



**Passaic County Mental Health Board
January 5, 2022**

Members Present

Julie Rikon, Robert Nolan, Paula Tedesco, Nanette Armenta

Others in Attendance

Cynthia Gatica, Bart Chou, Nataly Balah, Shannon Ferray, Roger Schwab, Debbie O'Brien, Dorrie

Open Public Meetings Law

- a. Announcement of the Open Public Meetings Act
- b. Public Portion of the meeting

Approval of Minutes

No motion to approve minutes as there was no quorum for the December meeting

Reports

- a. Mental Health and Addiction Services Director Report
 - i. See attachment 1
- b. New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Program Analyst Report
 - i. See attachment 2
- c. Professional Advisory Committee Report
 - i. PAC/PACADA met in December and November meeting minutes were approved
 - ii. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month

Old Business

Electronic Vote for CY State Contract Renewals ratified. Motion to approve electronic votes made by Julie Rikon, second by Paula Tedesco. All in favor, no one opposed. Letters to be sent to fiscal offices of the programs.

New Business

Resignation confirmations, county website to reflect, a few other corrections will be submitted to the Information Officer. Continued effort to recruit new members.

Correspondence

None Reported

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Paula Tedesco, second by Julie Rikon

Submitted by Shannon Ferray

***All meetings will be held via videoconference until further notice. Please contact Shannon Ferray at shannonf@passaiccountynj.org for details about attending.**

<https://passaiccounty.webex.com/passaiccounty/j.php?MTID=m45193945de4cae8ba62b7ac0cadf58>
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Meeting number: 2337 513 2968

Attachment 1:

1. County comprehensive plan for the year 2024 to 2027.
2. Orientation package
3. Spending plan & RFP
 - Treatment: provide mental health emergency and treatment services
 - Outpatient for Upper Passaic County
 - Outpatient for Lower Passaic County
 - Psychiatric emergency services
 - Partial care
 - Child outreach services
 - Case management
 - Supportive Housing Case Management and support services
 - Trauma Informed Case Management program
 - Mental Health drop in center
 - Support groups
 - Recovery support & education
 - Suicide prevention and mental health education (youth and/or adult)
 - Motivational interviewing
 - Mental Health First Aid training for community members, schools, first responders, etc.
 - Mental Health awareness and prevention programs targeted to youth in schools

Service Type	Amount	Percentage
Treatment	\$390,800	58.48%
Case management	\$193,000	28.88%
Recovery Support & Education	\$84,500	12.64%

Attachment 2:

Program Analyst Notes for January 2022

Request for Proposals Updates:

1. January 14th will be the notification date for the Cultural Competency Training and Practice to Opioid Treatment Providers
2. January 13th will be the notification date for the Community Support Services Request for Proposal for Gloucester, Cape May, and Salem Counties.
3. Request for Letters of Interest for Evidence Based Initiative and opioid and other substance use disorders for SUD providers, there are two purposes for this RLI:
 - To Improve provider agencies' provision of Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral therapy
 - To improve clinical, direct care staff skills in practicing therapeutic approaches that ensure meaningful outcomes

The release of the RLI was January 4th, the deadline for responses is Jan 24th, February 14 is the announcement day and February 21st is the start date for the technical assistance start date.

4. **Community Peer Recovery Centers-** Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) will expand regional Community Peer Recovery Centers (CPRC) to eleven (11) counties. The CPRC will be a place where individuals can access peer support, information about substance use disorder treatment, recovery support services, and information about other community resources in a supportive substance free environment. This RFP is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response to Grants (SOR) funding. The SOR grant funding period is through September 29, 2022 depending on federal appropriations. Total funding is \$1,100,000 subject to federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to eleven (11) awards in the amount of \$100,000 each.

The funding is limited to the following counties: Burlington, Camden (Camden City), Cape May, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middleton, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, and Salem. No more than one award will be awarded in any of the aforementioned counties.

