



**Passaic County Local Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
October 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Members present:**

1. Ronna Bouton
2. Evan Covello
3. Linda Doering
4. Jeannette Pimentel
5. Paula Tedesco
6. Michele Shell

**Members absent:**

1. Heather Batten
2. Humberto Maravi
3. Le'Var Starr
4. Jennifer Vega
5. Lia Travers

Also present was Brenda Browne, Director Passaic County Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Donna Huber, Passaic County Municipal Alliance Coordinator.

The Chair brought the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Ms. Tedesco made the announcement of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

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

A motion was made by Ms. Doering and seconded by Ms. Bouton to accept the September 4, 2019 Meeting minutes. Motion passed with two (2) abstentions (Jeanette Pimentel and Michele Shell).

Ms. Browne provided the Mental Health and Addiction Services Director Report.

County Division of Mental Health & Addiction Staff Report  
October 2, 2019  
Mental Health and Addictions Updates

- All municipalities in the county are stigma-free with the exception of Wanaque and Totowa. Wanaque is moving close to passing the resolution to be designated.
- PC Division of MH&AS is partnering with the PC Prosecutor's Office and local addictions agency to plan for 2019-2020 Operation Helping Hand (grant pending).
- NJDMHAS held its annual Suicide Awareness Conference recently. Some of the takeaways: 45% of those who die by suicide see a PCP within 30 days before suicide. For older adults, the number is more like 78%. Goal is to provide education to primary care docs to do suicide assessments.
- NJ County Mental Health Administrators working on a joint statement in response to mass violence and the stigmatization of those with mental illness.
- The Passaic County Recovery Walk was Saturday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> and was a great success.
- United in Prevention in Passaic County held a workshop on the Intersection of LGBTQ, Stigma, Mental Health & Substance Abuse on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> and it was a great success.
- Planning for the October 2019 Teen Summit is in process.
- Passaic County Jail Medication Assisted Treatment Grant in the process.
- Department of Health, EMS Data and Intelligence reports 60-70% of overdoses are fentanyl-laced.

Professional Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse – See Attachment I

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (hereafter "CASS") Report

Ms. Huber reported that she is in the process of closing out FY2019, and is awaiting FY2020 contract signature pages from several Municipal Alliances

Ms. Huber presented the CASS approved Alliance Funding Formula for the FY2021-2025 Grant Cycle). Ms. Huber requested approval from the LACADA Committee. When LACADA approves the funding formula, the Letters of Intent (LOI) will be sent to the Municipal Alliances for the FY21 Grant Year.

A motion was made by Ms. Doering second by Ms. Shell to approve the Alliance Funding Formula for the FY2021-2025 Grant Cycle. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Huber reported that the Municipal Alliance Coordinator (MAC) meeting was held on September 24, 2019. At that meeting, the FY2021-2025 Grant and Strategic Plan process was presented and discussed.

Ms. Huber anticipates LACADA will be presented with the CASS approved Passaic County Strategic Plan at the February 5, 2020 meeting.

Ms. Huber reported that the Teen Summit will be held on October 18, 2019 at William Paterson University.

A meeting for the By Laws Review Committee will be schedule in the near future.

Ms. Browne presented a proposal from Prospect Park for a CY19 \$1,000.00 Stigma Free Grant for discussion and approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Doering and seconded by Ms. Shell to approve the Prospect Park mini grant for Stigma Free activities. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Browne presented a proposal from Jewish Family & Children's Services of Northern NJ (JFCSNNJ) in the amount \$17,500.00, to provide the CRAFT program for Families.

After discussion a motion was made by Ms. Doering, seconded by Ms. Pimentel to approve JFCSNNJ proposal for CY19. Motion passed unanimously.

