



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
- Disability Services
- Substance
- Use Disorder
- Transportation

Approved June 2, 2022

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 7, 2022 5:30 p.m.
Via Webex

MEMBERS PRESENT

W. Dudzinski
L. Hartman
R. Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT

M. Deo

EX-OFFICIO

D. Davis

STAFF

S. Becker
S. Nekola
M. O'Reilly

GUESTS

A. Villano

*PAC-PACADA Liaison - M. Margulies

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 recent public health crisis, COVID-19, this meeting was call in and Webex ONLY

S. Becker stated she is with the Department of Human Services as the Mental Health Administrator and Drug & Alcohol Director.

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

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

A. Villano stated she is the senior director for Recovery Services at Acenda Integrated Health, Inc.

L. Hartman stated she is a county resident and is attending the Mental Health Board representing NAMI Hunterdon.

M. Margulies stated he is with Summit Oaks Hospital and the liaison for the MHB and PAC/PACADA Chair.

R. Walker stated she is with Genpsych.

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

W. Dudzinski stated he is the Chairman of the Mental Health Board and CFO of NewBridge Services, Inc.

II. *A. MINUTES: L. Hartman made a Motion and R. Walker seconded to approve the March 3, 2022 meeting minutes.

B. CORRESPONDENCE: S. Becker thanked the members who provided their feedback and comments on the RFPs for the EISS. She compiled those and forwarded to DMHAS as requested. The primary award went out and final announcement will not be made until the final award is made because of an appeal process timeframe when providers may appeal.

III. REPORTS:

A. County Update: M. O'Reilly advised that the Hunterdon County Division of Housing will be hosting an in-person event that is scheduled to be held on Monday, April 25, 2022 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Court Street Park in Flemington. Housing providers, landlords and people who are looking for affordable housing resources had been invited and are expected to attend. In past years, a landlord breakfast had been very successfully achieved. This event will be outside with a rain date of April 29, 2022. A flyer will be distributed for attendance or sharing with clients.

M. O'Reilly reiterated she provided some information at last month's meeting regarding the State budget.

She conveyed the Department of Community Affairs received some additional funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. They are encouraging people who had been on the waiting list to remain in contact with DCA because there is a potential for them to received funding.

Additionally, through the Department of Community Affairs, a program had been designated for each eviction court to have a housing navigator assigned so people going through that process can speak with the assigned person.

M. O'Reilly stated S. Becker and herself attended the Hope One Symposium in Morris County last week. They are very excited to move forward with Hunterdon County's Hope One vehicle and Morris County had been very helpful and supportive. There were other counties who participated at this symposium. More to come at the next meeting.

Hunterdon County still has a COVID-19 test site open at the former Pier One location for rapid and PCR tests. It is free for people who are un-insured.

- B. State Update:** D. Davis provided her update on the RFPs: A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) called the Mobile Access to Medications for Substance Use Disorder. This is a (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response grant. The contracts issued for this term would be for one year from July 1, 2022 until June 30, 2023. This Request for Proposals (this RFP) is issued to implement an initiative that will enable agencies to travel to communities on a regular basis to provide low-threshold medication services to people with a substance use disorder (SUD) who encounter obstacles to receiving services at traditional “brick-and-mortar” treatment agencies. The selected bidder(s) in response to this RFP will purchase a Mobile Outreach Vehicle (MOV) to travel to areas of high need in the agency’s service area and prescribe medication to people with SUD or co-occurring SUD and mental illness. The total annualized funding is \$3,000,000 subject to Federal and State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to three (3) awards. Contractees will address the behavioral and medical health needs of, at minimum, 100 people and refer them to primary or specialty providers for needed services. Each Contractee will receive \$1,000,000, which will include start-up funds in the amount of \$300,000 for each Contractee to purchase the MOV. When the initiative ends, the MOV will be the property of DMHAS, and Contractees may continue to operate by renting the vehicle from DMHAS for a nominal cost. A mandatory bidders conference occurred on April 5, 2022, the proposal due date will be May 2, 2022 and the notification date is scheduled for May 23, 2022.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued by the New Jersey Department Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for the development of a Contingency Management program for stimulant use disorder. This RFP is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response to Grants (SOR). Funding is available for FFY 2022 and may be available for FFY 2023 depending on federal appropriations. The Contingency Management program is intended to be a two-year program. Total annualized funding is \$2,000,000.00 per year, subject to federal appropriations per year, which must include services and funds to provide contingency management for individuals who have a stimulant use disorder. DMHAS anticipates making five (5) awards up to \$400,000.00 each. There is no mandatory bidders conference for this grant. The bidders’ proposals were due by today, April 7, 2022 and the notification date is April 29, 2022.

Community Support Services will be having a documentation training for a brief overview of CSS and psychiatric rehabilitation. This will include the rehabilitation needs assessment, which is referred to the RNA, and the individualized rehabilitation plan, which is the IRP. This may be good for agencies with new staff or needing a refresher. The trainings will be on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 and Tuesday, April 26, 2022 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Zoom.