Effective January 6, 2022, the Request for Proposal (RFP) is available at <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/providers/grants/>

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. on February 3, 2022.
Notification: March 4, 2022

5. **Intensive Opioid Treatment and Substance Exposed Infants**-This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to provide comprehensive array of services for opioid dependent pregnant women, their infants and family. The Integrated Opioid Treatment and Substance Exposed Infants (IOT-SEI) initiative will provide opioid use disorder treatment, prenatal and postpartum medical/obstetric services, care coordination, sober living arrangements, wraparound services, intensive case management and recovery supports.

The following summarizes the RFP schedule:

February 16, 2022 Deadline for receipt of proposals - no later than 4:00 p.m.

March 11, 2022 Preliminary award announcement

March 18, 2022 Appeal deadline

March 25, Final Award

6. **Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)**

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 creation of the Early Intervention Support Services (EISS) in the following ten (10) counties: Passaic, Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Union, Salem, Gloucester, Burlington, Somerset, Cape May.

EISS programs provide rapid access to short term, recovery oriented, crisis intervention services. EISS serves persons who are 18 years of age or older, who are experiencing exacerbated symptoms of a mental illness. Services include assessment, psychiatric evaluation, pharmacologic interventions, short-term counseling and psychotherapy, psycho-education, time-limited case management, referral and linkage. EISS has routine "after-office" hours (e.g. weekends), accommodates "walk-ins" and offers quick access to staff with psychiatric prescriber privileges, when needed.

Amount of funding available:

Total annualized funding for each of the counties is one (1) million from the \$10 Million total funding amount available, which is subject to State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to 10 awards to above listed counties.

Mandatory Bidders Virtual Meeting
January 21, 2022 at 10am

Submission due no later than 4:00 on February 18, 2022

Award date-March 28, 2022

7. The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is pleased to announce a reimbursement opportunity, made available with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)- Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), for eligible COVID19 related expenses.

The objective of this program is to provide non-profit, contracted Mental Health (MH) provider's reimbursement for expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, DMHAS will reimburse providers for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), certain Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure costs, COVID testing and related expenses; designed to help meet challenges related to providing direct service due to the public health emergency. Eligible expenditures must have an invoice/purchase date between October 15, 2021, and February 1, 2023. At this time, providers are limited to an **overall maximum reimbursement** of \$20,000 for **each** program "bucket," i.e., PPE, IT infrastructure and test kits (including costs required to attain the CLIA waiver noted above and other related expenses).

General Notifications:

Per the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts (NJ AOC), Drug Court will be renaming their program Recovery Courts for NJ. The program is exactly the same, only the name will change.

8. January 6th at 11am will be the Statewide PACT Directors meeting
9. January 7th at 11am will be the Statewide STCF Directors meeting
10. January 13th at 1pm will be the Statewide IOC Directors meeting
11. January 20th at 10am will be the Statewide Screening Directors meeting
12. S2559, a telehealth law, was signed into law December 21st, 2021 by Governor Murphy, extending for the next two years the requirement adopted at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic that health benefits plan reimburse health care providers for telehealth and telemedicine services at the same rate as in-person services, with limited exceptions. At the same time, the legislation charges the Department of Health with conducting an in-depth study of the utilization of telehealth and telemedicine and its effects on patient outcomes, quality and satisfaction, and access to care in order to inform future decisions on payment structure for these services. This legislation will provide critical support to patients and providers while the State continues to address the challenges posed by the pandemic, and while the Department of Health evaluates how to best leverage payment and telemedicine to improve access to affordable care and maintain the highest quality of care possible. This law remains in effect until 12/31/23.
13. The NJ Department of Health has now made it possible to get free, at-home test kits for NJ residents. For more information please see the following link: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nj/>. Please share with anyone you feel would be interested and/or could benefit

Key Takeaways:

- The DOH can provide vaccination support for mental health group homes in two major ways:
 - o Scheduling and hosting a vaccination pop-up event (vaccines and administrators are provided). The points of contact are [Dana Johnson](#) and [Rebecca Werbel](#).
 - o If a specific site already has administrators, vaccines can be provided.
- The DOH can provide educational resources (e.g., hosting webinars, providing educational infographics to be disseminated etc.)
 - o For all educational resources, please feel free to contact Dr. Fisher at 732-963-7297
 - o Don't forget to let me know when you have arranged for your presentations

