



**Passaic County Mental Health Board
March 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Members present:

1. Robert Nolan
2. Ramon Pagan
3. Nanette A. Armenta
4. Paula Tedesco
5. Julie Rikon
6. Jennifer Hernandez
7. Jeannette Pimentel

Members absent:

1. Arnell Perez

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm 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, Nataly Balah, Passaic County Mental Health and Addiction Services Administrative Assistant, Cynthia Gatica, Program Analyst for NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and from the public: Jennifer Haggis and Peggy Lore.

A motion was made by Ms. Nanette, second by Mr. Pagan to open the public portion of the meeting. Motion passed.

Mr. Nolan made the announcement of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Ms. Jennifer from Care Plus made an introduction to their newly hired bilingual Care Coordinator.

A motion was made by Ms. Tedesco to close public portion, second by Mr. Pagan. Motion passed.

Previous 2/3/2021 meeting Minutes were adapted as presented to the committee.

Reports

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

Mr. Nolan put in a request for the Hope One van schedule to be posted on Social Media as their scheduled location is not easily accessible. Ms. Browne answered that many locations are requesting for an insurance, but the message will be relayed to the Prevention is Key agency.

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

Professional Advisory Committee Report: None reported

Reports of Special Committee: Mr. Nolan made a presentation of the Bid Review Committee. The committee reviewed the three submitted program proposals for the Mental Health RFPs.

Ms. Browne gave a detailed description of the submitted programs to the Committee: Mental Health Association of Passaic with 2 programs a) Safe Place b) IC Hope and Jewish Family & Children's Services of Northern NJ's to provide Mental Health Outpatient Services to Family, Children and Seniors.

Old Business: None

New Business: Vote on the above-mentioned Proposals: Mental Health Association in Passaic County Safe Space for \$45,000 and IC Hope for \$60,000 and Jewish Family and Children's Services of Northern NJ for mental health services for \$46,300. A motion was made to approve all three proposals by Ms. Tedesco, second by Ms. Rikon. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: Ms. Peggy Lore from the Public sent an email to Ms. Browne to praise the work of the committee and the efficient way the meetings are held.

Ms. Browne updated the committee with the launch of the "The Growing Edge, Racial Equity" program.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ms. Rikon, second by Mr. Pagan. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Attest:

Brenda Browne
Secretary
Nataly Balah
Administrative Assistant

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

March Notes

- Passaic County Behavioral task Force was formed, next meeting will be held 3/11/2021 to solve Mental Health and Addictions issues in the County. An invitation to join was extended to the committee.
- A proclamation from NJ State was received, announcing March 2021 as Gambling Awareness month.
- “Hope One” van was delivered and is being wrapped by the logo. The supplies for retrofitting are due to be delivered soon. On 3/3/2021, Passaic County Commissioner Director visited the site of the project, where Narcan kits (Overdose reversal) and dignity kits were handed out.
- Jail MAT program will be extended to 2022 through a Government State Grant.
- Application to the State was submitted by “Prevention is Key” to receive Free Narcan Kits that in turn will be provided to the appropriate high-risk population.
- The State provided updated ORP-Overdose Recovery Program data.
- IDRC (Intoxicated Driver Recover) program are in the process of reinstating some of their in-person programs vs virtual.

Program Analyst Monthly Notes

March 2021

DMHAS Staffing:

Please welcome John Verney as the new Northern Regional Coordinator for DMHAS. Mr. Verney has served as the Acute Care Coordinator since 2009 and will be stepping out of this role over the next few months as he transitions to his new position. Theresa Wilson will continue her role as Assistant Regional Coordinator for the Northern Region.

Eviction Moratorium:

Link to the most recent Executive Order extending the public health crisis by 30 days

<https://www.nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-222.pdf>

This means the eviction moratorium protected in Exec. Order 106 is extended to May 18, 2021.

Meetings:

Residential Provider Meeting

Save the Date- Tuesday, March 23, 10am-12pm

Mary Jean Weston is hoping to have agencies participate on a panel discussing their success in maintaining or adding staff during the pandemic. If interested in being a part of the panel please contact Mary Jean.

HUD Shelter Tool:

HUD recently released a Find Shelter Tool, which provides information about housing, shelter, health care and clothing resources in communities across the country to help those in need. This tool will provide mapping and contact information for those community resources as well as printable posters and palm cards that can be displayed to direct people to the tool. You can access the tool by visiting hud.gov/findshelter or by scanning the QR code in the attached FAQ flier.

Trainings and Webinars:

12 week Virtual Group Class for Anger Management

*Every Monday from 6pm-7pm (Free for Sussex County Residents) Please see flier for more information.

Behavioral Health providers: Knowledge is Power- Intellectual wellness

*March 18th, 1pm-2pm. Please see flier for more information.

FREE Virtual Training

*Building a Better Suicide Risk Assessment: The Nuts and Bolts of the Columbia Protocol

*March 4, 10:30am-12pm. Please see flier for more information.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT):

NJ DHS to expand the availability of Medication that Supports Recovery from addiction. As a part of the Murphy Administration's continued commitment to increase access to MAT in the state's efforts to reduce overdoses and fight the opioid epidemic, DMHAS has notified treatment providers that it will award five regional contracts not to exceed \$800,000 each to expand availability of the life-saving medicines throughout the state. This is a part of a \$4 million dollar grant program.



Anger Management
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