



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



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REFERENCE:

- Council
- Mental Health
- Youth
- Disability Services
- Substance Use Disorder
- Transportation

Approved March 15, 2023

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 2:30 p.m.
Human Services Conference Room I, Building 3
Flemington, New Jersey 08822
And via Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT

E. Sharp-Newton
J. Giotis
D. LaClair
K. Schwartz

STAFF

A. DeLuca
M. O'Reilly
S. Nekola
D. Childers

GUESTS/PACADA LIAISON

M. Logan S. Iraca
F. Crisologo L. Vendome
K. Merson
L. Oramas
A. Norman

I. CONVENE: OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:

“This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting has been provided in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News. A public notice announcing this meeting has also been placed in the lobbies of the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, the first floor of the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street Building #1, Flemington, NJ; the first floor of the Route 12 County Complex, Building #3, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ and County Clerk’s Office.”

The regular meeting of LACADA was opened at 2:30 p.m. with the reading of the Open Public Meetings statement. Introductions were made by all participants.

M. Logan stated she is a community member from Lebanon Borough.

F. Crisologo stated he is a captain at the Hunterdon County Prosecutors Office.

E. Sharp-Newton stated she is a professional at Posen Architect with specialization in Mental Health and Architecture. She is also the co-chair of LACADA.

M. O'Reilly stated she is the Human Services Administrator for Hunterdon County.

L. Oramas stated she is with Hunterdon County EISS.

K. Merson stated she is the Clinician Supervisor for Hunterdon County EISS and Somerset County EISS.

L. Vendome stated she is the Outreach Professional for the SHE Program.

K. Schwartz stated he is attending as a community representative and works at the Open Door Recovery Center which is part of Prevention Resources.

S. Iraca stated she is with the Hunterdon County's Prosecutors Office.

J. Giotis stated he is an educator activist in Raritan Township.

D. LaClair stated she is the Case Manager for Hunterdon County Star.

A. DeLuca stated she is the Program Development Specialist for Hunterdon County.

II. MINUTES: E. Sharp-Newton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 18, 2022. J. Giotis seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

D. LaClair made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 21, 2022. E. Sharp-Newton seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

K. Schwartz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 2, 2022. J. Giotis seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

III. PRESENTATION: Hunterdon County EISS – Kimberly Merson

K. Merson introduced herself and the Hunterdon County EISS Program. K. Merson conveyed Early Intervention Support Services is often referred to as EISS.

Goal and Purpose: The goal of EISS is to reduce the number of referrals to Screening and local emergency rooms. The primary purpose of the program is to identify individuals at risk for referral to Screening and to intervene with immediate short-term, intensive services and appropriate referrals.

Target Population:

- Individuals seeking services from the Screening Center presenting with urgent concerns as opposed to emergent concerns.
- Individuals discharged from emergency rooms or Screening Center who need immediate services to maintain stabilization.
- Individuals engaged in other services such as case management, supportive housing or the Community Wellness Center who have stopped their involvement in treatment and are at risk for referral to Screening.
- Individuals with psychiatric disorders who are released from jail and have no mental health services.

Not the Target Population:

- 17 years of age and younger.

- Enrolled with PACT
- Primary substance abuse or developmental disability without a psychiatric disorder diagnosis. Individual will need to identify some type of mental health disorder.

Program Design

- 24/7 availability to take initial referrals
- Seven day a week availability for initial face-to-face assessments.
- Person-centered, strength-based approach
- No wait list, appointments are offered within 24 hours of referral
- An average length of stay of about 30 days with discharge to further treatment (if appropriate)

Direct Care Staffing

- Clinician Supervisor
- One full-time APN
- Five full-time Mental Health Clinicians
- One full-time case manager
- One full-time peer support specialist

Program Components

- Assessment which includes clinical evaluation as well as appraisal of quality-of-life elements (medical, housing, income, social and family supports, vocational goals and needs)
- Person-centered Treatment Planning based on consumer's expressed goals.
- Medication management and education
- Emergency assistance to purchase medication
- Intensive individual therapy
- Treatment for substance abuse difficulties
- Case management
- Assistance with transportation to EISS appointments if necessary
- On-call clinician for crisis calls and referrals
- Outreach
- Linkages to the following: longer-term mental health treatment, medical treatment, entitlements, housing support, substance abuse treatment, employment support, educational support, socialization resources.

