

MHADA Board Minutes

Cape May County

March 8, 2022

In Attendance:

Membership: Judy Kunec – Chair

Frank Garcia

Mary Dozier

Rev. Thomas Dawson

Joe Landis

David Grusemeyer

Majken Mechling

Barry Keefe

Interested Parties:

SueAnne Agger

Amy Dindak

Pat Devaney

Peter Belasco

Katie Faldetta

Dr. Monica Lallo

Bridget Deficcio

Jen Zoyac

Tonia Ahern

Dr. Sreelekha Prakash

Beth Weiss

Call to Order

A virtual meeting was held due to COVID -19.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judy Kunec at 5:00 P.M.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting was made by J. Landis and seconded by D. Grusemeyer. Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak report attached.

Addiction Services: No report.

GACADA: P. Belasco reported that the Cape May County FY2023 County and Municipal Alliance renewal plans and applications were submitted on 2/24/22 to GACADA. Cape May County received the revisions to the renewal plans and submitted them on 3/1/22. There was no mention of when the County would receive its award letter. Also, there will be a training available for all Cape May County alliance members on 3/25/22. The training will be conducted by Alexandra Lopez on *the Loneliness Effect: isolation, social disconnect, and the adolescent brain*.

Old Business

Membership: The MHADA Board is up to 12 members presently, two terms expire in June 2022, so recruitment efforts continue, and P. Devaney encouraged the attendees to forward any recommendations to CMC Division of Community and Behavioral Services.

Heroin Issue Update:

Hope One Van: J. Landis reported that the Hope One van is seeing continuing success and the recently purchased machine to make temporary IDs for any individual that lacks the proper identification to access treatment is up and running and they are now able to make IDs. So far, they have only experienced problems with Social Security accepting the IDs. Initially, the CMC Library would not accept the IDs because they only had the County of residence listed on the ID and the Prosecutor's Office amended the ID to include the individual's address. J. Landis noted that the individual receiving an ID, not only needs their identification to be confirmed by the Prosecutor's established protocols, but they also require a sponsor to vouch for them.

Helping Hands: J. Landis reported that the Helping Hands grant-funded backpacks, which are filled with various hygiene products, activity booklets, and informational packets on where to access services, are being delivered to various recovery-oriented organizations for dissemination to at-risk individuals.

Overdoses: J. Landis reported that he now has full access to the real-time administrations of naloxone, so that Operations Helping Hands can now respond quickly and try to engage an individual who has just experienced an OD.

OORP: On 3/4/22, DMHAS awarded Cape Regional \$100,000 in response to the RFP for establishing a Certified Community Peer Recovery Center in Cape May County. **A report on activities of OORP and the Recovery Center were distributed.**

OFRT: J. Landis and K. Faldetta reported that the OFRT continues to face the same the barrier of insufficient data to effectively make conclusive decisions on what would be a solution or an effective change in policy to prevent more overdoses from occurring. At the last OFRT meeting, the State DOH

representative noted that only Salem and Cape May County look at cases from 2019. All other Counties are reviewing cases from 2020 and 2021 **with some looking** at cases that are 6 months old.

Recovery High School: K. Faldetta reported that the school census is down 1 student because the student needed a higher level of care and are now serving 13 students total, 8 are county residents and 5 of the 8 are residents of the Villas.

Jail MAT: P. Devaney reported that CFG, the medical vendor for the County Jail, has required that all their staff be vaccinated, which has resulted in several nursing vacancies that have caused current staff to take on new additional duties.

Community Pop-up Resource Centers:

iComWell: B. Deficcio reported that Acenda is planning their first week-long pop-up event next week March 14-18 at the First Baptist Church of Whitesboro. [Flyer attached]

New Business

We Check for 21:

See attached report.

Comprehensive SUD Plan data:

As part of the County's ongoing planning process for the 2024-2027 DMHAS-funded Comprehensive County Plan for SUD services, P. Devaney presented to the Board the following data: the number of overdose deaths overall and for 2018-2019 the drug related to the overdose, naloxone administrations, opioid prescriptions, and drug-related hospital visits broken out by substance. In addition, P. Devaney distributed a map of binge drinking rates in NJ. The Board discussed the data and how it should inform planning moving forward.

