

**MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
February 9, 2021**

In Attendance:

Thomas Dawson	Judy Kunec	Katie Faldetta	Deb Lukens	Jennifer Wolfson
Pat Devaney	Majken Mechling	Barry Keefe	Joe Landis	Bridget Deficcio
Amy Dindak	Sueanne Agger	Mary Dozier	Tom Maletto	Donna Groome
Greg Speed	Renee Pettit	Dasha Brown	Beth Weiss	Sharon Modzelewski

Call to Order

A virtual meeting was held due to COVID -19.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judy Kunec at 5:06 P.M.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting was made by Tom Maletto and seconded by Barry Keefe. Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak reported: 1) Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for the development of an Expanded Hour/Same Day Service to Methadone and Other Medications in Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) initiative. RFP is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's State Opioid Response grant (SOR). The SOR grant period is September 30, 2020 to September 29, 2022. Funding is available through September 29, 2021 and may be available through September 29, 2022, depending on Federal appropriations. The Expanded Hour/Same Day Service to Methadone and Other Medications in OTPs initiative is intended to be a two (2) year program. Total annualized funding is \$4,000,000, subject to Federal appropriations, which must include services to provide low threshold, on-demand Medication Assisted Treatment followed by treatment or referral to ongoing care for individuals with an opioid use disorder. These services create access to treatment by removing traditional barriers such as service hours. DMHAS anticipates making up to five (5) regionalized awards in the amount of \$800,000 for each award for one (1) year with the possibility of extending for up to \$800,000 for a second (2nd) year. There are 3 regions for the RFP (North, Central, South). Mandatory Bidders Conference was held 1/27/21. Proposal Due Date is 2/11/21 and Notification date is 3/5/21. 2) Request for Letter of Intent for Training and Supervising Peer Providers in Cognitive Therapy for Recovery to Assist Consumers Experiencing the Effects of COVID 19. February 9, 2021: Announcement of selected organizations. To empower peer to work more effectively within their scope of practice while honoring physical distancing and other mandates related to the COVID 19 pandemic. To provide state of the art virtual training and supervision in Cognitive Therapy for Recovery (CT-R) to approximately twelve (12) peer providers working in clinical settings in Hudson, Morris, Passaic and Union Counties). Total funding available is \$150,000.00 for one year. A detailed project budget will be requested upon award. 3) Single License for Co-Occuring; DMHAS continues to work to Develop of NJ DMHAS regulations for a single license for provision of both mental health and addiction issues. 4) National Lifeline Program and the 9-8-8 rollout; The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to

people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Currently the number is 1-800-273-TALK (8255) for callers to connect with Lifeline Services. 9-8-8 is not active yet. The anticipated activation date will be in the summer of 2022. 5) PATH PROVIDERS: PATH training series are being provided monthly via Zoom. This a collaboration between Community Health Law Project, Rutgers Health and DMHAS. Flyers were emailed to appropriate providers. 6) CSS Training are ongoing. Next training is scheduled. Registration deadline is 1/27/2021. Please reach out to Deborah Gravely or check DMHAS website for additional information. 7) COVID 19 vaccines: DMHAS is working collaboratively with DOH to make sure that the individuals living in congregate care settings like Group Homes and RHCF/BH get their vaccines. 8) Anyone in need of mental health services should contact: NJ Mental Health Cares (866)-202-HELP (4357) or Help@mentalhealthcares.org Helpline for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing is 973-870-0877. This helpline is operational Monday-Friday from 9 to 5. Now providing services via texts. 9) Covid 19 memos and other directives can be found on DMHAS website www.Njhelps.org for social services related assistance.

Addiction Services: No Report

GCADA: Sharon Modzelewski reported that the Municipal Alliance application process for FY 2022 is still paused until GCADA receives more information on the FY2022 level of funding. Pat Devaney reported that Sharon is transitioning into other office positions.

Old Business

Membership: Pat encouraged the Board members to seek other interested persons. She asked Jennifer Wolfson if she was considering joining. Jen said yes and Pat explained the process.

Heroin Issue Update: Hope One, OORP, Recovery Center: Sueanne's report on the OORP, Recovery Center and other programs is attached for reference. Joe reported that Hope One is on the road again and has been well received at its locations. Last week one person was able to access treatment right on site. Transportation is available through a grant with Ocean Inc. Hope One has been offered NARCAN through DMHAS and will be providing it to the community on an ongoing basis. Hope One has outreached to motels (not the ones Sueanne served) to gauge interest in NARCAN. Joe also reported on a continuing increase in the number of NARCAN deployments that are multiple doses to a single individual, usually due to fentanyl. He also voiced concern about edibles and how they will impact youth.

Jail MAT Program: Pat reported that the program has been offered an extension until June 30,2021 but confirmation of the funding has not been provided. Approximately 180 inmates have been served.

Recovery High School: Katie spoke about Coastal Prep and the ongoing issues with virtual learning. They have 5 youth, and all have had challenges in their lives. The staff continue to work well with the youth and keep them connected. Katie recognized Rev. Dawson and his efforts to provide the youth, their parents and siblings Christmas presents in 2020. Rev. Dawson connected with the FBI Citizens Academy for the funds. The families were very grateful.

Overdose Fatality Review Teams: The Team met for the first time to review its first case from 2017. Joe, Sueanne, Donna, Katie and Pat were involved. The data was limited so only a few conclusions could be made. More cases are scheduled which should assist in the analysis.

New Business

Presentations: Volunteers of America presented its Safe Re entry program for ex-offenders. It offers extensive linkages and services to help ex-offenders lead independent and responsible lives. (see attached flyer)

Acenda presented its new program for families where there is someone involved with substances. The program will provide a recovery specialist to engage the family, provide treatment to the impacted individual and follow up in home services to the family afterward. The intent is to help the family sustain recovery and prevent out of home placement for the children. There will be a webinar regarding the program on February 24th.

Municipal Alliance Modifications

Modification requests were distributed for review. A motion was made by Joe Landis and seconded by Thomas Maletto to approve the modifications. Motion carried.

CIMS Recruitment and Training: Pat reported that the state is interested in strengthening the Teams that provide Critical Incident Stress Management to first responders. The DRCCs have been polled and 3 people from Cape May are interested.

2020 Performance Amid COVID: Delayed until the next meeting.

Public Response

Acenda Group Home Vaccinations: Bridget DeFiccio reported that Liz Meehen oversees Acenda vaccination of consumers in residential programs. Acenda is working with Walgreens to secure vaccines for consumers and staff. Acenda will look at vaccines in relation to agency policy. Greg Speed complimented the work that Liz did to get consumers and staff vaccinated.

Resiliency and Other Trainings: Katie Faldetta reported 1) there will be a summer training schedule for school resiliency teams and a pilot community resiliency team will take place in Lower Township. Trainings will be conducted by Mike McKnight and Dr. Lori Desautels. 2) Zoom meeting will be held on 2/24 for municipalities regarding marijuana legalization. Flyer will follow.

Safe Community Coalition: Rev. Tom Dawson reported 1) the Prosecutor's Office will have a Black History event on 2/23. Flyer will follow. 2) Coalition started distributing internet access items last week to the following school districts: West Cape May, and Woodbine. Middle Township will be considered next.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm by Chairperson Judy Kunec.