



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
 - Disabled
 - Substance Use Disorder
 - Transportation

To be approved March 16, 2023.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE

Regular Meeting

DRAFT

Thursday, January 19, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
Human Services Conference Room I, Building 3
Flemington, New Jersey 08822
And via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>EX-OFFICIO</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
R. Walker	D. LaClair	A. Wairimu	L. Mermini
S. Lax	K. Bloodgood	M. O'Reilly	A. Villano
L. Ranieri	J. Denlinger		L. Vendome
			A. Hicks
			C. Isaac
			J. Cassano
			M. DeMatos
			G. King
			K. Merson

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.”

Due to the recent public health crisis, COVID-19, this meeting was held via Webex ONLY

S. Nekola introduced herself as the Division Head of Social Work Services for Hunterdon County.

K. Merson introduced herself as the representative for Hunterdon County EISS.

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

A. Hicks stated she is the Recovery Advocate Coordinator at Open Door Recovery Center of Hunterdon County.

A. Villano introduced herself as the Senior Director for Acenda Integrated Health.

D. LaClair introduced herself as the Case Manager for Hunterdon Care STAR Team.

G. King stated he is the Director of Freedom House.

A. Isaac introduced herself as Community Relations Representative with Princeton House.

J. Denlinger introduced herself as the Family Support Advocate with Sharing Help Family Support Center Prevention Resources.

T. King introduced herself as the Area Administrator for Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital.

K. Bloodgood introduced herself as the Senior Director of Admissions at New Hope IBHC.

L. Vendome introduced herself as the Outreach Professional for the SHE Program from the Family Guidance Center.

L. Mermini stated she is the Clinical Supervisor of Outpatient Programs at Catholic Charities in Hunterdon and Warren Counties.

L. Ranieri introduced herself as the representative for Hackensack Meridian Carrier Clinic.

R. Walker introduced herself as the representative of Summit Oaks Hospital.

A. Wairimu stated she is the Program Analyst for Hunterdon County with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

T. King stated she is the Section Chief and Hospital Administrator at Greystone.

J. Denlinger introduced herself as the representative of Family Support Sharing the Hope at Prevention Resources.

M. DeMatos stated he is the Navigator for Hunterdon County Opioid Overdose Recovery Program.

D. LaClair introduced herself as the Case Manager for the Hunterdon County STAR team and support team for addiction recovery.

II. MINUTES: A motion was made by K. Bloodgood and seconded by R. Walker to approve the minutes of November 17, 2022. All were in favor. The motion carried.

III. REPORTS:

- A. Mental Health Board (MHB) Update:** M. O'Reilly advised the Mental Health Board meeting held at the beginning of the month was short. S. Nekola stated there was a presentation from EISS. M. O'Reilly stated EISS will be sharing a presentation after the reports are completed.
- B. Division of Mental Health Services Update:** A. Wairimu stated there are Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to share. The division encourages community providers to check the website for funding opportunities.

The first RFP is Recovery Management Check-Up for Individuals Experiencing Substance Use Challenges. The intent of the RFP is to offer an RMC service for discharged clients to support their independent living and success with recovery. The new proposed program will provide more methods of outreach to clients. These methods will include virtual face-to-face visits, text messaging and chat features, and the opportunity for in-person contacts. This check-up service will help provide local recovery supports, including information about local resources such as self-help meetings, food pantries, and sober houses, if needed. The successful bidder(s) will provide services to clients in each of the counties specified in the region the bidder will serve.

A. Wairimu stated proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 7, 2023. The notify date is March 3, 2023.

Total annualized funding for this RFP is \$1,500,000. DMHAS anticipates making up to three (3) regional awards, in an amount up to \$500,000 each, with one award for each of the following three (3) regions. North Jersey consisting of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties. Central Jersey includes Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and Union Counties. South Jersey consisting of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem Counties.

A. Wairimu reported the next RFP she has to share is for Residential Services for Individuals from Nursing Facilities. The RFP is to develop a Level A+ Residential program for those with a mental health diagnosis, and medical needs. DMHAS anticipates making one award to a vendor to provide services to five (5) individuals. This home will be located in New Jersey, and accept referrals assigned by DMHAS.

Total annualized funding for the deficit funded contract is \$377,000.00. DMHAS anticipates making one award to provide services to five (5) individuals. In addition, up to \$600,000 in one-time capital funding. Also, up to \$100,000 in one-time capital funding may be made available for physical modifications to a home.

A. Wairimu stated February 7, 2023 is the deadline for receipt of proposals. Final award will be announced March 29, 2023.

A. Wairimu conveyed the last RFP she will share is for a 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Managing Entity. Total annualized funding is \$2,000,000 subject to State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates awarding funds to a singular agency. The purpose of this RFP is to provide funds to a single agency to establish itself as the Managing Entity for the 988

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in New Jersey. January 31, 2023, is the deadline for receipt of proposals. Final award announcement will be March 7, 2023.

