



**Passaic County Mental Health Board
June 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Members present:

1. Robert Nolan
2. Nanette A. Armenta
3. Paula Tedesco
4. Julie Rikon

Members absent:

1. Arnell Perez
2. Jennifer Hernandez
3. Ramon Pagan
4. Jeannette Pimentel

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Mr. Nolan, Chairman of the Mental Health Board. Meeting was held via videoconference.

Also present was Jenny Vuksic, Children's Mental Health Planner, Nataly Balah, Passaic County Mental Health and Addiction Services Administrative Assistant, Cynthia Gatica, Program Analyst for NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

A motion was made by Ms. Armenta, second by Ms. Tedesco to open the public portion of the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nolan made the announcement of the Open Public Meetings Act. Steven Fiedeldy from FC Cares presented the agency's Mental Health services in Passaic County Schools

A motion was made by Ms. Armenta to close public portion, second by Ms. Rikon. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Armenta, second by Ms. Rikon to approve previous 5/5/2021 meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Report of Mental Health & Addiction Services Director – Jenny Vuksic shared two new links from Passaic County Department of Human Services:

1. <https://impactpassaic.com>; COVID Rental relief program
2. <https://help.impactpassaic.com> ; virtual resource hub

New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Program Analyst Report (See Attachment 1).

Professional Advisory Committee Report: Meeting Minutes were sent to Board members via email.

Reports of Special Committee: None.

Old Business: None

New Business: A Motion was made to vote on CIACC membership by Ms. Rikon, second by Ms. Armenta. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: None.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ms. Armenta, second by Ms. Rikon. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Attest:

Nataly Balah
Administrative Assistant

Program Analyst Monthly Notes

June 2021

DMHAS NRO OCS
Program Analyst Notes
June 2021

DMHAS

COVID-19 Coordinating Entity (CCE)- is the call center at UBHC that serves as the initial point of entry for individuals seeking mental health and substance use services as a result of COVID-19 related issues. The CCE is a telehealth resource for anyone struggling emotionally during this pandemic. It is a counseling linkage program that will provide counseling services to staff, medical professionals, SPMI, MI, and family members. *COVID CONNECT helpline at (833) 223-0011*

Opportunity for Peer Providers

Join the upcoming series of info session about a cutting-edge training in CT-R, a transformative and evidence-based approach! Participating agencies will receive expert training and consultation services at no cost to develop new and innovative approaches to:

- Provide hope and build trust with clients
- Motivate persons to pursue *The Life They Want*
- Overcome challenges using a positive, "strengths-based" approach
- Help people get "unstuck" and take steps towards a self-directed life
- Improve your self-confidence, competency, and self-care

Who should attend: Peer providers, supervisors, and program administrators from the Northern region. With a focus on *PACT, CSS, ICMS, PATH, POST* and partial programs. **Questions?** Contact Emilie Banz at banzer@shp.rutgers.edu, Amy Banko at amy.banko@rutgers.edu, or Nina Bertolami at ninab@beckinstitute.org

Community Support Services

Per an email sent to CSS providers on May 26, 2021. Please see the revised CSS termination form that has been posted at the link provided below.

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/initiatives/>

Request for Proposal-Award

Counseling and Wellness Services for Peer Recovery Specialists and Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Providers

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for the provision of professional counseling and wellness services for peer recovery specialists (peer specialists) and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment professionals working in opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment facilities and recovery centers.

The awardee will utilize licensed clinical professionals to provide tailored counseling and wellness services to address the needs of peer specialists and OUD treatment professionals. Services will include individual assessments, evidence-based and/or best practice treatment modalities, acute and/or ongoing therapy, self-care plans, and wellness activities which support personal and professional growth. This RFP is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response Grant (SOR).

Total annualized funding for this RFP is approximately \$500,000, subject to federal appropriations. The contract award is through September 29, 2021. Funding may be available through September 29, 2022, depending on federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making two (2) awards of up to \$250,000 each. Through this initiative, the successful bidder will provide professional counseling and wellness services by licensed clinical professionals to a combined total of ***150 peer specialists and OUD treatment professionals employed within DMHAS-funded*** programs, recovery centers, and community peer initiatives.

Awards:

Agency	Address	Award
Care Plus NJ, Inc.	610 Valley Health Plaza, Paramus, NJ 07652	\$250,000
Family Connections, Inc.	7 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 101, East Orange, NJ 07017	\$250,000

Department of Human Services

Federal COVID Funding

Human Services Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced the Murphy Administration has secured another \$22.6 million in federal funds to expand and support mental health services, to address increased needs in the wake of COVID-19.

