



**Passaic County Mental Health Board
March 20, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes**

Members present:

1. Nanette A. Armenta
2. Julie Rikon
3. Ramon Pagan
4. Jessica Jordan
5. Paula Tedesco
6. Anell Perez

Members absent:

1. Dalton Price

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson, Julie Rikon at 6:05 PM.

Also present was Francine Vince, Director of the Passaic County Human Services Department, and Cynthia Gatica, Hudson and Passaic County Program Analyst for the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Vince made the announcement of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Members and others present introduced themselves.

A motion was made by Tedesco and seconded by Pagan to open the public portion of the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Seeing no members of the public, a motion was made by Pagan and seconded by Tedesco to close the public portion of the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Armenta and Perez both made corrections to the spelling of their names. Rikon corrected the motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Perez and seconded by Jordan to accept the amended March 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

There were no reports.

Under Old Business the members discussed the New Jersey RFP for Designated Screening Services in Passaic County. Vince and Gatica offered some information about the designation of a screening center, the difference between a screening center and an affiliated emergency service, and the purpose of this proposal review process. Rikon expressed concern about Bridgeway's use of tele-psychiatry and lack of understanding of the up county area. She also stated that St. Joseph's proposal demonstrated a much better understanding of the up county area. Tedesco said that people served by Bridgeway would still need to be transported to St. Joseph, and said that the number of people to be served by Bridgeway seems unrealistic. Perez mentioned that the wait time at St. Joseph's could be 24 hours or more for transition to the next level of care. Tedesco said that wait times will be reduced with the expansion of inpatient beds at St. Joseph's. Jordan expressed concerns about individuals in crisis needing to be transported from Bridgeway to St. Joseph's. She also said that Bridgeway has no psychiatry or medications on site and has no safety plan in place for crisis management. Pagan discussed the lack of service for the up county area in Bridgeway's proposal, the secondary location information is not clear, and will only be available by appointment. Pagan also used the state's scoring system as a rubric to score both proposals, he shared that with the other members. Perez said that Bridgeway is limited in what they can actually provide on-site, and that Bridgeway's proposal fails to demonstrate that this program is prepared to meet the needs of Passaic County residents. Rikon stated that St. Joseph has a solid track record and experience in providing this service in Passaic County, and commended them for increasing psychiatric staffing. Jordan said that Bridgeway's proposal was strong in discussion of follow up with patients. Perez wanted to clarify that St. Joseph's proposal was offering service for the entire county through two locations, and not limiting access only to up-county individuals at the Wayne location. Perez was also concerned about the current staff vacancies at St. Joseph's and recommends that these vacancies be filled in a timely fashion.

Following the discussion each member provided a score between 0 and 5 for each proposal. Scores were averaged and rounded to the nearest whole number. St. Joseph's average score was 5 points and Bridgeway's average score was 2 points.

Pagan made a motion to award 5 points to the proposal from St. Joseph and 2 points to the proposal from Bridgeway based on the rationale contained within the above discussion. The motion was seconded by Jordan.

Motion passed unanimously.

No new business.

No correspondence was received.

A motion was made by Armenta and seconded by Pagan to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Attest:

Francine Vince
Acting Secretary