



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 2, 2023.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 2, 2023 5:30 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT

R. Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT

M. Deo
L. Hartman
W. Dudzinski
L. Cartwright

EX-OFFICIO

A. Wairimu

STAFF

M. O'Reilly
S. Nekola

GUESTS

J. Cassano
K. Merson
L. Oramas
S. Iraca

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.”

ROLL CALL:

The regular public meeting was opened at 5:30 p.m. Introductions were made.

Due to the public health crisis, COVID-19, this meeting was held virtually ONLY

S. Nekola stated she is the Division Head of Social Work Services for Hunterdon County.

J. Cassano stated she is with the Greater Raritan Workforce Board and representing the Pathways to Recovery Program.

K. Merson stated she is the Clinician Supervisor for the Rutgers EISS in Hunterdon County.

L. Oramas stated she is the Program Analyst for Rutgers EISS.

R. Walker stated she is with Summit Oaks Hospital.

S. Iraca stated she is with Hunterdon County Prosecutors Office.

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

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

II. A. *MINUTES: Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting minutes of December 1, 2022, and January 5, 2023 will be tabled at the March 2, 2023 Meeting.

B. CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence at this time.

III. REPORTS:

A. County Update: M. O'Reilly reported she has spoken with S. Becker regarding Narcan (Naloxone) 365. This is a state partnership with pharmacies to provide Narcan (Naloxone) to anyone over the age of fourteen (14). M. O'Reilly conveyed she will provide an update when she receives additional information.

B. State Update: A. Wairimu reported there are two new Requests for Proposals out. One is for Recovery Management Check-Up for Individuals Experiencing Substance Use Challenges. The second RFP is for Residential Services for Individuals from Nursing Facilities. A. Wairimu stated dates, funding amounts and additional information regarding these RFPs can be disseminated to the group.

A. Wairimu stated there will be a CTR Training held at the New Jersey Center of Excellence. Kickoff for this training will begin Thursday, February 9th from 10:00 – 11:00 am via Zoom. New Jersey adult mental health programs are eligible to participate. You can register using this link:<https://beckinstitute.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtd-uprjopGtyfUyRghhwoJwW3jXdEnfx9>

A. Wairimu reported the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is seeking individuals to serve on the statewide Professional Advisory Committee. For those interested, more information can be found on the Division website.

A. Wairimu conveyed DCA's Winter Termination Program is effective through March 15, 2023. Eligible individuals can receive assistance with electric, sewer, and water service from a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative.

A. Wairimu encourages agencies to check the Division website for available funding opportunities.

B. NAMI Hunterdon Update: No report at this time.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Stigma Update: No report at this time.

B. Agency News:

Rutgers EISS Program: K. Merson reported the EISS Program had nine (9) enrollments for the month of January. This was a large increase with only one (1) enrollment for the month of December. K. Merson conveyed Rutgers EISS has been outreaching throughout Hunterdon County with hopes to continue to increase their number of enrollments. K. Merson stated she has met with A. Bassetti and his team twice, presented at several meetings and agencies including PAC-PACADA, LACADA, HSAC, Bridgeway Support Housing, Easter Seals, and Catholic Charities. K. Merson reported she just recently met with Hunterdon County Probation. K. Merson advised she is open to any suggestions for agencies she can meet with.

Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board: J. Cassano conveyed the Pathways to Recovery Program works with individuals touched by substance abuse issues especially the opioid epidemic. The program provides job readiness screening, and assistance with employment. J. Cassano conveyed the program was set to end on January 1, 2023, but GRWDB has received an extension through the end of June. J. Cassano reported the program has helped over thirty (30) individuals, with hopes to increase that number in the coming months. Any referrals can be sent to the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board. The program is funded federally through the State and Somerset County. The Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board was the recipient of the Co-ordination Program, and they are working with Prevention Links to provide one-on-one training and employment counseling.

Summit Oaks Hospital: R. Walker conveyed Summit Oaks Hospital still has seven (7) detox beds available. R. Walker stated Summit Oaks is one of the two (2) hospitals in New Jersey that accepts Medicare for detox, New Bridge being the other. R. Walker conveyed Summit Oaks is a short-term hospitalization stay; the average length of stay is seven – fourteen (7-14) days. Patients are stabilized then discharged to a different level of care. R. Walker stated anyone over the age of five (5) can be treated. R. Walker reported the IOP Program is up and running and accepts all insurances. The IOP Program can be completed virtually or in-person.

Hunterdon County Division of Human Services: S. Nekola reported the DRCCs (Disaster Response Crisis Counselors) in Hunterdon, Warren, and Somerset Counties are planning a training for March 8, 2023. The training even will take place in Hunterdon County. S. Nekola conveyed a flyer with additional information will be shared when she receives it.

R. Walker made a motion and J. Cassano seconded to adjourn the meeting of February 2, 2023. All were in favor. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m. The next meeting will be on March 2, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.