The funding will be used to enhance diversionary efforts, crisis stabilization, and community integration efforts with a goal of reducing visits to emergency departments and inpatient admissions, along with enhancing outreach and treatment activities that will increase access to community services. *DMHAS reports that most of the funds will be RFP's and others will be awarded to contracted agencies.*

Among the services to be funded are:

- Early Serious Mental Illness (ESMI) Programs: New Jersey will add three new programs to the existing three to serve individuals with first episode psychosis: \$2.67 million.
- ESMI Community Integration Programs: DMHAS will be developing six ESMI Community Integration Programs that will provide treatment and supports to individuals after they complete the ESMI program: \$2.34 million.

- Crisis Receiving and Stabilization: DMHAS will create four Crisis Receiving and Stabilization programs in the community to provide 24/7 community access to crisis diversion, stabilization, and linkages to services and housing supports. The goal is to have at least once Crisis Receiving and Stabilization program per region: \$6.1 million.
- Emergency Room Diversion: DMHAS will create nine programs to serve individuals who frequent the emergency departments. This program will provide care management services, providing support and connecting individuals to needed services to reduce the reliance on emergency services: \$4.94 million.
- Legal Assistance with Evictions and Housing due to COVID/Housing Stability. The DMHAS will use funds to support housing stability to avert homelessness through evictions. The resources will be used to enter into a contract with an agency that is staffed to provide landlord/tenant legal services to individuals diagnosed with a serious mental illness facing eviction; \$350,000.
- Outreach, including crisis response to underserved populations such as LGBTQI+ individuals and faith-based communities: \$1.8 million.
- Mental Health First Aid: DMHAS will expand Mental Health Awareness Training to provide mental health first aid: \$400,000.
- Peer Wellness Program: DMHAS plans to fund a wellness program to improve consumers' self-esteem and promote positive self-care using empirically proven interventions. The peer-run centers that provide support and recovery services to a diverse population of consumers around the state will receive training and supervision on Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy along with Peer Wellness Coaching: \$400,000.
- Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy training: Residential service providers in cognitive therapy for recovery will be trained to help to motivate and support consumers to make positive changes in their lives. This is an evidence-based approach that will allow these providers to collaborate with and support their residents' individual recovery goals and help them engage in meaningful community activities. It will be offered statewide to all residential providers serving individuals with serious mental illness, although group home and providers of supported housing services will be the primary participants in the training: \$500,000.
- Implementation of 9-8-8: DMHAS will roll out 9-8-8 to become the new three-digit dialing code for mental health crisis to replace the current National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number by July 2022: \$500,000.
- Performance improvement training for providers in the acute care system that serve the seriously mentally ill population: \$400,000.

Fair Market Rate

The Governor's FY22 budget proposes to increase DMHAS FMR rates to 2020 FMR. DMHAS currently uses the 2018 FMR.

DHS SNAP benefits

Human Services Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman today announced the 430,000 New Jersey households who receive food assistance through the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP) will receive \$75.2 million in total extra benefits in June. Human Services has been providing NJ SNAP households with maximum benefits since March 2020 when the pandemic began. Under a change implemented in April by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), New Jersey households that had already been receiving that maximum available SNAP benefit are also now also eligible for the temporary extra assistance.

A 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits also remains in effect through September. With the upcoming June extra payments included, Human Services will have distributed \$769.3 million in supplemental monthly SNAP payments to households since March 2020.

Other resources

Vaccine Transportation Information

- Constituents can call 211 to arrange free transportation to get vaccinated
- Medicaid will cover transportation for constituents to get vaccinated
 - LogistiCare is now known as ModivCare. Consumers will still have access to the same care as previous, the name is the only change.

S-COPE Training

S-cope is providing regional trainings as part of their mission to provide resources and improve the overall emotional, mental and physical health of individuals in our communities of adults whom are over the age of 55+ who resides in Nursing Facilities.

The topics will be on: Suicidality in Long Term Care, Mental Illness in Long Term Care and Managing Resistant and Aggressive Behaviors. Please, review the flyers and registration form. All trainings will be held on a Thursday's and trainings will commence at 9:30am - 12:30pm.

Professional Contact Hours (CEU's): (3.0) Content for this program has been approved for professional license contact hours. (*Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers, Screeners, Psychologist, Certified Counselors*).

Topic: Suicidality in LTC: June 17th, July 22nd and September 30th

Topic: Mental Illness in LTC: July 1st, August 12th, and November 18th

Topic: Managing Resistant and Aggressive Behaviors: July 8th, September 23rd, and November 4th.