



**Passaic County Mental Health Board  
January 8, 2020 Meeting Report**

**Members present:**

1. Nanette A. Armenta
2. Robert Nolan
3. Paula Tedesco

**Members absent:**

1. Jessica Jordan
2. Ramon Pagan
3. Anell Perez
4. Jeannette Pimentel
5. Julie Rikon
6. Jennie Vega

Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm but quorum was not present so the meeting was for informational purposes only.

Also present was Brenda Browne, Director of the Passaic County Mental Health and Addiction Services, Cynthia Gatica, Hudson and Passaic County Program Analyst for the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (NJDMHAS).

Announcement made regarding the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mr. Fiedeldey, of Fiedeldey Consulting provided a presentation on addressing mental health crisis in schools.

**Reports**

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

Discussion was held about the scheduled Point in Time homeless count. Suggestion from Mr. Nolan to contact Mr. Davison from Mental Health Association on Morris/Essex regarding a part-time clinical staff for the proposed Passaic County Mobile Recovery Unit.

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

Professional Advisory Committee Report (See Attachment 3).

New Business: None

Old Business: Discussed adjustments to the 2020 Mental Health spending plan. Board members recommended electronic voting since quorum was not present.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Attest:

Brenda Browne  
Secretary

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

January 8, 2020

- The County of Passaic submitted a proposal by the deadline of 12/11/19 for the County Innovation Award for up to \$167,627. Ideas were gathered from LACADA, CIACC, Mental Health Board, PACADA and PAC. The State responded on 1/8/20 denying the film screening proposal and requesting additional information for the Mobile Recovery Unit.

Intoxicated Driver's Resource Center

- New Interlock devices are being installed in the state. The offender is responsible for paying for the device.

DMHAS OOL is working on a single unified license. Agencies won't need to have 3 different licenses (medical, mental health, and addictions). This single license system will be in the portal which is being beta tested. This portal will eliminate paper and will allow you to see the progress. Will start with January renewals.

Nalaxone Distribution Day—32,000 were distributed, 1200 were given to homeless centers. There will be more for libraries. Another distribution day will take place early 2020.

County Funding—Mental Health and Addiction RFP's will be submitted to Procurement soon for posting.

### Program Analyst Monthly Report January 2020

- The Office of Treatment and Recovery Supports is pleased to welcome Alina Hickman, who will be working on Justice Involved projects/issues. Alina comes to DMHAS from the Judiciary where she worked as a Court Services Officer working for the Administrative Offices of the Courts. She also worked at Mercer Vicinage, Superior Court, also as a Court Services Officer assisting with the implementation of the Criminal Justice Reform.
- Beginning January 1, New Jersey residents experiencing homelessness can call 2-1-1 for help. Under this new framework, NJ 2-1-1 will serve as New Jersey's Homeless Hotline to connect residents in need with shelter. NJ 2-1-1 will work in partnership with county agencies to ensure residents have a safe place to stay and get connected to resources. NJ 2-1-1 operators will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and accessible in different languages for non-English speakers. Information provided by the callers will be kept confidential, except for information that must be shared with providers involved in providing shelter or shelter-related services.
- Penn Medicine at Princeton House has announced that they now have 6 closed acute beds now online. These are involuntary non-STCF beds which are open to all insurance and all counties.
- Starting January 1, 2020 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) plans to pay Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) through bundled payments for opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment services, including medication assisted treatment (MAT) medications, toxicology testing, and counseling when given to people with Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance). OTPs must enroll in Medicare and have full certification from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and be accredited by a SAMHSA-approved accrediting body.
- Upcoming Continuing Medical Education (CME) Training by the Department of Human Services (DHS) DMHAS Central Office CME Committee entitled: **Medications for Substance Use Disorder in Psychiatric Inpatient Settings**  
Date: January 22, 2020      Time: 12:00 – 1:30 PM  
Where: 1200 Negron Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08691

**Presenters/Panelists:** Louis E. Baxter, MD, FASM, Allen Masry, MD and David Buch, MD

**Moderator:** Adam Bucon, LSW, State Opioid Treatment Authority

**Target Audience:** Psychiatrists and Psychiatric APNs

**Objectives: At the end of this training physicians will**

- ❖ Apply the information about medication for SUDs into inpatient psychiatric facilities and be able to prescribe medications in these settings.
- ❖ Recognize that many individuals with psychiatric disorders have co-occurring substance use disorders (SUDs) requiring treatment.
- ❖ Interpret the evidence-based practices with co-occurring mental illness and SUDs.

**Register at:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RegistrationMSUDs>

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

**Present**

Yisel Alaoui, PMCH of NJ

Joanne Green, MHA Passaic

Bob Parker, NewBridge Services

Sarah Friedland, VOA Northern NJ

Sybil Schreiber, MHCP

Javier Argueta, CSPNJ

Cynthia Gatica, DMHAS

Brenda Browne, PCDHS

Earle Leitch, SERV

Bert Baldassarra, New Life Recovery

Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services

Enrique Sangama, Preakness Healthcare Center

Sherrine Schuldt, UP in PC WPUNJ

Christina Ward, Turning Point

Tracey Dwan Blash

Tashai McFarlane, PCDHS

**Others Present**

Jessica Marino, PMCH of NJ

Ratna Joshi-Hason, Care Plus, Inc.

Michele Wellikoff, JFS of Northern Jersey

Deidre Lonza, New Hope

Gabrielle Frankel, MHA Passaic

Kathleen Mckenna, Adult Family Health Services

Kristirk Bloodgood, New Hope

**Excused**

Lisa Vara, Bridgeway PACT

Pauline Simms, SERV

Danielle Granados, SJHMC

**Agenda**

1. **Call to order** – Bert Baldassarra called the meeting to order at 2:11pm.
2. **Minutes** – Motion to approve minutes by Sybil Schreiber of Mental Health Clinic of Passaic, seconded by Michelle Borden of NewBridge Services.
3. **Staff Report** – See attached report.
4. **SRC** – No report
5. **DMHAS Report** – See attached
6. **PAC Discussion** – Providers expressed concerns about funding for Mental Health in 2020 for Upper Passaic County. Nominations were postponed until January 2020. Motioned by Bert Baldassarra, seconded by Bob Parker, NewBridge Services.
7. **Announcements** –
8. **Open Public Portion** – None.
9. **Other Business** –
10. **Adjourned** – Michelle Borden motioned to adjourn, Sybil Schreiber second. Meeting adjourned at 3:29pm.

**Next meeting date: January 15, 2019**