



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

Draft to be approved September 20, 2023.

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 2:30 p.m.
Human Services Conference Room I, Building 3
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

MEMBERS PRESENT

E. Newton
K. Schwartz
M. Logan

STAFF

S. Becker
M. O'Reilly
A. DeLuca

GUESTS/PACADA LIAISON

L. Vendome
E. Cohen
J. Leonard
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.”

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.

S. Becker stated she is the Drug and Alcohol Director for Hunterdon County.

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

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

E. Cohen stated she is the Director at Prevention Resources.

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

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

M. Logan stated she is a community member and Chair of LACADA.

S. Iraca stated she a Community Outreach Liaison at the Hunterdon County Prosecutors Office.

K. Schwartz stated he is attending as a community representative in recovery.

II. MINUTES: E. Newton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 15, 2023. K. Schwartz seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

III. REPORTS:

A. County Update: M. O'Reilly stated S. Becker and Hope One accompanied Operation Helping Hand and attended Shad Fest. She congratulated them on a job well done. S. Becker and the Hope One staff made over three hundred (300) contacts and trained fifty-one (51) individuals to administer Naloxone. M. O'Reilly thanked the Prosecutors Office for extending the invite to S. Becker and Hope One.

M. O'Reilly announced the Division of Housing is opening their Housing Choice Voucher waiting list. She stated the list will be on-line and will be open June 1, 2023 through June 15, 2023. A flyer has been circulated to all Human Services contacts. M. O'Reilly conveyed the application is the first step of the process. Once preliminary applications are submitted, they are entered into a lottery pool, a computer then selects the specified number of individuals who will be placed on the waiting list. The waiting list was last open in 2018. M. O'Reilly conveyed staff will be available to assist individuals June 1st through the 15th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Two information sessions will be held to teach interested agencies about the application process in order to assist clients.

M. O'Reilly announced L. Nauman, the Division Head of Seniors, Disabilities and Veterans Services, has left her position with the County. She added, Susan Nekola, the Division Head of Social Work Services, was approved by the Board of Commissioners to oversee both divisions.

M. O'Reilly conveyed the County received feedback from the State regarding the CCP. M. O'Reilly and S. Becker made revisions and submitted the plan back to the State and are waiting for final approval.

M. O'Reilly announced the Stigma Free Task Force is holding a Stigma Free Walk with the local Rotary Clubs. She conveyed the last Stigma Free walk coordinated with the Rotaries was held in 2020 or 2021 in Clinton, however, this is a larger endeavor. The walk will be taking place at Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) on Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Flyers have been distributed. S. Becker added it is a family friendly event and there will be a face painter, healthy yoga exercises along with other activities. The Task Force is looking for agencies from Hunterdon and Somerset Counties to participate. Anyone interested in participating can contact S. Becker. L. Vendome expressed her interest in attending and stated she will email S. Becker.

A. Municipal Alliance Program: A. DeLuca reported with the end of the school year approaching, all five (5) alliances have scheduled their May meetings. She stated Delaware Valley Municipal Alliance and Central Hunterdon Municipal Alliances have met and discussed

programming for next school year. South Hunterdon, North Hunterdon and Voorhees Municipal Alliances are scheduled to meet next week. A. DeLuca conveyed email communication and phone calls in between monthly meetings with alliance members and herself have continued. This communication ensures the goals of programming are a constant conversation and that goals are accomplished.

A. DeLuca reported all alliances did well spending down their funds and submitting their bills on time. The Municipal Alliances collectively left only \$159.24 unspent. In total, all five (5) Municipal Alliances, spent 99.63% of the grant. A. DeLuca is proud of the teamwork, collaboration and effort that has been put into this program. She requested feedback from each individual alliance regarding the programming that they received. All five (5) alliances gave positive feedback, and they are satisfied with the programs that have run.

A. DeLuca advised the 3rd quarter report was due to GCADA on April 28, 2023, and it was submitted before the deadline. The 4th quarter report is due September 29, 2023.

