



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

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



908-788-1253
908-788-1372
908-806-4204 FAX

P.O. Box 2900
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-2900
(Location: 8 Gauntt Place)

humansvc@co.hunterdon.nj.us

- REFERENCE:**
- Council
 - Mental Health
 - Youth
 - Disabled
 - Substance Use Disorder
 - Transportation

Approved July 20, 2023

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE

Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
Human Services Conference Room I, Building 3
Flemington, New Jersey 08822
And via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

R. Walker
L. Ranieri
J. Denlinger
P. Manzini
L. Mermini
M. Dematos
K. Bloodgood
A. Villano

EX-OFFICIO

A. Wairimu
J. Verney

STAFF

M. O'Reilly

GUESTS

K. Merson
C. Isaac
T. Kero
K. Feaster
S. Iraca
P. Vitale

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 PAC-PACADA was opened at 1:00 p.m. with the reading of the Open Public Meetings statement. Introductions were made by all participants.

II. MINUTES: A motion was made by C. Isaac and seconded by L. Mermini to approve the minutes of March 16, 2023. All were in favor. The motion carried.

ROLL CALL:

M. O'Reilly introduced herself as the Human Services Administrator of Hunterdon County.

J. Denlinger introduced herself as the Family Support Advocate with Sharing the Hope of Prevention Resources.

K. Merson introduced herself as the Clinician Supervisor for Early Intervention Support Services.

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

L. Ranieri introduced herself as working for Hackensack Meridian Carrier Clinic.

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

L. Mermini introduced herself as the Clinical Supervisor for Catholic Charities Outpatient Programs for Warren and Hunterdon Counties.

M. Dematos introduced himself as working for the Hunterdon Medical Center as the Coordinator with the Hunterdon County Opioid Overdose Recovery Program OORP.

P. Vitale Introduced himself as representing Sober Fit 2, a Sober Living House in Clinton New Jersey.

P. Manzini introduced himself as the Hunterdon County Probation Supervisor who oversees Mental Health and Sex Offender Cases.

R. Walker introduced herself as working for Summit Oaks Hospital.

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

A. Wairimu introduced herself as the Program Analyst for the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Program for Hunterdon County.

K. Feaster introduced herself as working for Safe in Hunterdon

J. Verney introduced himself as the Northern Regional Coordinator for the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

T. Kero stated she is with the Department of Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention Department / Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator that covers Central and Southern New Jersey.

S. Iraca introduced herself as the coordinator of Operation Helping Hand for the Hunterdon County Prosecutors Office

III. REPORTS:

- A. Mental Health Board (MHB) Update:** M. O'Reilly announced that the Stigma Free Walk is occurring on June 3, 2023, from 11:00am to 3:00pm on the track at Raritan Valley Community College. There will be agencies participating and providing information to the attendees. If your agency would like to sign up to participate, please contact S. Becker.

M. O'Reilly reported that every municipality in Hunterdon County is now Stigma Free. It was announced at the Commissioners Meeting on May 2, 2023, also Human Services was presented with a proclamation honoring May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

M. O'Reilly communicated that S. Becker would like to discuss comments that were brought up at the last Mental Health Board Meeting (MHB) regarding the short staffing for psychiatrists. This has been an ongoing issue not just in the state but nationwide. M. O'Reilly also mentioned the state is looking to issue Requests for Proposal (RFP) for Mobile Response for Mental Health.

B. Division of Mental Health Services (DMHAS) Update: A. Wairimu reported that it is the 2024 Fiscal Year contract season and contracts are due, if any providers need extensions, please contact your contract analyst. For those individuals who are ARC providers, monthly reports are no longer required, an email has been sent out stating this. Beginning in July 2023, providers will be required to submit reports on a quarterly basis. Here are the due dates going forward:

First Quarter - January – March – due April 15, 2023

Second Quarter - April - June – due July 15, 2023

Third Quarter - July - September - due October 15, 2023

Fourth Quarter - October - December - due January 15, 2024

Attorney General Matthew Platkin has announced a new multi-faceted effort to curb problem gambling. The Attorney General announced several new initiatives to bolster the offices existing responsible gaming efforts as well as establish a new position dedicated to responsible gambling. This effort will create new advertising standards for operators and simplify access to the Self-Exclusion Program for players struggling with gaming disorders. Further information can be found at the following link: <https://www.njoag.gov/ag-platkin-announces-new-multi-faceted-efforts-to-curb-problem-gambling/>

A. Wairimu reported there are upcoming New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council Listening Sessions. These sessions will be in person. The first session is May 22, 2023, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Mercer County College. The second session is June 12, 2023, from 10:00am to 12:00pm at Camden County College and the third session is June 22, 2023, from 11:00am to 1:00pm at Essex County College. To register for the sessions, see the following link: <https://www.nj.gov/opioidfunds/>