Contact Information

Luz Oramas, LCSW- Program Director 973-289-0982

Greg Fitzpatrick, LCSW – Director of Emergency Services - 732-235-5150
Kim Merson, LMFT – Clinician Supervisor 848-334-0488

K. Merson conveyed once Hunterdon County EISS is fully staffed, they will be open from 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Currently, they are on-site Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. A telehealth component is currently being used for the weekend hours.

Questions, Comments, Concerns

M. Logan asked if the telehealth component will continue to be an option once Hunterdon County EISS is fully staffed. K. Merson responded the telehealth will be offered until the State of New Jersey and Rutgers decide otherwise.

K. Schwartz asked where EISS's on-site location is. K. Merson responded the Hunterdon County EISS is located at 8 Main Street, Suite 7 & 8, in Flemington, NJ. The entrance is on the side, not off of Main Street.

M. Logan asked K. Merson if the Rutgers EISS Brochures could be circulated. K. Merson responded she would share them with the group is distribute.

IV. REPORTS:

- A. County Update:** M. O'Reilly reported the County of Hunterdon has a new Commissioner Director for 2023. Zach Rich is the New Commissioner Director, and the new Commissioner Deputy Director is Jeff Kuhl, he will remain the Commissioner Liaison for the Department of Human Services.

M. O'Reilly conveyed additional planning for the Point in Time Count was done in January as well as December. M. O'Reilly explained the Point in Time Count is a survey given to individuals experiencing homelessness, whether they are sheltered or unsheltered.

M. O'Reilly stated the Human Services Advisory Council's Survey is still live. She reported approximately one hundred (100) individuals have completed the survey. M. O'Reilly advised agencies to re-circulate the survey. The information gathered from the survey is used to build Requests for Proposals (RFPs). M. O'Reilly shared the survey links in the chat box. The survey is available in both English and Spanish.

M. O'Reilly reported the Department of Community Affairs will be accepting Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Pre-Applications beginning January 17, 2023 until February 3, 2023. The first step is pre-application, then the applications go through a lottery process. Additional information can be found at: <https://nj.gov/dca/vouchers.html>.

- B. Municipal Alliance Program:** A. DeLuca reported for January, three alliances have met so far – Vorhees Municipal Alliance, Delaware Valley Municipal Alliance, and Central Hunterdon Municipal Alliance. A. DeLuca conveyed email communication between alliance members and herself has been strong in between monthly meetings. She stated this was to make sure the goals of programming and spending down the grant dollars are accomplished. A. DeLuca reported the alliances did very well spending down their funds and submitting bills on time.

A. DeLuca reported Central Hunterdon Municipal Alliance spent down all their grant dollars.

Delaware Valley Municipal Alliance had \$38.62 left unspent.

North Hunterdon Municipal Alliance had \$37.32 left unspent.

South Hunterdon Municipal Alliance completed spending all their grant dollars.

Voorhees underspent leaving \$83.30 leftover.

A. DeLuca reported in total the Municipal Alliances as a whole, had \$159.24 left over and spent 99.63% of the grant. A. DeLuca conveyed she is proud of the collaboration, teamwork, and effort put into the program.

A. DeLuca stated she requested feedback from each alliance regarding programming that had been received. The alliances across the board had positive feedback and are satisfied with the programs that have run. She reported one alliance had mentioned how the students continued to discuss what they had learned, mentioning the brain does not finish developing until the age of twenty-five (25) and showing it was successful, impactful, and affected the students to carry more conversations.