A. DeLuca conveyed since the Educational Services Commission (ESC) is no longer handling the billing for the Hunterdon County Municipal Alliance Program, a new entity has been established. She reported the new fiscal agent will be the Hunterdon County Finance Department. The billing process will remain the same as it was when it was carried out through ESC. When a program is completed, the bills will be submitted to the alliance's coordinator. The Municipal Alliance Coordinator will then check that all figures are correct. If the figures are correct, the Municipal Alliance Coordinator will then send the bill(s) to A. DeLuca to be reviewed. Once bill(s) are approved/finalized by A. DeLuca, they will then be sent to the Hunterdon County Finance Department.

A. DeLuca reported the FY2024 County Municipal Plan Grant process is well on its way to being completed. She is waiting on a few outstanding documents which she anticipates receiving soon.

M. Logan asked if there was any update on meeting with 6th – 8th grade students. She advised she met with Lebanon School Board. M. Logan conveyed the school is hesitant to have Naloxone onsite because it is an elementary school. Discussion ensued.

- B. **PACADA Update:** S. Becker stated PACADA is status quo. PACADA has heard feedback from across the State that there is an issue with Social Workers receiving their licenses. S. Becker conveyed they have informed the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Social Workers are running into issues with the licensing board. Agencies are having troubles with staffing and keeping clinicians. She added there is a strong need for Psychiatrists which is causing long waiting lists. Long waiting lists is an issue across the State of New Jersey.
- C. **HSAC Update:** M. O'Reilly conveyed she presented on the Community Needs Assessment Survey at the last HSAC meeting. The survey received a little less than five hundred (500) responses, which was much lower than the number of responses received last year. She stated agencies did an excellent job pushing the survey out the last week of March. She reported this year's results were similar to the results of the last survey that was administered with the caveat of food needs being very prevalent in the responses. M. O'Reilly conveyed she is still sorting through the comments that were received. She stated there were approximately one hundred and thirty (130) comments received. The comments are being categorized and the survey

results will help the County build Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the years 2024 through 2026.

M. Logan asked what the barriers were for the number of responses. M. O'Reilly stated she thinks there is a survey fatigue for individuals. The Needs Assessment Survey was between fifty (50) and sixty (60) questions long dependent on how questions were answered. M. O'Reilly stated the food insecurities stood out because the County has not seen that high of a need before. Food pantries have reported dramatic increased that have not let up since the pandemic.

M. Logan wanted to open discussion regarding a drive thru food drive. She conveyed Flemington Baptist Church is offering a Memorial Day meal delivery. She stated it would be great to see non-profit organizations and even public organizations contribute. She suggested partnering with organizations to raise awareness. Discussion ensued. M. O'Reilly suggested continuing this discussion off-line at a later time.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **By-Laws:** S. Becker shared the LACADA By-Laws with the suggested changes to the group. She conveyed the changes are indicated in yellow highlights. Once the By-Laws are voted on, they will be sent to the County Commissioners for approval. The term *Freeholder* was changed to *Commissioner* to reflect the new language. S. Becker conveyed a By-Laws subcommittee meeting was held to discuss the term that would replace drug *abuse*. All options and opinions were shared. She conveyed the consensus was that there is not another term at this time that the subcommittee could come up with. She advised the word *mis-use* is being pushed by the State and other counties in hopes to destigmatize. The subcommittee agreed to use the term *mis-use* in the By-Laws and continue to search for another term. She added the By-Laws are a living document and they can be revisited when needed.

S. Becker stated the *State Division on Alcoholism* will be changed to *NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)*. She added the final change is updating CASS's By-Laws to reflect LACADA's. A quorum of the CASS subcommittee shall consist of *50% of voting members* rather than 4 persons. S. Becker asked if there were any questions, comments, or objections to these changes.

M. Logan made a motion to accept the updates to the By-Laws presented by S. Becker. E. Newton seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Erin Cohen – Prevention Resources, Juvenile Education re substances:** E. Cohen introduced herself as the Prevention Director at Prevention Resources. She conveyed K. Schwartz, who works at Prevention Resources in the Recovery Center, reached out to her after the last LACADA meeting regarding the discussion about prevention education in schools. She read the minutes of the previous meeting to get familiar with what was discussed.