There was no Special Committee report.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

There was no correspondence.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Attest:

/ s / Donna Huber  
Acting Secretary

**Passaic County Mental Health and Addiction Professional Advisory Committee  
(PAC/PACADA)  
Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2019**

**Present**

Heather Thompson, Eva's Village	Christina Ward, Turning Point
Marc Ackerman, SERV Centers of NJ	Alma Yee, Community Health Law Project
Concetta Schilt, Door into the Future	Cynthia Gatica, DMHAS
Karl Roman, Advance Housing	Tracey Dwan Blush, MHA Essex & Morris
Danielle Granados, SJHMC	Brenda Browne, PCDHS
Rebecca Leon, MHA of Passaic	Janet Maven, CFR
Faith Benford, NJCDC	
Angela Nikolovski, Straight & Narrow Inc.	
Bert Baldassarra, New Life Recovery Center	
Alicia Bernarducci, Clara Maass	
Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services	
Enrique Sangama, Preakness Healthcare	
Sybil Schreiber, MHCP	
Lisa Vara, Bridgeway PACT	

**Excused**

Joanne Green, MHA of Passaic  
Tina Miles, SJHMC  
Kathleen Fisher, St. Mary's Hospital  
Annette Wright, CSPNJ

**Agenda**

1. **Call to order** – Bert Baldassarra called the meeting to order at 2:07pm.
2. **Minutes** – Motion to approve the May 2019 PAC/PACADA minutes by Sybil Schreiber of Mental Health Clinic of Passaic, seconded by Lisa Vara of Bridgeway PACT.
3. **Staff Report** – Updates were given. See attached report.
4. **SRC** – No report
5. **DMHAS Report** – See attached
6. **PAC Discussion** – None.
7. **Announcements** – Open house at SERV 1pm-3:30pm on September 20, 2019.
8. **Open Public Portion** – SERV did a presentation on CCBHC. Doors in the Future also did a presentation.
9. **Other Business** – None.
10. **Adjourned** – Karl Roman motioned to adjourn, Lisa Vara second. Meeting adjourned at 3:18pm.

**Next meeting date: October 16, 2019**

Program Analyst Monthly Notes August 2019

- Effective July 1, 2019 Joint Commission Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) requires that all patients in psychiatric hospitals and patients being evaluated or treated for behavioral health conditions as their primary reason for care in general hospitals be screened by Evidenced Based Suicide Risk Assessment Tools to assess suicide risk i.e. Columbia Suicide Risk Assessment Tool. A survey was conducted of the STCF's and diversion bed hospitals to learn what tool they are using. The results show that all are using a standardized tool, and most are using the Columbia Suicide Risk Assessment Tool. A recommendation was made that the results of the screening and assessment be included with the referral information provided to Centralized Admissions.
- We have hired a Contracts Unit Bureau Chief. Her name is Valerie Bosley and she will be joining us from DCF where she has had significant cost-based contract experience with supervisory responsibilities.
- SAVE THE DATE – Fighting Stigma to End the Overdose Epidemic: A Harm Reduction Workshop

In preparation for International Overdose Awareness Day, join the New Jersey Department of Health for an interactive Harm Reduction Workshop. Harm reduction is a life-saving, evidence-based public health tool for New Jersey communities. Hear directly from national experts and local leaders about how harm reduction policy and practice can prevent overdose deaths, reduce drug-related stigma, and promote the dignity and health of all New Jerseyans, including individuals with substance use disorder.

Public health continuing education credits available. Breakfast and lunch provided, and free parking available. Registration opens soon! August 21<sup>st</sup>, Trenton War Memorial 9am to 2:30pm  
<https://twitter.com/NJDeptofHealth/status/1154100040119607297>

<https://www.facebook.com/NJDeptofHealth/photos/a.1125531507475719/2772260996136087/?type=3&theater>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B0T2D3YHP9y/>