A. Wairimu reported one Request for Proposal (RFP) for Independent Peer Review. The Division announced that there will be a fund for credentialed substance use professionals to provide independent peer review for quality and appropriateness of treatment services for substance use treatment facilities funded by the Division. The Division is seeking 3 qualified individuals to complete separate Intensive Psychiatric Rehabilitation (IPR) evaluations for Substance Use Treatment Facilities within the North, South and Central regions. Applicants must have a Master's or a Doctoral Degree, be an active Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC) with a minimum of 3 years' experience as a clinical supervisor of long and short-term residential programs in substance use facilities. Each candidate will be awarded \$700.00 dollars per day or a maximum of \$2100.00 dollars per review. The total expenditure on the RFP is not to exceed \$6300.00 dollars combined. The deadline to submit for the RFP is June 13, 2023. Information regarding this RFP is available at the following link:

<https://nj.gov/humanservices/providers/grants/rfprfi/RFPfiles/DMHAS%20Independent%20Peer%20Review%20RFP.pdf>

A. Wairimu informed the committee that there is a Quarterly Provider Meeting coming up on June

8, 2023. Go to the following link to register:

https://dhs-nj-gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_u6ucelrnQdWzR2HcbCe1qA

J. Verney reported Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke conveyed earlier this week at the County Mental Health Administrators meeting that there will be an RFP for a Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Team. The Mobile Crisis Outreach Team falls under the 988 system. There will be two crisis teams. The teams will consist of one clinician and one crisis staff member to cover all areas of the State. The teams will not be utilizing law enforcement. The division does anticipate putting out a visual guidance document to let the public, providers and stakeholders see the basic differences between screening and the to be developed teams.

P. Manzini asked what is the average response time for someone who is having a crisis? J. Verney discussed that in their System Review Committee data, the expectations are outdated. The response times are from one to two hours. A response time of one hour applies to a non-controlled setting, which includes a community setting such as a park or family residence. A response time of two hours applies for controlled settings which include hospitals, police stations, nursing homes and partial care programs. In the past several screening programs were not meeting the goal of 100 percent in responses. Screening programs, like other mental health programs in the state and country are having ongoing staffing challenges. Discussion Ensued.

- C. **County Update:** M. O'Reilly reported the Hope One team joined Operation Helping Hand at the Shad Fest. She would like to thank S. Iraca and her team at Operation Helping Hand for allowing Hope One to work alongside them at the festival. Hope One was able to provide 51 doses of Narcan, which are free to the public and met with over 300 people to provide them with resources.

The Division of Housing has sent out an updated flyer on opening their Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list. Preliminary Applications are currently being accepted and the list will be open from June 1, 2023, through June 15, 2023. The application is posted online through the Division of Housing's website. There will be staff available during regular business hours Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm to assist individuals who do not have access to the internet to apply online. The Division is hosting webinars for community agencies so those agencies will be able to assist their clients. The first webinar will be on May 23, 2023, at 3:00pm.

The Division of Senior Disabilities and Veterans Services Department Division Head Laine Nauman announced that she will be resigning, her last day was May 12, 2023. Susan Nekola has taken on additional responsibilities to cover both the Social Work Services Division and Division of Senior Disabilities and Veterans Services effective May 17, 2023.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None at this time.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **Stigma Free Walk:** M. O'Reilly reported the Stigma Free walk is June 3, 2023. If your agency has not reached out to S. Becker to join, please do so. This is a free event and the only thing you need to bring is your own table.
- B. **County Comprehensive Plan (CCP) Update:** M. O'Reilly reported that the CCP Plan was received back from the state. M. O'Reilly stated she and S. Becker looked at the suggested edits that the state had sent. There were very minor clarifications needed and S. Becker sent the corrections back to the state yesterday. The state will be in contact if there are any further edits or

corrections that need to be made.

V. AGENCY NEWS/UPDATES:

Princeton House Behavioral Health: C. Isaac reported as of March 2023 the North Brunswick site for Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) has started seeing individuals in person. They are up and running for all adult and adolescent tracks.

Operation Helping Hand: S. Iraca announced Operation Helping Hand has had delivery of the van they purchased. The van will give the opportunity for the Prosecutors Office to go out to offer treatment service opportunities to anyone. The van outfitting has essentially been completed and they hope to have it at the Stigma Walk on June 3, 2023. There will be a map of Hunterdon County on the outside and the inside will be fitted with banquette seating and a table. There will be a small tv mounted to share available resources and services as well as the Hunterdon County interactive site for accessing treatment. There is no update on substance mis-use numbers as of now as R. Neiber is out of the office.

There being no further business. A motion was made by R. Walker and seconded by C. Isaac to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.