E. Cohen reported all Prevention Education that Prevention Resources provides is evidence-based programming. She conveyed Prevention Resources is present in all high schools, all middle schools, and some elementary schools in Hunterdon County. They have age-appropriate programs on Alcohol Literacy, varying from serving sizes to binge drinking to the

9-1-1 lifeline legislation. Current Trends is another program topic. This program discusses what is currently being seen, all different substances and the information is constantly changing. E. Cohen conveyed starting last year, Prevention Resources received a lot of schools requesting diversity and inclusion programs. She stated the political climate has caused a lot of problems in schools. Prevention Resources has presented age-appropriate information on diversity and inclusion in both elementary and middle schools.

E. Cohen shared Prevention Resources has a *Don't Get Vaped In* Program. This program discusses the dangers of vaping, the history of vaping, social media and things that influence vaping. She conveyed a new program started this year, *Empowering Girls*. Data gathered by Prevention Resources concurs that girls are using substances more than boys. This middle school level program is five (5) weeks long. *Footprints for Life* is a six (6) week program specific for 2nd and 3rd grade elementary students. Puppets are used to tell stories, teach different life skills, conflict resolution, coping, and diversity. Cyber safety and social media are other programs Prevention Resources is receiving a lot of requests for. *Digital Footprints* and *Cyber Bullying* are programs that discuss what can happen and how things follow you. *Life Skills* is an eight (8) week program that offered to middle school levels. Substances are discussed during *Life Skills*, along with social media, anger management, and coping.

E. Cohen advised Prevention Resources offers Opioid Prevention. She stated *Fentanyl Factor*, which was a topic of discussion at the last LACADA meeting, is shown to high school students. *Pills to Heroin* and other similar program topics are offered. E. Cohen advised Fentanyl is big right now, so Prevention Resources is receiving a lot of requests for these programs. *Over the Counter Medicine Safety* is another program. This program discusses over the counter medication and how to stay safe with it. This program is offered all the way from high school to elementary school. The *Over the Counter Medicine Safety* also discusses how prescription medication and over the counter medicine are different.

E. Cohen reported Prevention Resources offers Prevention Programs that are personality based. These programs are targeted and are not universal. Students take a personality test and there is education that goes along with that specifically. She conveyed this is a new program and Prevention Resources is having a difficult time implementing it because it is targeted to specific individuals and not for everyone.

E. Cohen stated Prevention Resources provides *fatal vision goggles* as an interactive program. These are given to middle and high school students. The alcohol goggles and marijuana goggles demonstrate the effects of what happens with alcohol impairment and the cognitive impairments of marijuana. She conveyed activities such as mazes, ball toss, and connect four go along with the fatal vision goggles. This is a popular program for drivers ed, they explain how if you feel different you drive different. E. Cohen reported this program is well received and Prevention Resources continues to add more goggles to their collection.

E. Cohen advised Prevention Resources also provides Prevention Education to adults. School staff often ask what vaping devices look like, and what they should look for in a student who is under the influence. She stated they present to school staff as well as parents. Prevention Resources shows adults the vaping products, what to look for, and where youths may be hiding these items. They also create short PSAs for parents. These PSAs are typically no longer than two (2) minutes long and include information on topics such as: Delta 8, Fentanyl, and locking up substances in their home.

E. Cohen reported in 2022, Prevention Resources reached 3,945 students. As of right now, E. Cohen believes they have reached 3,000 students thus far in 2023. She stated they are fortunate to be in the schools and working with schools on a daily basis. They are currently working with florists during the prom season. When a corsage or boutonniere is purchased for prom, a prom kit is provided. The prom kit includes information on how to stay safe, a compact comb, mints, tissues, and items. Prevention Resources also partnered with Safe in Hunterdon to talk about consent.

E. Cohen reported Prevention Resources is working on getting Narcan into the schools. She conveyed it is more difficult with the younger grades because the schools do not think there is a need for it. E. Cohen asked if there were any questions.

M. Logan stated she would like to speak with E. Cohen off-line after the meeting. E. Cohen expressed the difficulties of discussing substances with parents because they believe it will not happen to their children. She added School Boards are also hesitant to allow Prevention Resources to provide programming. Discussion ensued.

