



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 Abuse
- Transportation

Approved September 15, 2016

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2016, 1:00 p.m.
Human Services Conference Room I

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

L. Ranier	E. Fisher
G. Criscuolo	S. Lax
P. Ward	N. Rumore

EX-OFFICIO

S. Goodman

STAFF

C. Zahn

GUESTS

J. Lee
K. Kucinski

“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, the Courier News, and the Hunterdon Review. 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 #1, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ and County Clerk’s Office.”

I. **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the March 17, 2016 meeting were accepted as presented.

II. **REPORTS:**

A. **Mental Health Board Update:** C. Zahn reported that the Board approved the waiver request from Hunterdon Behavioral Health for TelePsychiatry Services. The Board also supported the contract renewals for Catholic Charities and Bridgeway.

B. **Division of Mental Health Services Update:** S. Goodman reviewed a job description and requirements for anyone licensed as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor (LDADC) who is interested in performing peer reviews and submitting the report to the Division of Mental Health Services; applications are due June 10 and applicants will be notified of their status by July 1.

A Directors’ meeting for the Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Programs is scheduled for May 25th at the Division’s office.

S. Goodman stated that mental health providers that remain in the current cost reimbursement contract for 2017 will convert to “fee-for-service” on July 1, 2017 and are subject to existing

rules for outside revenue spending and cost containment. Accordingly, the mental health service providers who chose to convert on July 1, 2017 will have a predictable revenue stream, but will not be unable to increase costs, retain revenue exceeding their negotiated contract and will not retain underspending of their contract. The new “fee-for-service” model will give mental health providers increased rates, flexibility to maintain agency revenue and will avoid cost contract requirements; specifically the option to transition “fee-for-service”, which only applies to the providers who offer mental health services scheduled to transition to “fee-for-service”. Any questions should be directed to a contracted administrator.

- C. **County Update:** C. Zahn reviewed some recent activities held by the Stigma Task Force (a subcommittee of the Mental Health Board). At the May 3, 2016 Hunterdon County Freeholders’ meeting they presented their Stigma-Free video. The Board of Chosen Freeholders presented the group with a proclamation committing their supporting for the Stigma Free Task Force and the Mental Health Board.

The Union County Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Coordinator is Maureen O’Brien. This CIT Group provides a 40-hour CIT four times per year to law enforcement officers and mental health responders. Training slots are still available for mental health workers the week of June 6. It has been very successful to have people from all the mental health agencies trained to work with the law enforcement officers.

A number of training series/sessions have been provided or will be scheduled. The Hunterdon County Prosecutor’s office has provided a Mental Health Disaster training series for clergy. Disaster Response Mental Health Crisis Counselor training was provided for some Health Department and County staff. An upcoming training includes Cultural Sensitivity for the Health Department and Human Services staff. The Freeholders have requested training for managers on the topic of sensitivity to persons with mental health issues.

C. Zahn advised that information will be forthcoming to all the agencies on the upcoming training series/sessions.

III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. **Hunterdon County Mental Health Forum - May 23, 2016** – C. Zahn complemented the extraordinary group of people working hard to put together this event, from soliciting donations for prizes, and t-shirts to securing the keynote speaker, Mary Jo Codey. C. Zahn explained that the Hunterdon County Prosecutor’s Office will be on hand at the Forum to provide an update on the jail diversion program. Additionally, the Stigma Free Task Force will show its stigma awareness video and then talk about the future of the task force as a community to help reduce the stigma and discrimination.

C Zahn asked that everyone present get the word out to their consumers, family and staff about the event; the more in attend/participate, the more beneficial and successful the event.

A suggestion was made and discussion occurred to ask Mrs. Codey if she has a recommendation(s) for a speaker for next year’s event.

There was dialogue on signage to thank those who made donations for this event as well as signs for each of the vendor tables.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Fee-For-Service: The main concern of all the agencies moving forward with fee-for-service is if all the agencies will have the resources to continue to do what they do; they are just able to bill Medicaid and have no money for their administrative and other related costs to providing services.

V. AGENCY NEWS:

A. Hunterdon Prevention Resources (HPR): P. Ward reported that the HPR created a drop-in center for people in recovery who are learning how to stay sober; The Family Success Center works a lot with non-English speaking clients. Additionally, the Center offers workshops on parenting skills, housing, bill-paying, how to get electric service turned on, etc.

