



**Passaic County Mental Health Board
June 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Members present:

1. Nanette A. Armenta
2. Robert Nolan
3. Jeannette Pimentel
4. Julie Rikon
5. Paula Tedesco

Members absent:

1. Ramon Pagan
2. Arnell Perez

Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Mr. Nolan, Chairman of the Mental Health Board. Meeting was held via videoconference.

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).

Mr. Nolan made the announcement of the Open Public Meetings Act. No public was present.

Ms. Tedesco moved to approve the May 6, 2020 meeting minutes, second by Ms. Rikon. Motion passed.

Reports

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

Ms. Browne informed the Board that Fiedeldey Consulting that had previously presented on school risk and suicide assessment, has established a not-for-profit company FC Cares. The board members would like FC Cares to re-submit a proposal to reflect the new agency and half year commitment and funding request. Ms. Browne to follow-up and send to the board members. Once received, the board agreed to review and take an electronic vote regarding this proposal.

Ms. Browne contacted LoriAnn Rizzutto from Atlantic Behavioral Healthcare to ascertain if there was any interest in establishing satellite mental health services in Upper Passaic County (possibly in Ringwood). She said she would look into it and get back to Ms. Browne.

Mini-grants are still being worked on.

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

Professional Advisory Committee Report (No official committee meetings held for March or April 2020, as per County Executive Order). Ms. Browne informed the board that providers discussed their challenges regarding PPE, fiscally, transitioning back to on-site services, as well as the successes with telehealth.

Old Business: Mr. Nolan discussed the recommended letter regarding children's outpatient mental health rates and will send it to Ms. Browne to put on letterhead to send to the Division of Children and Families, Medicaid and DMHAS.

New Business: Ms. Browne previously emailed the Board members the by-laws and the need to hold elections by July's meeting. Since the Board does not normally meet in July and August, the board discussed holding reorganization at this meeting. No members wished to run for Chairman, Vice Chairman or Secretary. The current officers were willing to continue in their current offices. Ms. Armenta moved that the same slate of officers be re-elected for the next year. Ms. Tedesco second. Motion passed.

Correspondence: None.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ms. Armenta. Second by Ms. Pimentel. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Attest:

Brenda Browne
Secretary

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

June 2020

- The Innovation Grant has one applicant, Prevention is Key. DMHAS preliminarily extending contracting deadline for this award until August 31, 2020 to conclude by August 31, 2021.
- Division Director in discussions with providers to address concerns of access to mental health and addiction services in Upper Passaic County. New Life is interested in applying for IOP services once again in Upper County. IOP will be re-bid.
- Division Director still awaiting county approval to hire a Health Educator.
- Upcoming Federal Pathways to Employment Grant to be released. May be over \$650,000 for 18 months. Looking for a lead person or entity to get partners together to start planning to apply.
- Return to Work plan for our department starts on 6-15-20.

NJMDHAS Program Analyst Notes

June 2020

Northern Region Office Meeting Notes

DMHAS Updates**Contract extension**

Contract Extension/Modification memo sent to providers requesting contract commitments for the extended period of July 1, 2020-December 31, 2020. Modification of contract is due no later than June 30, 2020.

Roster sheets

On May 21, 2020, the Division has requested Roster sheets for services provided from March through June 2020. A few questions have been received regarding screening and prevention services on these roster sheets. For screening, please send the Division a list of a summary of clients screened. For prevention services, you can submit a listing of activities for each month and the number of clients served. This information can be added to the roster sheets or submit as separate files.

Also, for Mental Health FFS providers who have continued to enter claims into the NJMHAPP system, you may substitute the NJMHAPP Consumer Services Unit Report in place of the Roster sheets. March and April roster sheets should be submitted by June 5 to John Fogliano (email: John.Fogliano@dhs.nj.gov). May roster sheets are due by Friday, June 19 and June is due on July 24, 2020. Please call John at 609-438-4278 with any questions.

SOR Grant submitted

- Low intensity Buprenorphine. Will be available at all 7 Harm Reduction sites
- Open Access Methadone Treatment
- Mobile Van program
- Adding Nurse case management to an existing program
- Services to Deaf/Hard of Hearing by ASL clinicians
- Peer support – wellness & counseling for peers delivering services
- Clinical supervision training
- Multi-cultural training for treating diverse populations

Zero Suicide Academies

- The academies that were scheduled will be held virtually. This will be a first.
- Will include focus on gun safety – educational

FEMA Grants

- Immediate Services Program (ISP) Grant ends this week (3 agencies – FSB Newark, Catholic Charities, MHANJ)
- Using students to serve as their internship, and DRCC's, to handle calls, as well as MHANJ
- Note: public media campaign is underway for call-line
- These services are not clinical – SAMHSA grant is more clinical in nature. FEMA is neighbor-helping-neighbor, with referral to treatment if needed.
- Regular Services Program (RSP) Grant being submitted very soon. Term is 9 months. Starts when ISP ends.
 - 20 agencies applied, 12 were selected (pending approval of the grant)
 - Catholic Charities DOT (will sub-contract with their CC affiliates throughout the state)
 - Center for Family Services
 - Rutgers (*I think it's the student counseling component*)
 - Church World ... (*I missed the full name*)
 - FSB Newark
 - MHANJ
 - MHA of Essex & Morris
 - JFS Passaic
 - Richard Hall
 - UBHC (2 awards)
 - RWJ Institute for Prevention & Recovery

SAMHSA Grant

- Three partners: Rutgers UBHC, Children's System of Care (CSOC), and a specific agency that focuses on the Hassidic & Orthodox Jewish communities.
- The CSOC portion will focus on youth at risk of residential placement.
- UBHC is developing a provider network.
- UBHC will use standardized screening tools to screen for anxiety, depression, substance use, and refer as needed.
- Treatment will be available for individuals with no insurance/ability to pay.
- UBHC will work to help individuals without telephones acquire telephones.
- SAMHSA has specific requirements of the break-down of how funds are used. I didn't catch the full breakdown, but health care providers and first responders are one subset upon whom a specific percentage needs to be spent. Virtual groups are being scheduled for nurses, for example. A warm-hand-off to treatment provider can be arranged.

Additional Resources

DCA Short Term Rental Assistance Program

Governor Murphy and Lieutenant Governor Oliver have announced the creation of a short-term rental assistance program designed to help residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will provide at least \$100 million dollars in temporary rental assistance for low-to-moderate income households including the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. The Program is being administered through the DCA.

NJ SNAP

Many New Jerseyans who receive food assistance through the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP) will receive additional benefits in June to help address critical food needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. June payments will bring supplemental food assistance payments to \$142M since March. The supplemental benefits will be directly loaded to NJ SNAP recipients' Families First EBT cards as part of their regular monthly payment.

New Jerseyans enrolled in the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will be able to use their benefits to order groceries online starting May 27, 2020. Online shopping will be available through Amazon and participating Walmart's, ShopRite's and The Fresh Grocers. Recipients will be able to use their Families First Electronic Benefits Transfer card to purchase eligible groceries from the participating retailers. Under federal rules, SNAP benefits cannot be used to pay for delivery fees

**Passaic County Mental Health and Addiction Professional Advisory Committee
(PAC/PACADA)**

No March or April 2020 Meetings as per Executive Order

10. **Adjourned** – Concetta Schilt motioned to adjourn, Tina Miles second. Meeting adjourned at 3:19.

Next meeting date: March 18, 2020