging Out” populations (ages 18-35)
12. Lack of comprehensive directory of psychiatrists, psychologists (and other behavioral health professionals) and the specialties.
13. The need for increased consumer education and health care/health finance literacy.
14. Potential gap in reliable reporting about wait times for detoxification services.

V. BRSS TACS Technical Assistance Award (Donald Hallcom)

- A. See handout provided by D. Hallcom;
- B. BRSS TACS = Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy
- C. TA seeks to get a means for developing more full time employment opportunities for peers with lived experience who want to work in the behavioral health profession.
- D. Comments
 1. Family members need support as well.
 2. In Monmouth County there is a program that depends on peers.
 3. For many peers with lived experience there is a transition period for people who don’t want to lose benefits [due to the potential of increased income resulting from their working].
 4. It is important to consider where peers are in their own recovery; the peer must be *solidly* in their own recovery as they help others through their own.

VI. STR grant (Suzanne Borys)

- A. See talking points/handout document.
- B. New treatment initiating S.T.O.R.I.
 1. Existing and new providers
 2. Lots of new services
 - a. Peer services by Fall 2017.
 - b. Smoking cessation programs.
 - c. Ambulatory detoxification services.
 - d. Bruphenmorphine treatment.
 - e. Family Support Center (RFP).
- C. There are ten requests for proposals (RFPs) and MOA’s to be created

VII. Announcements/Closing Comments

- A. Effective today, Co-Chair John Pellicane is resigning from the Council due to his new obligations in Camden County. His contributions to the Council, advocacy and deep knowledge will be missed. The Council wishes him the best of success in his new endeavors and hopes he can rejoin/return to the Council in any capacity.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting of the Planning Council,
 Wednesday, July 12, 2017, 10:00 am
 222 South Warren Street, Trenton NJ 08625, Room CR-1000

Planned Subcommittee Meetings:

- 9:00: Block Grant Subcommittee
 12:00: Data/Outcomes/Housing