HPR also provides the Unifying Families summer series. Classes are free and snacks and some meals are provided. Free babysitting is offered as well for the attendees' children. There is also a 26-week class series on domestic violence offered. Many of the court-mandated people begin this program with a lot of negativity but when they complete the program, they are different people and they are glad they had the class.

B. Hunterdon Helpline: Hunterdon Helpline is preparing for Salsa Night, July 16, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; nearly 5,000 people attended last year's event. In terms of food and vendors, this year will be bigger than last year. S. Lax stated that this event is a great opportunity to show CASS what the agencies do; the attendees are a truly interested, captured audience. A special rate is offered to non-profit agencies that want to reserve a vendor table. Interested agencies can call Hunterdon Helpline to reserve a table and to receive a vendor packet.

S. Lax complimented the LINK bus service as an amazing lifeline for clients to get out of the house, to get to work, the Food Pantry, support groups and physicians, etc. However, the LINK gets a lot of negativity for being late or being long, etc. S. Lax implored the PAC members to come together and take an active role to project the positive side of the LINK as being an asset to Hunterdon County to help improve its service and to have public transportation in Hunterdon County. S. Lax is working on getting a video from consumers to show first-hand how important the LINK service is to the residents of Hunterdon County. S. Lax offered that someone can come talk with their organization's staff and educate the staff on how to relay the LINK service information to clients. Interested agencies can contact Erin Neukum, Hunterdon County's Transportation Coordinator or Tara and Cathy from HART.

A question was asked if a person who has LogistiCare but uses the LINK instead to go to the hospital that the LINK charges the rider more. S. Lax responded that was not true, the information was incorrect; the rider would have to pay only the regular \$2.00 fare, no more and may be eligible for a reduced rate. She also explained the "on demand" service and described some of the various routes, pickups, etc. For any questions, people can contact either Colleen or Cathy at the LINK or Erin Neukum at Hunterdon County Transportation, who should also be the contact person for any complaints. Agencies can direct their clients to the Helpline to assist navigating the LINK system. HART recently received a grant for one-on-one coaching. The grant provides clients who may be hesitant to utilize the LINK services a one-on-one experience with a HART staff member who will take the client through the entire process from placing a call to the LINK and determining the route schedule, to actually riding with the client on the bus their first time.

C. Carrier Clinic: No report.

- D. Summit Oaks:** J. Lee introduced Kellie Kucinski as the new Community Liaison for Hunterdon County and explained that their new Admissions Director is making positive changes at the front area of the hospital as well as personnel changes.

Summit Oaks has been in Union County for over 100 years and has built a lot of community agency relationships over the years, which provides the ability to connect their patients with the appropriate services. The hospital accommodates 122 in-patient beds and administers a partial program as well as IOP services and patients include very young children. J. Lee reported the agency has experienced a significant increase of psychiatric acuity in children, adolescents and adults over the years, as well as an increase in medically compromised patients.

Summit Oaks is grateful to have Overlook Hospital close by; the facilities frequently utilize services from one another.

Summit Oaks continues to build partnerships to use Narcan treatment and continues to work with CARES in Morris County. J. Lee stated that Summit Oaks will continue to report on these partnerships. She also reported that Summit Oaks is seeing more dual diagnosis patients.

- E. Getting Together Self-Help Center:** This self-help center was established in the community in 1997 and is currently open 5 days per week. E. Fisher reported an increase this Spring of persons with a mental health diagnosis and dual diagnosis. The Center is starting a women's group next week; the DBSA groups that began in December (on Tuesday nights) have been very successful. The Center has one new driver and anticipates getting another driver soon, which will put the Center back at full staff. Getting Together will be very involved in the Forum.

- F. Hunterdon Behavioral Health (HBH):** N. Rumore reported that the Emergency Room has been busy and that across the State patients are waiting days to get a bed. HBH is losing a psychiatrist in June but will be getting a new child/adolescent doctor soon and they are down three psychotherapists in the outpatient program, which is significant.

N. Rumore took the liberty of sending the video to the Director of the Emergency Department; who has stated would like to have the video incorporated into the competency trainings for nursing staff. Also, she anticipates presenting the video to the Nursing Council and to the Emergency Department staff. N. Rumore complimented Kristy Alfano, the Director of the Emergency Department as a great partner that is willing to push things along and to help change the culture, which is the whole point.

NOTE: C Zahn offered buttons with mental health slogans printed on that the Stigma Free Task Force had ordered to pin onto their t-shirts for the Forum.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 21, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.