

**New Jersey Behavioral Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes,
March 13, 2019 10:00 A.M.**

Attendees:

Phil Lubitz	Darlema Bey (vice-chair)	Winifred Chain	Julia Barugel
Michael Ippolitti (p)	Joe Gutstein (p)	Cheri Thompson	Alice Garcia
Nick Loizzi (p)	Maryanne Evanko	Harry Coe (p)	Lisa Negrón
Suzanne Smith	Chris Lucca (p)	Tracy Maksel	Robin Weiss
Connie Greene	Patricia Matthews		

DMHAS, CSOC, DDD & DMAHS Staff:

Geri Dietrich (p)	Mark Kruszczyński	Chris Morrison	Irina Stuchinsky
Heather Reid	Shanique McGowan	Suzanne Borys	

Guests:

Alex Smuklavshaya	Wendy Rodgers	Rachel Morgan	Nicole Pratt
Kurt Baker	Laura Richter (p)		

(p) Indicates participation via conference call.

- I. Welcome / Administrative Issues / Correspondence / Announcements**
 - A. Quorum Reached: 20 out of 40 members (50% attendance).
 - B. Minutes from February 13, 2019 meeting approved (with minor edits)

- II. Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC)** [Note: Today's scheduled presentation on this subject by Elena Kravitz is postponed to a later date].
 - A. Cursory Overview (D. Bey)
 1. The ISMICC reports to Congress and federal agencies on issues related to serious mental illness (SMI) and serious emotional disturbance (SED).
 2. Committee is composed of diverse group of federal agency staff, as well as mental health researchers, providers, patients, families, judges, law enforcement officers, and other professionals who work with people living with SMI.
 3. It is important for members of the public (i.e., members of the Planning Council) to reach out to ISMICC to provide input.
 4. US Department of Justice issues grants for SUD/Intercepts for those with SMI going into the criminal justice system.
 - a. Ocean County is a recent recipient of such a grant for expanding Trauma Informed Care

- III. DMHAS Proposed Budget, SFY 2020** (Morris Friedman, DMHAS)
 - A. SFY 2020 Proposed Budget was released week of 3/4/19.
 - B. There are no major reductions, but no major increases in state budget dollars.
 - C. Two items of note:
 1. Increased funding for Gun Violence reduction and "Zero Suicide" programs.
 2. Morris County Hope One Initiative, <http://hopeoneproject.org/>
 - a. Van-based services. Teams contain: Sheriff's Officers, Peer Recovery Staff, and Clinicians.

- D. Increase in Psychiatric Evaluation Rates have been affected on April 1, 2019 in DMHAS and in Medicaid. The State will generate Federal match on Medicaid expenditures.
- E. Workgroup for modifying CSS rates will be created.
- F. Questions and Answers
 - 1. Outpatient Psychiatric evaluation rates for Medicaid and non-Medicaid.
 - 2. Q: Have state appropriations been increased in Medicaid and DMHAS for these increases??
A: No; the Department of Human Services will be using existing appropriations to fund these costs.
 - 3. Q: Where can more information be found?
A: <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/omb/publications/20budget/index.shtml#budget>
 - 4. Q: Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for providers. A: Currently, there is no Cost of Living Adjustment in the FY20 Governor's proposed Budget.
- G. Morris should be able to return in July 2019 once the final SFY20 Appropriations Act is signed.

IV. Sidebar Discussion: Legalization of Marijuana in New Jersey

- A. Law Enforcement Against Drugs (formerly D.A.R.E.) symposium held on 3/19/19.
- B. Additional issues related to marijuana legalization (i.e., employment drug screening, impact on individuals with SMI) must be taken into consideration.

V. Presentations by Members of the Planning Council (BHPC) and Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)

- A. In prior years, all voting members of the BHPC and CAB were encouraged to give presentations to the Council on a rotating basis. This is going to be revived in order to give the members a greater level of ownership of, and personal contribution to the Council's proceedings. These presentations:
 - 1. Should be reasonably organized and approximately 20-30 minutes in length.
 - 2. Should contain new information / knowledge relevant to behavioral health in New Jersey.
 - 3. Must be strength-based, and informative.

VI. State Partners Involvement

- A. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (NJ DVRS – Cheri Thompson)
 - 1. NJ DVRS is actively seeking vendors/providers of employment opportunities for consumers.
- B. NJ Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) (Shanique McGowan)
 - 1. DMAHS continues to develop a benefit for Peer Support Specialist Services for Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) [1115 Waiver].
 - a. Start date of 7/1/19;
 - b. Sam Shields is the DMAHS point-person on this.
 - c. SUD Peer Support Specialists will be Medicaid reimbursable; this is a significant move that will assist many agencies with sustainability.
 - 2. DMAHS is developing a State Plan Amendment (SPA) for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), up to age 21.
- C. Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC Alice Garcia)
 - 1. Trauma-informed training to be conducted for all NJ JJC staff.
 - 2. May 2019 will have Suicide Prevention efforts at JJC
 - 3. NAMI's "In Your Own Voice" Program will come to NJ JJC.
- D. NJ Department of Corrections (NJ DoC, Chris Lucca)

1. DoC will be beginning at three-year contract with Rutgers/UBHC to provide behavioral health services to consumers in DoC settings.

E. NJ Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health Services (Chris Morrison)

1. Modernization plan is forthcoming
2. Increased transparency in operations
3. At State Psychiatric Hospitals:
 - a. Increased use of trauma informed care
 - b. Increased patient customer service orientation
 - c. Use of Trauma Addictions Mental Health and Recovery (TAMAR) Treatment
 - d. Use of life events checklist
 - e. Teaching self-care to staff

E. NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF), Children's System of Care (CSOC – Geri Dietrich)

1. Mollie Greene is the new Assistant Commissioner of CSOC
2. DCF's Clinical Services Division will move into CSOC

VII. Subcommittees

A. Membership

1. Met on 2/13/19
2. BHPC is still seeking family members of children with SED.
3. Appointments to CAB expected to be Announced at forthcoming meeting (contingent on confirmation from the Governor's Office)

B. Advocacy

1. Met on 2/13/19
2. Working to finalize list of web addresses for transfer with SHA NJ.
3. Working on better understanding (and ultimately improving) the level and consistency of resource knowledge among contracted providers of behavioral health services.
4. Meeting on 3/13/19 at 12:00 noon.

VIII. Adjournment & Next Meeting

A. Meeting adjourned

B. Next meeting of the NJ BHPC will be held on Wednesday, April 10 at 10:00 am at DMHAS Headquarters, 5 Commerce Way, Suite 100, room 199a.

1. Subcommittee Meetings on 4/10/19:
 - a. 9:00 AM, Membership
 - b. 12:00 PM, Advocacy