Training for scholarships via the Department of Health for behavioral health agencies in certified tobacco treatment specialists. This will provide funding for 50 scholarships for staff of mental health and addictions agencies to attend trainings that is part of the eligibility process to be a certified tobacco treatment specialist. In nominating a staff member in the agency would be making a commitment to provide on-site smoking cessation programs for clients. The virtual 2-day training would be provided by Rutgers’ Tobacco Dependence program. This will be held May 2 and May 3, 2022. The registration closes by the end of this month. Contracts for the providers will end June 30, 2022; end of year modifications are due no later than May 31, 2022. Any modification requested at are received after June 1, 2022 will not be approved unless it is critical to direct client services; that would be approved on a case-by-case

basis. Letters were sent out to the providers on March 30, 2022.

The 2023 fiscal year contract renewal letter is forthcoming.

W. Dudzinski inquired about the Medicaid 1115 waiver starting July 1, 2022 and any awareness of the proposed problems that the providers are seeing and the proposed implementation. D. Davis had not heard of any new updates. S. Becker added that she had heard at a DMHAS meetings that some updates had been made and it was put back up on the website for public comment. There are concerns about a possible renegotiating about the rates. D. Davis will get an update and share.

- C. **NAMI Hunterdon, Update:** L. Hartman stated NAMI Hunterdon has been involved with in other counties and are delighted to see the CIT training will be coming to Hunterdon County. She noted that as family members they always had someone participate in the trainings to provide that part of view as well as be a part of the presentation. W. Dudzinski added NAMI Hunterdon continues to make progress on the high school scholarship awards initiative and been in touch with the schools.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **May – Mental Health Awareness Month:** S. Becker opened by stating May is Mental Health Awareness Month and given the group are the MHB, she is interested if anyone has any ideas; anything to present as a board to educate the public. She noted the Stigma Free Facebook page or any kind of information as she knew the group wanted to do some kind of effort. It is a tricky endeavor to hold in person due to the pandemic. W Dudzinski suggested to invited providers in a virtual event to provide some of their services. NAMI of Hunterdon would hold an event that was educational to the community. L. Hartman conveyed she provided a short presentation to one of the Chamber of Commerce’s subgroups that focused on healthcare; the consequences of COVID tied with mental health. S. Becker announced the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an outdoor event on June 11, 2022. Discussion ensued.
- B. **CIT Training – Coming to Hunterdon – (Crisis Intervention Team)** S. Becker stated anyone can technically take the training however, it is more geared towards law enforcement. Agencies present, NAMI of Hunterdon presents to give an idea of what CIT is. Hunterdon County has several CIT trained officers; however, they were going through Union County. S. Nekola and S. Becker are on the planning board. The goal is to have all New Jersey officers trained in CIT.

CIT is a crisis intervention program. It is an innovative community-based approach to improve the outcome of encounters with law enforcement and people with a mental illness. In over 2700 communities, CIT programs create connections between law enforcement, mental health providers, hospital emergency services and individuals with mental illness and their families. Through collaborative community partnerships for intensive training, CIT improves communication, identifies mental health resources for those in crisis and ensures officer and community safety.

Some of the benefits of these programs brings community leaders together, as well has keep people with mental illness out of jail and in treatment on the road to recovery. Diversion programs such as CIT reduce arrests of people with mental illness while simultaneously increasing the likelihood that individuals will receive mental health services. CIT programs

also give officers more tools to do their jobs safely and more effectively. Research shows that CIT is associated with improving officer attitudes and knowledge about mental illness. For example, in Memphis, TN, CIT resulted in an 80% reduction of officer injuries during mental health crisis. It keeps law enforcement focused on crime, so some communities had found that CIT reduced the time officers spent responding to mental health calls and put them back into the community more quickly.

Reduced cost savings; it is difficult to estimate exactly how many diversion programs can save communities, however incarceration is costly compared to community-based treatment. In Detroit, someone with a mental illness in jail costs the community about \$31,000 a year while community-based mental health treatment costs about \$10,000.00 a year.

A CIT program designed for dispatchers had begun as well. It is unclear how many Hunterdon County dispatchers have been trained at this point.

L. Hartman inquired when the trainings will begin in Hunterdon County. S. Becker replied the Fall is looking promising to host these trainings. Discussion ensued regarding what locations throughout the county will host.

S. Becker announced she will ask Acenda Integrated Health, Inc. to provide a presentation at a future meeting.

W. Dudzinski raised the topic of an extreme shortage of psychiatrists for both adults and youth. Discussion ensued regarding the wages for personnel in these positions, as well as other critical positions.

A motion was made by R. Walker and seconded by L. Hartman. All were in favor. The motion passed. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 5, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.