



**Passaic County Local Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
January 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Members present:

1. Paula Tedesco
2. Evan Covello
3. Linda Doering
4. Ronna Bouton
5. Jeanette Pimentel
6. Gabrielle McQueen
7. Jenny Sierra

Members absent:

1. Heather Batten
2. Michele Shell

Also present were Brenda Browne, Director Passaic County Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Nataly Balah, Passaic County Mental Health and Addiction Services Administrative Assistant.

Meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM by Ms. Tedesco, Chair of the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA). The meeting was held via videoconference.

A motion was made by Ms. Doering and second by Mr. Covello to open the public portion of the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Browne made the announcement of the Open Public Meetings Act. Present from the Public were Marleen Francoise, who inquired about available resources for adolescents and Joe Zanzonico -North Jersey Advocate for Recovery Centers of America with brief introduction.

A motion was made by Ms. Doering and seconded by Mr. Covello to close the public portion of the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Doering and seconded by Ms. Sierra to approve December 2, 2020 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Professional Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Report – None as meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (hereafter “CASS”) Report: News was shared about the newly hired Passaic County Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Jenna Atmeh. GCADA’s award for Fiscal Year 2022 is on hold for final decision in Spring 2021.

Special Committee Report: Director Brenda Browne discussed Eva’s Village’s status as it relates to their submission of their plan of correction for failure to adhere to the terms of their contract and submit fiscal and programmatic reports in a timely manner (Plan of Correction provided on 10/21/2020 due 11/4/2020). This led to the decision to not renew their award for the Passaic County Recovery Center and only have the Opioid Overdose Recovery Program subject for review of renewal at this time. At the time of this meeting, the plan of correction had not yet been submitted (1/11/2021).

Bid Review Committee Report: The Bid Review Committee scored on the three submitted Request For Proposals hereafter “RFP”:

RFP-Prevention is Key - Adult and Youth Education scored a total of 88/100 points; RFP- Prevention is Key Support Services 85/100 points and RFP-Mainstream Recovery 81/100 points.

A motion was made by Mr. Covello and seconded by Ms. McQueen to vote to approve all three CY2021 proposals. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Ms. Tedesco acknowledged the effect of the prolonged pandemic on mental health and expressed her support and well wishes.

New Business: A motion was made by Ms. McQueen seconded by Ms. Doering to approve CY2021 Spending Plan. Motion was passed by majority of the members. Mr. Covello abstained from voting on one agency - NewBridge.

Elections were held for CY2021 Committee Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary). Ms. Tedesco was nominated by Mr. Covello, Ms. Doering and Ms. Sierra for the office of Chairman. She accepted the nomination. No other nominations for the office of Chairman were received. Ms. McQueen was nominated by Ms. Sierra for the office of Vice Chairman. She accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received for this position. Ms. Browne was nominated by Ms. Tedesco, Ms. Doering, Ms. Sierra and Ms. Bouton for the office of Secretary. Ms. Browne accepted the nomination. No other nominations received for the office of Secretary. Nominations were closed for all positions. Ms. Tedesco was elected as Chairman unanimously, Ms. McQueen was elected unanimously, Ms. Browne was elected unanimously.

Correspondence: None

A motion was made by Ms. Doering and seconded by Mr. Covello to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Attest:

Brenda Browne

Secretary

Nataly Balah

Administrative Assistant

County Division of Mental Health & Addiction Staff Report

Mental Health & Addictions Updates

January 2021

- Jenna Atmeh was hired for the Municipal Alliance Coordinator position.
- Cindy Mercado was hired for the Mental Health and Addiction Health Educator position.
- Hope One van progress was reported. Van to be tentatively completed by the end of January.
- Current trends in Addiction and Behavioral problems in the County to be examined by the Collective Impact Council Behavioral Health and Opioid Task Force, comprised of local providers.
- Jail Medication Assisted Treatment “known as MAT” program will be extended until June 30, 2021.