

MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
March 10, 2020

In Attendance:

Frank Garcia	Brian Fitzgerald	Abbie Katz	Thomas Dawson	Betty Redman
Pat Devaney	Majken Mechling	Barry Keefe	Katie Faldetta	David Grusemeyer
Amy Dindak	Karen Burke	Sharon Modzelewski		

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Frank Garcia at 5:05PM. Round table introductions followed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting was made by Barry Keefe and seconded by David Grusemeyer. Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak distributed a report which included information about the following: 1) RFP issued by the NJDHS, and DMHAS to purchase Telehealth Technology to Service Consumers with an Opioid Use Disorder in the Community (SAMHSA / State Opioid Response) through treatment, physical health referrals, medication access and other linkages. 25 Awards @ \$15,000 each with Agency Awardees to match at \$10,000 minimum. Proposal deadline was March 6, 2020 4:00 pm. Notification date is April 7, 2020. 2) Virtual Tours - NJ DMHAS Northern Region Office of Community Services is working with providers to develop a “virtual tour” of residential sites so consumers and hospital/Olmstead staff may have a visual image of the home to which individuals will be placed. This process will help determine if specific sites meet individual needs. 3) A+ Beds Community Placements - NJ DMHAS Northern Region Office of Community Services is working with the Olmstead unit to create a process to open access to A+ residential beds from county hospitals (historically, these beds have been allocated strictly to individuals being discharged from state hospitals). A pilot project is currently underway in Bergen County and will be expanded to other county hospitals in the future. 4) Cultural Competency Plan –Each agency will be required to develop a cultural competency plan that includes the CLAS (*Culturally and Linguistic Appropriate Services*) standards in their delivery of services. Plans shall be submitted by April 30,2020 to Liz Conte and Cultural Competency Center staff. DMHAS contracts with two regional cultural competency training centers that provide assistance in the development of plans. Southern Region counties may contact Clarissa Wheat at the Mental Health Cultural Competence Training Center for Family Services (609-569-0239) x 62155 or Elizabeth Conte of NJ DMHAS at 609-438-4129. 5) Lisa Coney Fonville, Regional Olmstead Coordinator for the Ancora Catchment. 6) COVID-19 Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan: At the NJ DMHAS Quarterly Provider Meeting held on Friday, March 6th, providers were given general planning guidelines for their Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan. The meeting was not a Pandemic 101 presentation and only touched upon general planning guidelines. The focus was primarily on health emergency-specific behavior and communication concepts helpful in reducing disruption of operations and protecting the workforce, as well as key COOP concepts. Providers were asked to consider how the most vulnerable in our communities will be served and how basic needs will be provided – i.e. how will consumers who usually receive prescriptions through office visits will continue to receive medications if offices are closed.

Addiction Services: No report

GCADA: No report

Old Business

Membership: Pat announced that both Majken Mechling and Rev. Tom Dawson have been appointed to the Board by the Freeholders. The Board welcomed them.

Heroin Issue Update: Neither SueAnne Agger nor Joe Landis were available to give reports on their activities. Katie mentioned that SueAnne was busy setting up the Recovery Center in Rio Grande.

Recovery High School/Coastal Prep: Katie reported that there are now 7 youth involved in the school: 5 males and 2 females with 3 being from Cape May County. One youth had to return to inpatient treatment. The school year is going well.

Jail Program: Pat reported that when the program started in January, it was thought that there would be 15 per month. So far, 47 inmates have been helped and 42 have been referred to the OORP program for follow up.

PRIDE Presentation: Katie Faldetta reported on the 2019 county-wide PRIDE Survey results. Survey was administered to students in the 7th, 9th, 11th, 12th grades who attend school in the county. Parents were required to sign a consent form for students to take the survey. The 'active consent' policy impacts levels of participation in the survey. Overall, the survey results indicate that county youths' drug/alcohol behaviors, access, and perceptions improved since the last survey. Members discussed methods of sharing the information with parents. The PRIDE Committee will work with the Healthy Community Coalition to package the survey results along with the school climate data and the resiliency teams' information in order to develop logic models for the schools.

New Business

NAMI Presentation: Abbie Katz provided a presentation on NAMI which has been active in Cape May County for the past year and currently has between 6 and 12 people attending the weekly support groups. Abbie described the content of the meetings and the need for support for family members. NAMI is volunteers and they work closely with the Intensive Family Support Services offered by Acenda. The Board thanked Abbie for her presentation and Abbie will continue to come to the Board meetings.

Innovation Funding Status: Pat described the progress on the grant to date. The county is waiting for another grant number assignment in CIMS (the application software) and will move forward once this is completed.

Screening Waiver: Pat announced that Acenda will be requesting the two waivers it has traditionally requested regarding the screening center: lack of a holding bed and lack of 24 hour/7days per week availability of psychiatry. The Board will take action on May 12th.

Mental Health Month: There was a discussion about having a few events during May for Mental Health Month. Cape Atlantic INK and the Family Support Organization will have a resource fair at Special Services on April 2nd. The County is sponsoring Mental Health First Aid for Youth on May 14th; there is a plan to provide information to the elderly through the senior centers; and Greg Speed is looking into what Acenda can do. Once the schedule is fixed, more information will be available.

RFP Review Schedule: The RFP for Recovery Resources will go out on March 18th with a due date of April 8th. The review process will be in April. Frank Garcia is available until April 18th and will reach out to Judy Kunec. Pat asked any other Board member who is interested to let her know.

Public Response

Thomas Dawson reported that the Anthony Ray Hinton presentation was a success. Approximately 600 people attended the event including NJ Attorney General Grewal and County Prosecutors from Cape May, Cumberland and Atlantic Counties. The event was coordinated through the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and the Coalition for a Safe Community in an effort to continue to bring community and policing together. The partners look forward to coordinating more events in the future.

Cape May County Healthcare Resource Day flyers and Cape May County Public Health Community Resource Directories were available at the meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm by Chairperson Frank Garcia.