



**Passaic County Mental Health Board
May 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Members present:

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

Members absent:

1. Arnell Perez
2. Jennifer Hernandez
3. Ramon Pagan

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 Brenda Browne, Director of the Passaic County Mental Health and Addiction Services, 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. Tedesco, second by Ms. Armenta to open the public portion of the meeting. Motion passed.

Mr. Nolan made the announcement of the Open Public Meetings Act. State contracted agencies Mental Health presented their services:

1. CSPNJ – Annette Wright, Juliet Quiles, Joe Correa
2. NJCDC- Robbin Murray
3. Resources for Human Development – Kim Corbett
4. NewBridge Services-Michele Borden
5. MHAPC – Rebekah Leon
6. Volunteers of America – Paula Turso, Michelin Buchanan
7. Community Health Law Project – Alma Yee
8. Bridgeway Rehab – Lisa Vara

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

A motion was made by Ms. Rikon, second by Ms. Armenta to approve previous 4/7/2021 meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

County Division of Mental Health & Addiction Staff Report (See Attachment 1)

New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Program Analyst Report (See Attachment 2).

Professional Advisory Committee Report: Ms. Browne gave report

Reports of Special Committee: None.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ms. Browne updated the Board on the Hope One Van schedule.

Correspondence: Invitation letters were sent to the agencies to present at the meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ms. Armenta, second by Ms. Rikon. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Attest:

Brenda Browne
Secretary
Nataly Balah
Administrative Assistant

**County Division of Mental Health & Addiction Staff Report
Mental Health & Addictions Updates**

May 2021

- Hope One Van has been moved to a location in Flanders, NJ to undergo retrofitting.
- Rutgers is offering COVID related Mental Health counseling to the Community.
- All Addiction CY21 executed contracts were awarded, except two agencies. Budgeted funds were all allocated appropriately.
- Behavioral Task Force continues to meet monthly. Some of BTF Upcoming events:
 - Paterson city will be presenting MAT services through the Bloomberg Foundation.
 - McKenny Vento will be presenting Mental Health Counseling to Youth in Schools
 - Vault Company is requesting to pilot Virtual Behavioral Health Services in Passaic County.

Program Analyst Monthly Notes

May 2021

DMHAS Contracting

Contract renewal letters went out to providers on April 16, 2021. Contracts are due to DMHAS on May 17, 2021. County Contract Reviews are due by June 1, 2021.

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

Request for Proposals

DDD RFP funding opportunity for DD/MI Stabilization Homes.

Department of Human Services' (DHS) Division of Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the availability of funding through a new Request for Proposals, [RFP: Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#). The funding will be awarded to a single entity for the development of three, four-bedroom behavioral health stabilization homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). (Smaller variations may be proposed so long as the total number of beds provided is twelve.) Please see additional details in the RFP itself, which is posted on the DHS [Requests for Proposals/Information](#) and [Notices of Funds Available](#) webpages.

Request for letters of Interest

New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Promoting Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care

New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) was awarded a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) *for \$2 million per year for the period of March 30, 2020 to March 31, 2025 to implement a Promoting Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care (PIPBHC) initiative.*

Two awards were made in 2020 to implement this initiative.

The DMHAS is re-issuing this Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) to increase the numbers patients served through this project. This initiative implemented from these awards will address barriers to medical services and related care for People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) who are at risk for HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV) by developing an integrated system of care between participating Opioid Treatment Providers (OTPs) and primary care providers. To ensure that the initiative reaches those PWIDs at highest risk for HIV/HCV, these entities shall arrange to receive referrals from Harm Reduction Centers (HRCs) in their counties. DMHAS is interested in developing and comparing effectiveness of two different service models; one model is a collaboration between an OTP and Federally Qualified Health

Center (FQHC), with a single provider that has a co-located OTP and FQHC or other primary care clinic. In the event that no vendor has a co-located model of primary care and OTP, DMHAS reserves the right to select another collaborative proposal.

Total funding available through this RLI is \$583,550 per year for five years, contingent on availability of federal funding. The total number of people served should be 259. The number of awards made will be determined by numbers served. The annual per client cost for services should not exceed \$2,250 for each partner dyad consisting of one OTP and one Primary Care Provider. Applicants must include the numbers to be served and the amount requested in their response. Contracts will be annual, contingent upon continued federal funding, and begin in June 2021. FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

DHS resources

Additional SNAP funding

The 462,000 households in New Jersey that receive food assistance through NJ SNAP, the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, will receive a total of \$79.9 million in extra benefits in May.

When those extra payments are included, the state Department of Human Services will have distributed \$694.1 million in supplemental monthly SNAP payments to households since the coronavirus pandemic began in March 2020. As with regular SNAP benefits, the extra funds will be directly uploaded onto recipients' "Families First" EBT (electronic benefits transfer) cards early next month; the amount will be based on household size.

NJ SNAP provides food assistance to low-income families to help them buy groceries through a benefits card accepted in most food retail stores and farmer's markets. Families can also use their cards online through Amazon and participating locations of Aldi, ShopRite, The Fresh Grocer and Walmart.

Other resources

CARES Act Funding

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provides supplemental funding for programs and a vast array of resources to assist people with disabilities to continue living independently in their communities across the U.S.

Centers for Independent Living received funds to provide assistance to individuals with disabilities to assist with overcoming barriers encountered as a result of the pandemic.

Warren, Sussex and Morris CARES Act funding available through Dawn Center for Independent Living. Needs have to be related to or a result of the pandemic.

Phone: (973) 625-1940

Toll Free: (888) 383-DAWN



FuneralAssistance_ RLI - PIPBHC April
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