

**NEW JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL  
AGENDA**

**December 8, 2021, 10:00 am**

**This meeting was conducted exclusively through MS Teams video teleconference & conference call**

Notices of the meeting were sent to the Asbury Park Press, The Times (Trenton), Bergen Record, The Press (Pleasantville), and the Courier-Post (Cherry Hill).

**Participants:**

Phil Lubitz (Chair)	Darlema Bey (Vice Chair)	Suzanne Smith
Winifred Chain	Debra Wentz	Robin Weiss
Rachel Morgan (alt.)	Anne Smullen Thieling (alt)	Damian Petino
Joseph Gutstein	Barbara Johnston	Tammie Smith
Patricia Matthews	Diane Riley	Suzanne Borys

**DMHAS, CSOC, DDD, DMAHS & DoH Staff:**

Donna Migliorino	Mark Kruszczyński	Yunqing Li
Nicholas Pecht	Helen Staton	Limei Zhu

**Guests:**

Nina Smukuluvasky	Robert DePlatt (NJAMHAA)	Matthew George
Wendy Rodgers		

**Planned Agenda**

- I. Administrative Issues/Correspondence** Phil Lubitz  
**Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**
- A. Attendance: Quorum Reached 15/39 = 38%
  - B. Minutes Approved with Revision
  - C. Announcement
    - 1. Alternative Response to Residual Incidents of Violence and Escalation (ARRIVE) program to be launched in south New Jersey/.
- II. Block Grant 2021 Implementation Report:** Morris Friedman  
**Fiscal Tables**
- A. Table 3 Set Aside for Children’s MH Services; Est. Actual \$196.9M. There are no shortfalls in SFY21.
    - 1. Question: CSOC doesn’t receive BG funds. A: Correct.
    - 2. Question Block Grant Supplemental (ERF and Covid19); There are AREF funds going to CSOC dollar amounts will be given.
  - B. Table 6: Maintenance of Effort on MH Services: SFY21 \$470,176,377. No penalties expected.

Question: \$13M reduction A: Driven by reductions of spending in our Division due to reduced revenues at the State level. We had to make cuts to some of our contracts based on reduced overall state revenues. Other states would be in similar situations. If you have lower appropriations, we will have lower spending. There were Medicaid revenues that were offsetting state costs, so SFY21 we captured those savings up front via contract reductions.

Question: Effect of Not having fiscal oversight over the state hospitals? Answer: Block grant funds have never been allocated for state hospitals. We do count hospital spending in table 7.

- C. Table 7: MHBG MH Agency Expenditure Report (“The Big One”)
  - 1. State Hospital Spending: \$324.2M
  - 2. Question: IMD Exclusion and Medicaid Revenue, was there an increase because of a waiver? Answer: That would be separate from this because Table 7 is only for mental health.
  - 3. Question: Reductions in state expenditures for state hospital? A: Reductions generally come when state hospital wards are actually closed; lower census doesn’t indicate lower costs because staffing levels still generally remain the same.
  - 4. Overall we have \$1.8 Billion
- D. Table 10: Allocation of BG Dollars, \$17.9M

**III. Synar Tobacco Sales Survey Report Overview** Limei Zhu  
Suzanne Borys

- A. Project between Department of Health, Inspections and DMHAS. Block Grant funding is dependent on submitting a Synar report. This report looks for retailer violation rates of merchants selling tobacco products to youth. Age of enforcement is raised to prohibit sales to those under the age of 21.
- B. Issues with staffing due to Covid-19. There were only three youth inspectors.
- C. Retail violation was 11.6%, even though the sample size was lower.

**IV. Presentations in CY 2022** Phil Lubitz

- A. Needs for more presentations.
- B. Children and Emergency Screening: Damian will coordinate something for February.
- C. Importance of hearing the voices of families and consumers.
- D. Idea for doing presentation on Housing (Diane Riley).
- E. Idea for presentation on accessing a psychiatrist
- F. It would be great to hear presentations and updates from each of the programs being funded by the block grant(s)

**V. System Partner Updates**

- A. **DOE**
  - 1. Ongoing Monthly Webinar on Student Mental Health  
12/15/21 3:00  
<https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts/2021/oct/27/NJComprehensiveSchoolBasedMentalHealthTrainingandTechnicalAssistance.pdf>
  - 2. Good recent presentation on CSOC/Peformcare
  - 3. Doctor Maurice Ingram, NJ DOE, Former School Psychologist.

4. The Be Smart program is a parent-driven workshop and set of resources that strives to educate parents regarding gun safety in the home. It is a non-partisan organization and does not promote gun ownership nor criticize it. Instead, they see their mission as ensuring parents who own guns keep them secure and teach basic gun safety so tragic accidents are reduced. See <https://besmartforkids.org/>

B. Children's System of Care (Nick Pecht)

1. The Children's System of Care is continuously making efforts to increase awareness and understanding of our system among those who interact with youth the most – educators. To that end, last month we had the opportunity to present at the New Jersey Education Association's annual

**VI. Open Public Comment and Announcements** Phil Lubitz

- A. Rowan University Neurodiversity Center [Contact D.Bey for information]
- B. Burlington County just finished our 4th CIT training this year. 3 were done in the Fall alone. We usually only do 2 per year but due to demand, we doubled our training and will do 3 in 2022. We have over 500 law enforcement, MH professionals and EMS and Fire trained.

**VII. Adjournment** Phil Lubitz

- A. January presentations:
  1. Anne Smullen Thieling & Heather Simms, CSP NJ
  2. CarePlus Trauma Informed Communities
- B. Subsequent presentations:
  1. Housing/Vouchers
  2. Diverting kids from Emergency
  3. Attitudes in Reverse Presentation (Kurt W.)
  4. Mental Health Care for Incarcerated Populations
- C. Next Meeting; Wednesday, January 12, 2022 (via video conference)

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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### Subcommittee Meetings

9:00 None

12:00 None