



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 September 21, 2023.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE

Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 20, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
Human Services Conference Room I, Building 3
Flemington, New Jersey 08822
And via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

EX-OFFICIO

T. Wilson

STAFF

M. O'Reilly
S. Nekola

GUESTS

C. Isaac
S. Bacchetta
K. Merson
M. Deo
L. Vendome
J. Mealey
D. Robinson

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 L. Ranieri and seconded by J. Denlinger to approve the minutes of May 18, 2023. All were in favor. The motion carried.

III. REPORTS:

- A. Mental Health Board (MHB) Update:** M. O'Reilly reported the Mental Health Board has not held a meeting in a few months. She announced Ellie Mental Health recently opened in the community. She thanked J. Mealey and S. Bacchetta for attending today's meeting. Ellie Mental Health treats adults as well as adolescents beginning at the age of five (5). They accept most insurances and are in the process of accepting Medicare and Medicaid. J. Mealey announced Ellie Mental Health received their group contract with Medicare yesterday.

M. O'Reilly conveyed staffing for mental health with long waiting lists continues to be an issue. The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is aware of this concern and they are working on ways to alleviate the staffing issues. There are upcoming Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and legislation that should assist with some of the mental health staffing struggles.

M. O'Reilly shared the fee for service rates are changing due to the passing of the new budget. Contracted agencies should be on the lookout for the new rates.

- B. Division of Mental Health Services Update:** T. Wilson reported the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved additional behavioral health services to be carved into managed care, as a part of the NJ FamilyCare Comprehensive Demonstration. Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) are hosting sessions to share the details of implementation and solicit feedback from stakeholders, NJ FamilyCare members, communities served, and the overall healthcare community. The virtual stakeholder kick-off meeting will be held on Monday, July 24, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. The link to register is as follows and registration for the event closes at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 21, 2023. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SoabKjAbSOySvSJ1tu9eUg#/registration. She added this event will be recorded, and the webinar will be posted to the DMAHS and DMHAS webpages for individuals who are unable to attend.

T. Wilson announced there was an RFP out for Building Capacity in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programs to Provide Medications for SUD 2023. The RFP was awarded to New Bridge Services in Morris County, NJ.

T. Wilson reported there is a save the date for the NJ Opioid Summit. The event is scheduled to take place on September 20, 2023. The topic will be Revitalizing Communities: Healing Together from the Opioid Crisis.

Lastly, T. Wilson reported the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) provided guidance to remind & encourage contracted agencies to submit consumer caseload data file, in advance of the rollout of the new, secure, web based USTF+ application. Agencies are not obligated to take advantage of this time-saving opportunity, but T. Wilson advised upon rollout of this new system, all agencies will have sixty (60) days in which to manually key-in their entire caseload information into the system.

- C. County Update:** M. O'Reilly reported the Division of Housing opened their Section 8 waiting list lottery. The lottery has been drawn and applicants will receive notice in the mail regarding whether or not they were selected.

M. O'Reilly announced the Division Head of Senior, Disability, and Veteran Services, L. Nauman resigned in May. S. Nekola is now the Division Head of Social Work Services and Senior, Disability, and Veteran Services.

M. O'Reilly stated B. Metzger retired from her position in DSDVS at the end of June. She added P. Rey from DSDVS will also be retiring the end of July.

M. O'Reilly reported the State recently shared flyers regarding SNAP skimming that has been going on. She conveyed Hunterdon County has experienced this and it is happening throughout the country. M. O'Reilly conveyed a flyer with prevention information can be shared with anyone interested.

M. O'Reilly announced the Opioid Settlement Task Force has released a community survey to receive feedback on how to utilize the funds the County will receive. M. O'Reilly shared the link to the survey and encouraged the group to share it with the community (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HDDN3JY>).

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Introducing NJ4S – Linda Vendome & Dinette Robinson: L. Vendome introduced herself as the Assistant Director, D. Robinson as the Director, and M. Deo as the Prevention Consultant Supervisor of NJ4S (Statewide Student Support Services). L. Vendome reported this is a new program that the Department of Children and Families has awarded to the Center For Family Services. Their hub will cover the counties of Warren, Hunterdon, and Somerset.

Who we are: The Center For Family Services is a leading non-profit social services provider offering a strong and innovative continuum of care with comprehensive and evidence-based services. Headquartered in Camden City, Egg Harbor Township, East Orange, and Washington, New Jersey, Center For Family Services offers life-changing services in convenient and accessible locations across the state.

Service Areas: Center For Family Services offers a comprehensive continuum of care and a broad range of services to best meet the current and changing needs across the New Jersey community. Services include safe and supportive housing, addiction and recovery, trauma and victim response, workforce development, family and support prevention, early childhood education, counseling and behavioral health and community connections.

Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S) Concept: The Statewide Student Support Services Network will expand New Jersey's School Linked Services to increase its reach far beyond the 2% of current NJ students. Their purpose is to ensure continuity of supports by engaging youth, families, and community with regional programming. NJ4S will be integrated with other major youth-serving systems throughout the state and maximize resources through the use of a statewide hub and spoke model. These reforms are timed to be fully operational for the 2023-2024 school year.