EISS RFP - Subcommittee Report:

B. Keefe and M. Mechling reported that the subcommittee met on 3/3/22 to discuss the two responses to the State's RFP for Early Intervention Supportive Services for Cape May County. The subcommittee reviewed proposals from Legacy and from Acenda. After a brief overview of the strengths and

weaknesses for each proposal, B. Keefe and M. Mechling presented to the Board members why the subcommittee chose to support Acenda's proposal over Legacy's and M. Mechling made a motion that the MHADA Board submit a letter of support to the State to include in their scoring of both proposals. B. Keefe seconded the motion. Motion Carried

Public Response

Presentation – Acenda's Healing Hearts and Minds (HHM): B. Weiss gave a presentation to the Board on Acenda's Healing Hearts and Minds, a 5 year federally-funded grant initiative to support families impacted by SUD through the delivery of in-home services. B. Weiss reported that the program is half-way through the grant term, so the initiative will continue for the next 2.5 years. Acenda provides HHM to three Counties: Cape May, Atlantic, and Ocean. HHM provides not only the individual with an SUD, but also their immediate family they have identified as in need of support as well. HHM is a free program that provides in-home therapy in multiple locations, if necessary, with a Social Worker 1x a week and an optional peer specialist that assists with case management and linkage to social service supports. HHM provides services on average for 4-6 months and to 4-6 family members. In addition to therapy, all children enrolled in the HHM program receive free school supplies, holiday gifts, and other client engagement support.

To refer a family to the Healing, Hearts, and Minds program please email Beth Weiss at bweiss@acendahealth.org

After the presentation: P. Devaney invited B. Weiss to provide this presentation to the County's PACADA membership as well. Also, members had general questions about program utilization and demographics of families served in Cape May County, so B. Weiss said that she will look at their most recent grant reporting and follow up with the exact numbers.

Presentation – Acenda's Resiliency Project: Dr. Monica Lallo

Dr. Monica Lallo provided an overview of Acenda's new grant award. The grant is 1 of 3 Regional ACES Collaboratives (RAC) where Acenda would be the fiscal agent for the Department of Children and Families: Office of Resiliency's Southern Regional RAC, which covers Burlington, Camden, Salem, Gloucester, Atlantic, Cumberland and Cape May. The grant term is two years, and the total award funding is \$1,000,000 for the entire term, broken down into \$425,000 each year less Acenda's 5% management fee. Each year, Acenda will distribute the \$425,000 equitably between all seven Counties. The grant aims to promote innovation using a Requests for Information (RFI) application process to fund micro-grants for innovative solutions to reduce ACES. Eligible applicants include individuals, non-profits, and for-profit agencies.

Dr. Lallo advised that Acenda along with the Central and Northern RACs are still in the development process with the State to produce a uniform engagement, application, and technical assistance protocol. Dr. Lallo, however, noted that there will be a tiered system where individuals or non-profits with limited experience can receive coaching services. Lastly, Dr. Lallo announced that all three RACs will meet with the State on 3/17/22.

SOAR: Pastor Dawson reported that the Coalition for a Safe Community and the Prosecutor's Office are finalizing the Spring booster trip for the youth that participated in the 2021 Summer Camp. The booster will include a field day with the Newark-FBI and close with free amusement at the new American Dream facility.

P. Dawson announced that Unity in the Community is in the planning process of selecting a date for the ongoing Unity in the Community initiative sometime in late April or early May. P. Dawson advised that once a date has been selected, he will forward that information to the Board for larger distribution.

In addition, P. Dawson informed the Board that he is working with Dr. Michael McKnight to provide resiliency training for the Clergy leadership in Cape May County, more details will be announced in the coming months,

Cape Assist: K. Faldetta reported that Cape Assist's Youth Resiliency Team implemented a new event series "Self-Care Saturday." The Youth Resiliency Team partnered with No Limits Academy and delivered an impactful and successful series of exercises/trainings designed to introduce new tools that the kids can use to self-manage their emotional wellbeing and overall resiliency to traumatic events. Activities included yoga, journaling, meditation, and games themed around providing education on the harms of nicotine and tobacco products.

Acenda: B. Deficcio reported that Acenda is opening an Institute of Health Innovations and their inaugural event to celebrate the opening is scheduled for March 16th. The event will be Roundtable Discussion: A new Vision for Behavioral Health with a variety of panelist, including Patrick and Amy Kennedy, Chuck Ingoglia, Suzanne Kunis, and Tom Coderre. [Flyer Attached]

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm by Chairperson Judy Kunec.

MHADA Update: We Check for 21 – 3.8.22

Venue: Online

Goal: Have a video link on the front page of the County website that will take you to a registration page to capture the individual's name, address, and what establishment they for, if applicable.

Status: Pending

Consultant: Joe Vasil

Goal: Have Joe Vasil self-record his presentation on how to spot a fake ID and provide the County with a copy.

Status: Spoke to J. Vasil in February and he agreed to provide the training. Will reach back out to him by the end of March for an invoice to execute a PSA.

2022 Booklets: Harrison Beverage

Goal: Harrison Beverage to provide the County with 250 units of the 2022 Driver's License Guide.