A. Wairimu reported the opening of Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. DCA will be accepting Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Pre-Applications beginning January 17, 2023, at 9 AM EST until Friday, February 3, 2023, at 5:00 PM. A. Wairimu conveyed additional information can be found online at: <https://nj.gov/dca/vouchers.html>

A. Wairimu shared information regarding the NJ Supreme Court directive requiring that all of the involuntary civil commitment hearings will commence in person beginning March 1, 2023. This does not include review and CEPP hearings, though it is anticipated that there will be a gradual return to in person hearings at some point.

A. Wairimu stated DCA's Winter Termination Program can help prevent service discontinuation for eligible residential customers receiving residential electric, sewer, and water service from a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative through March 15. To find out if you are eligible, see flyer or go to shorturl.at/bVY27

C. County Update: M. O'Reilly reported with the new year, there is a new Commissioner Director and Commissioner Deputy Director for Hunterdon County. Zach Rich is the new Commissioner Director, and the new Deputy Director is Jeff Kuhl. Jeff Kuhl will remain the Human Services Commissioner Liaison.

M. O'Reilly advised planning for the Point in Time count has begun. Information has been sent to agencies participating in the count. M. O'Reilly advised scheduling an outreach meeting Monday or Tuesday of next week. M. O'Reilly reported the HSAC Survey is still live. It was set to end at the end of 2022. The survey is still live as only 100 responses were received for both surveys. M. O'Reilly advised agencies to re-circulate the survey. M. O'Reilly conveyed survey links will be sent out via email for agencies to share.

M. O'Reilly reported a SNAP update that will be effective March 1, 2023. She conveyed the participants receiving additional benefits from the covid period be terminated beginning March 1, 2023. A bill was passed during the summer to increase the minimum monthly amount from \$23 to \$50. M. O'Reilly advised to anticipate an increase of clients at food pantries due to the decrease in SNAP benefits.

M. O'Reilly reported the County has been unable to close Medicaid case unless it was a situation where the client moved out of state, requested their case be closed or that individual passed away. M. O'Reilly stated beginning April 1, 2023, Medicaid participants will have to recertify. M. O'Reilly stated Medicaid participants will receive the recertification paperwork at their current addresses. Currently there are many outdated addresses. M. O'Reilly conveyed the need update the participants information. M. O'Reilly stated the recertification paperwork will be mailed in April. This mailing will occur over 12 months. Once a press release is sent out it will be shared with the committee.

IV. 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.

K. Merson answered a question regarding Suboxone, and if treatment can be continued if an individual arrives with a plan in place. K. Merson advised if the individual has already been inducted and on the maintenance dosage, the program can continue to provide the maintenance dosage. K. Merson advised the program is unable to do the induction. K. Merson conveyed assisting the individual to connect with a provider that can help with the induction process.

K. Merson answered the question regarding if the EISS program is a good referral for people who are trying to get into an outpatient program with long waiting lists. K. Merson advised the individual needs to be in county for assistance. If the individual has an appointment already scheduled with another agency, we would be able to assist that individual and work up until that time they would need to leave. In doing so, we are not concerned about the individual decompensating and possibly ending up in a hospital setting.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Nominations for Chair/Vice-Chair: S. Nekola asked the group if anyone would like to nominate anyone of if they would like the chance to hold one of these roles themselves. R. Walker stated she would serve as the Chair.

L. Ranieri made a motion to nominate R. Walker as the Chair of PAC-PACADA. K. Bloodgood seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.

J. Denlinger asked what was required of the Chair and/or Vice-Chair. R. Walker conveyed the Chair and Co-Chair run the meetings and contribute to the planning of the meeting agenda. J. Denlinger stated she would like to serve as Vice-Chair of PAC-PACADA.

R. Walker made a motion to elect J. Denlinger the vice-chair of PAC-PACADA. L. Mermini seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.

V. AGENCY NEWS:

Hunterdon County STAR Program: D. LaClair reported the STAR program is providing Narcan to all participants and family members. D. LaClair stated her agency has received two state vehicles. A plan is being created on how to operate vehicle transportation to clients on an as needed basis.

Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board: J. Cassano reported continuing into their second year with the greater Raritan Pathways to Recovery Program. J. Cassano advised the program offers assistance for those impacted directly or indirectly from the Opioid epidemic with employment opportunities and training.

New Hope Integrated Behavioral Health Care: K. Bloodgood reported New Hope IBHC has detox and residential beds available for adults and adolescents as well as halfway houses for men and women.

Princeton House Behavioral Health: K. Isaac reported Princeton House is fully up and running for their Eatontown site. Virtual Treatment is available at their North Brunswick site.

Center for Family Services SHE Program: L. Vendome reported as of January 1, 2023, Family Guidance Center has merged with Center for Family Business. There will not be any changes to the services offered and contact information remains the same.

Summit Oaks Hospital: R. Walker reported Summit Oaks Hospital has 5 beds for detox that are available for male or female individuals.

Prevention Resources: J. Denlinger advised Prevention Resources offers support for family members and loved ones with substance abuse disorders. J. Denlinger conveyed all meetings remain virtual at this time. Family Meetings will be held Wednesdays at 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Participants in the program are welcome to engage in daily activities.

There being no further business. A motion was made by K. Bloodgood, and R. Walker seconded by to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.