E. Cohen stated Prevention Resources is working with the food pantry. She conveyed post cards with information are included in the family meals. If parents complete the survey linked to the postcard, they can win a ShopRite gift card. This is one way Prevention Resources gets information out to parents. Prevention Resources is always looking for new agencies to partner with. Discussion ensued.

K. Schwartz thanked E. Cohen for speaking to LACADA.

- B. CCP Update:** S. Becker reported she received the County Comprehensive Plan back from the State with their suggested corrections. She stated the plan is divided into five (5) sections and most sections passed and only had a few comments/suggestions. She advised one section was fixed due to a misunderstanding. It is her understanding that the State has every intention to approve Hunterdon County's CCP very shortly. By September, S. Becker will have a summary to share with LACADA.

S. Becker conveyed the plan covers just about everything that was covered in the previous plan in addition to expanding a few services. Most counties cover sober living, Hunterdon County only has one (1) sober living site in county, so this may be discussed for the next funding cycle. S. Becker is confident the County will receive an award letter soon.

M. Logan asked what the condition of the Hope One van is. M. O'Reilly stated there may be an opportunity to upgrade/replace it with the Opioid Settlement funds, however, that is up to the Opioid Settlement Funds Task Force. S. Becker stated Operation Helping Hand is always willing to help in case of an emergency. S. Iraca stated Operation Helping Hand has purchased a van through a grant and it is currently being outfitted. The van will have a seating area inside for clients to speak with recovery specialists. She added the van will be able to provide resources. S. Becker and S. Iraca have discussed schedules for Operation Helping Hand and Hope One to go out into the community together and provide Narcan to individuals.

C. News and Updates:

S. Becker reported as of the Shad Festival, the County had given out all the Narcan they had on site. She conveyed more Narcan was ordered and DMHAS had one hundred (100) doses of Narcan delivered to the County in less than one (1) week. S. Iraca asked if the County had

Fentanyl test strips. S. Becker answered they do not, she will speak to M. O'Reilly regarding this matter.

S. Becker announced she discovered a new resource, the Black Poster Project. She conveyed it is a website as well as posters, that travel the country devoted to individuals who have lost their lives to overdose. She added the black posters are created by friends and family members. The pages of the website are in alphabetical order and include the individuals' birth and death dates. A story, bio, or poem that has been shared by friends or family members is available when an individual's picture is clicked on. S. Becker stated there is a separate page dedicated to military members. The website is moving to look through. Donations can be made on the website as well.

L. Vendome reported the Black Poster Project will be at Raritan Valley Community College for the Tri-County Awareness Day on August 26th. The peer recovery groups from Hunterdon, Somerset, and Warren Counties have been working together to make this happen. The posters present will be of tri-county residents who have lost their lives to overdose.

L. Vendome announced a new grant has been awarded to all counties in New Jersey. The grant is called New Jersey Statewide Support Student Services (NJ4S). She advised the grant will offer support and provide more awareness in the schools. She added it will be a hub approach, with different tier levels. There is an advisory board comprised of teachers, board members, social services, and community members. This grant will begin in September.

S. Becker announced Hunterdon County is updating the Mental Health and Substance Use resources. Once the tri-fold brochure is completed, she will share it with the group. She added the GIS mapping system for Mental Health and Substance Use is available on the Human Services website. The map is interactive, and includes location, hours, phone numbers, and insurance that is accepted at each agency.

L. Vendome announced the Center for Family Services is holding a symposium titled *A Women's Journey Through Pregnancy and Recovery*. The symposium is virtual and will include expert speakers discussing mental health screening for pregnant women, medication assisted treatment, and harm reduction. The National Center of Substance Use, Child Welfare and DMHAS will also be presenting.

S. Iraca stated she does not have a Prosecutor's Update or any numbers to share. S. Becker reported the most recent report she was given disclosed there have been nineteen (19) overdoses in Hunterdon County with one (1) being fatal. She added Xylazine is still a big topic of discussion and on everyone's radar.

There being no further business the meeting of May 17, 2023 was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next LACADA meeting will be held Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.