Three-Tiered Approach:

- Tiered services will be delivered using methods as determined by the advisory group and community engagement.

- Services will include programming in school buildings, remote services, or programming in community locations, such as Family Success Centers, or other partnered locations that are accessible to the community.

Tier 1 Services: *Supports grades K to 12*

- Includes universal prevention interventions that benefit all students.
- Services delivery through district-wide programming, workshops, and evidence-based interventions.
- Focus areas for interventions include mental health/well-being, social connections, job readiness and more.
- Examples of evidence-based interventions include Peers Making Peace, Teen Outreach Program (TOP), Good Behavior Game, Sources of Strength, Mental Health First Aid, Signs of Suicide, Botvin/Life Skills Training, Success for Kids and Project KIND.
- No application required.

Tier 2 Services: *Supports grades 6 to 12*

- Tier 2 includes early identification and focused prevention interventions.
- Services can be delivered through small group interventions, brief individualized early intervention services, and mentoring.
- Services also include linkages to existing programming and/or community resources.
- Application Required.

Tier 3 Services: *Supports grades 6 to 12*

- Includes assessment and brief individualized clinical interventions to youth to improve overall mental health/well-being.
- Support ongoing mental health needs, including referral for further evaluation and/or ongoing mental health counseling.
- Application Required.

Tri-County Needs Ranking

NJ4S staff is comprised of one (1) Hub Director, one (1) Assistant Director, three (3) Scheduling Coordinator/Support Staff, two (2) Supervising Prevention Consultants, fourteen (14) Prevention Consultants, and four (4) Licensed Clinicians. Staff will be based out of Washington and Somerville.

- Vicinage: 13 – Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties
- Total Students (unique count): 85,160
- Total Students (unique count) in High Need Districts/Municipalities: 42,890
- Total School Districts (unique count): 71
- High Need School Districts: 27

https://docs.google.com/document/d/17rZI5RMwZnMjA_rM3R4irJNLLaT7BE72/edit

Referral Process:

- The Department of Children and Families will work with each district to determine their “Point of Contacts”.
- These contacts will create a profile on the New Jersey Statewide Student Support Services Portal and submit a request for services.
- Based on the request, HUB staff will work with school personnel to determine the

best services options.

The website URL for the NJ4S portal is a work in progress and is not up and running yet.

Get Involved:

- Advisory Board
 - Be a part of the Board and help make decisions on what prevention program services are offered in your school district.
- Community Resource
 - Do you offer prevention services? Mental Health, substance use? Or other services that could benefit a student? Connect with us! We want to refer to you.
- Advocate of NJ4s
 - You hear a student is in need. There are services to help them. NJ4S Portal can give the contact information in their school district.
- School District – Point Of Contact (POC)

Advisory Group

- Each NJ4S hub will be required to establish and maintain an advisory group comprised of students, caregivers, school personnel, social service agencies, businesses, faith-based organizations, and other community leaders.
- This group will be required to be established at the formation of the hub, and will provide ongoing input on hub design areas of focus, supportive community resources, etc.
- Advisory groups will meet on a monthly basis.
- Topics that will be delivered to local school districts are chosen by the local Advisory Board.
- Topics for service delivery include Substance use prevention, sexual health and pregnancy prevention, suicide prevention, anti-bullying, violence prevention, and/or other prevention-focused areas of need.

How to get involved:

- If you are interested in joining NJ4s Advisory Board for your local vicinage, please contact the following:

General inquiries can be sent to Vicinage 13: NJ4SVicinage13@centerffs.org

- Danette Robinson MSOL, MPA,
Director of NJ4S Vicinage 13
Danette.Robinson@centerffs.org
- Linda Vendome
Assistant Director of NJ4S Vicinage 13
Linda.Vendome@centerffs.org

J. Mealey thanked L. Vendome for presenting to the group today and stated she will be signing up for the advisory board.

P. Manzini asked if they also do workforce development for youth? L. Vendome stated they are trying to establish different service providers that are available to provide workforce development for youth. Discussion ensued. She conveyed NJ4S will be uploading community resources onto their portal. They plan to connect with agencies within different counties. Discussion ensued.

B. Opioid Funds Community Survey: M. O'Reilly advised she shared the link for the Opioid Funds Community Survey in the chat (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HDDN3JY>). She conveyed the next step is to hold listening sessions and focus groups with the community. Once dates are scheduled, the details will be shared with the group. The sessions will be held for individuals experiencing opioid use disorder, other disorders and agencies members as well.

VI. AGENCY NEWS:

Prevention Resources: J. Denlinger announced Prevention Resources received two (2) new grants. One (1) grant is funding for the LGBTQ+ youth in high school. This grant will promote and collaboration and integration programs with youth and their families. The second grant is for a domestic abuse intervention. This grant will bring group and individual services to perpetrators of domestic violence. They hope to end the cycle of interpersonal violence. For more information about these grants contact J. Denlinger.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.