- A data extract file is being prepared. DMHAS is preparing a data extract file of claims paid to MH FFS providers through NJMHAPP January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2019. This will be looking for duplicative billing, moving forward this will be done quarterly and any erroneous claims will be voided and the full amount deducted from your agency's next billing cycle until the funds are recovered.
- Jennifer Langer Jacobs will be the new NJ Medicaid Director and lead the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, which provides health care coverage to 1.7 million New Jersey residents. She will begin July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Providers need to address any prior authorization, enrollment and claims payment inquiries/questions with an MCO prior to contacting the State. If provider issues/concerns are not resolved, they should send the inquiry to DMAHS Provider Relations Unit at [MAHS.Provider-Inquiries@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:MAHS.Provider-Inquiries@dhs.state.nj.us)
- Upon receipt of provider inquiry, the Provider Relations staff will review and if applicable forward an inquiry to the MCO Provider Relations for resolution

- Save the Date flyer for DMHAS' Opioid Summit scheduled for September 20 was sent to our list serve today. More information about venue setting and staff attendance will follow.
- Please be advised that the next QPM meeting date has changed and is now scheduled for **Wednesday, September 4, 2019 from 10am-1pm.**

Please register your attendance for the meeting by using the following registration website:

<https://njsams.rutgers.edu/training/QPM/QPMRegister.aspx>. Note that due to space limitations only **ONE** individual per agency is permitted to attend.

Program Analyst NotesSept. 2019**Opioid Summit Info**

Please see information below re the division's upcoming Opioid Summit

- **WHAT:** DMHAS Opioid Summit
- **WHERE:** Atlantic City Convention Center
- **DATE:** September 20, 2019
- **GOAL:** To address the stigma and misinformation surrounding Opioid Use Disorders (OUD) and to enhance the understanding of treatment options, such as medication assisted treatment (MAT). ---*Flyer attached with more information*

**The Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ – 37th Annual Statewide Conference**

**What:** The Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ – 37th Annual Statewide Conference

**Title:** Gambling- (It's Not Child's Play)

**When:** Friday, September 27, 2018

**Cost:** Free with registration returned to Ramika Evans, Office of Treatment and Recovery Support, by **September 23, 2019.**

**CEUs:** 6 hours

**Where:** New Jersey Hospital Association Conference Center; 760 Alexander Road; Princeton, NJ 08540; Phone: (609) 275-4140

**Brochure:** Brochure, agenda, and registration form attached.

**RFP's**

The following are the Preliminary Awards for MESH:

- Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services (Somerset/Warren County) Greystone Catchment Area
- Triple C Housing (mercer County) Trenton Psychiatric Hospital Catchment Area
- Ocean Mental Health Services (Ocean County) Ancora Catchment Area

The following are the Preliminary Awards for STAR:

- Care Plus NJ Inc.-Morris County
- Care Plus NJ Inc.-Passaic County
- The Center for Prevention and Counseling-Sussex County

The following are the Final Awards for Alternative Approaches to Pain Management for Older Adults to the Northern Region

- Community in Crisis, Inc. Jody D'Agostini \$75,000 Somerset
- Family Guidance Center of Warren County Michele Eichorn \$74,078 Warren

### **Housing**

Backfill names are no longer required for DHMAS rental subsidies.

### **Staff Changes**

Vivian Schwartz, Northern Regional Coordinator, retired as of September 1, 2019. Theresa Wilson is Acting Regional Coordinator until the position is filled.

Melinda Harriman is no longer a Contract Administrator and is now a Program Analyst for the Southern Region.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Reminder that the Quarterly Provider Meeting is September 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-1:00pm.

### **Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale**

It's been determined that any staff person, regardless of educational degree, can complete a suicide risk screening provided that they have completed their agency training on the provision of the screening. This is consistent with the intention of the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale. What is critical is that the agency have a policy, on which staff have been trained, operationalizing how staff will follow up with ensuring immediate linkage to a clinician (MA level or higher) if the screening is positive. Licensing is going to ask to see the policies, and review them for adequacy.

### **Murphy Signs Law to Require Mental Health Education in Schools**

Mental health education will be integrated into health and physical education classes for all K-12 students in New Jersey under legislation signed into law Friday by Governor Phil Murphy. The law will take effect immediately and first apply to the 2020-2021 school year. It passed Assembly in June by a vote of 74-0, and the Senate in March 34-0.