A. DeLuca reported the Alliances have been meeting and discussed the planning process for next year. Funding is expected to remain the same for next year as it was this year. The Alliances would like to keep the programs the same for next year as well.

A. DeLuca conveyed the CASS Subcommittee is looking for members. If anyone knows anyone who may be interested in participating in the subcommittee CASS, contact Alyssa DeLuca. E. Sharp-Newton added members of LACADA are unable to serve on CASS due to a conflict of interest. M. O'Reilly confirmed that was correct. M. O'Reilly stated CASS meets quarterly, at 3:30 p.m. A. DeLuca stated CASS meets in January, May, September, and November via Microsoft Teams. E. Sharp-Newton asked if a one paragraph description, explaining the CASS member position, could be shared so the service opportunity can easily be forwarded.

C. PACADA Update: No update.

D. HSAC Update: M. O'Reilly conveyed HSAC reviewed the 2022 Point in Time results at their October meeting. M. O'Reilly conveyed the HSAC By-Laws were also updated at the October meeting then presented to the Commissioners for their approval.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Nominations for Chair/Vice-Chair: A. DeLuca conveyed M. Logan and E. Sharp-Newton have been serving as chair and vice-chair. A. DeLuca asked the group if anyone would like the chance to hold one of these roles. M. Logan and E. Sharp-Newton expressed their interests in continuing their roles as chair and vice-chair. LACADA will review these nominations and

vote at their next meeting on March 15, 2023.

B. CCP Update: A. DeLuca reported the CCP Plan was submitted to the State in early December and is currently being reviewed. M. O'Reilly advised that is correct and the County has not heard back regarding any questions or modifications. M. O'Reilly stated it is her understanding that a review committee is assembled to review the CCP Plan and feedback will then be shared. M. O'Reilly thanked those who participated by either attending those meetings or helping make connections.

C. Prosecutor Trends Update: F. Crisologo reported in 2022 there were fifty-four (54) reported overdoses with ten (10) reported deaths. F. Crisologo reported for January 2023, there has been five (5) overdoses and one (1) death so far. He conveyed in comparison to last year, the number has increased. For January of 2022, F. Crisologo stated there were only two (2) overdoses and no deaths.

F. Crisologo reported the Naloxone continues to aid the Prosecutor's and save lives. Operation Helping Hands is a resource continuing to be used for providing help to individuals with drug addictions or who are in the Prosecutor's process.

F. Crisologo stated reports from the New Jersey State Labs are continuing to show almost one hundred percent of Heroin, Cocaine, and Xanax submitted contain Fentanyl or Methamphetamine.

E. Sharp-Newton asked if there was somewhere this data was shared/posted. F. Crisologo conveyed NJ Cares has this information. F. Crisologo confirmed those are the minimum numbers because they do not include numbers from the hospital. F. Crisologo stated one of the most important thing LACADA can do for the community is inform them of the extent of Fentanyl. Discussion ensued. F. Crisologo conveyed a Public Service Presentation was given a while back explaining the factors of Fentanyl and explaining the dangers.

D. By-Laws: A. DeLuca conveyed the revisions to the By-Laws were shared to LACADA last week with the meeting packet. A. DeLuca stated the CASS's By-Laws are a portion of LACADA's. Currently, the By-Laws state a quorum of the CASS subcommittee shall consist of 4 persons. A. DeLuca stated the CASS has suggested changing "4 persons" to "50% of total membership" which would then fall in line with LACADA.

D. Childers added the LACADA By-Laws have not been updated since 2009. Another suggested revision to the By-Laws will consist of updating the language. The term "Chosen Freeholders" is suggested to be updated to "County Commissioners". Additional revisions can be presented to LACADA and will be voted on in thirty (30) days or at the next meeting. D. Childers stated S. Becker may have suggested revisions for the By-Laws. Discussion ensued.

E. Sharp-Newton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. LaClair seconded. There being no further business the meeting of January 18, 2023 was adjourned at 3:17 p.m. The next LACADA meeting will be held Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.