Status: Complete

Reusable Tote Bags: Allegra Printing

Goal: Have 250 bags printed for distribution to establishments that sale alcohol. Bags to be filled with magnify glass with LED, and blacklight + booklets + information to video link.

Status: PO Pending

3-in-1 Magnifying Glass with LED and Blacklight: Esslinger & Co.

Goal: Purchase 250 for distribution to establishments that sale alcohol. Measure the device to see what size stickers could be adhered to them.

Status: PO Pending. Need determine what messaging should be added to the stickers.

Current Balance of County-Wide MAC Training Line: \$1,707.50

Outstanding Items: Draft Letter to the Establishments.
Decide on additional items to include in the We Check for 21 tote bags.
Example – Sticker outlining the penalties for possession of and/or presenting a fake ID.

NJ DMHAS – MHADA Report 3/8/22

NJ DMHAS employees are back in the office full-time. Communications can continue to be made via email, office and work mobile numbers.

2/2/22 - Teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) Grant

was awarded to the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, Inc. (MHANJ) in the amount of \$400,000.00. Funding for this regular services program grant period is scheduled to begin February 15, 2022.

Project Goals:

- Develop and implement a sustainable tMHFA project in nine NJ high schools- targeting three in each region (North, Central, South) of the state;
- Create a “best practice” group of tMHFA instructors and administrators.;
- Work with DTB/MHAT grant to ensure that each school reaches the required 10% Youth MHFA certified staff;
- Work with each school to create a sustainability plan for tMHFA;
- Facilitate access to a broad spectrum of education and community behavioral health services.

Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)

NJ DHS DMHAS has issued an RFP for creation of Early Intervention Support Services (EISS) programs in ten (10) counties: Passaic, Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Union, **Salem, Gloucester, Burlington**, Somerset, **Cape May**.

Total annualized funding for each of the counties is one (1) million with a total funding of \$10 Million available, which is subject to State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to 10 awards to above listed counties.

Effective January 12, 2022 the RFP is available at

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/> and

<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/>

Mandatory Bidders Conference was held January 21, 2022 @ 10a.m.

RFPs were Due February 18, 2022

Notification Date March 28, 2022

DMHAS RFP Awarded On January 25, 2022: Community Support Services for Individuals in Need:

for CSS subsidies and services to be provided with funding and capacities allocated based on the counties census.

CSS Allocations have been allotted for an additional 20 individuals with:

Collaborative Support Programs has received funding in the amount of \$325,000 for **13 individuals in Gloucester County;**

Collaborative Support Programs received funding in the amount of \$325,000 for **3 individuals in Salem County,**

Jewish Family Services has received funding in the amount of \$100,000 in **Cape May County for 4 individuals.**

Jan. 19, 2022 - N.J. drops COVID test option, requires vaccines for health, long-term care workers:

- For those in the health care community who remain unvaccinated, Jan. 27 is the deadline to get the 1st vaccine dose and the primary series must be completed by Feb. 28," Murphy said.

Upcoming Deadlines Include:

- -For healthcare workers in congregate settings - have until Feb. 16 to get their first dose and March 30th is deadline to complete the vaccination process.
- -For those who have already completed the first course of shots, boosters are required by Feb. 28 for health care workers, and March 30 for those in congregate settings, or within three weeks of when the worker becomes eligible for a booster.

ADDICTION Services:

RFP – Community Peer Recovery Center

This expansion funding is for the start-up of eleven (11) small-scale Community Peer Recovery Centers in counties that do not currently have a CPRC. The overall goal is to provide a safe place for recovering individuals to gather and support one another and experience sober living in a community setting. This RFP is funded through SAMHSA's (State Opioid Response to Grants) SOR funding. Total funding is \$1,100,000 subject to federal appropriations; the funding period is through September 29, 2022 depending on federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to eleven (11) awards in the amount of \$100,000 each.

RFP - Building Capacity in Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programs to Provide Medications for SUD – issued by NJ DHS DMHAS/funded through SAMHSA's SOR grant.

Purpose - to assist licensed Mental Health (MH) and licensed SUD programs in developing the capacity to offer SUD medications (*i.e. buprenorphine, naloxone, naltrexone, methadone and acamprosate*). The awardee will ensure that the services provided ensure diversity, inclusion, equity, cultural and linguistic competence to the target population.

Term/Funding - grant period is September 30, 2020 to September 29, 2022. Total annualized funding is \$300,000 subject to Federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to four (4) awards (each not to exceed \$75,000). This initiative will be funded through cost-reimbursement contracting.

Cultural Competency Training and Practice for Opioid Treatment Providers

On Jan 23, 2022 A single contract in the amount of \$750,000 has been awarded to Family Connections Inc.

This (RFP) was issued by the New Jersey DHS, DMHAS for the development of Cultural Competency Training and Practice for Opioid Treatment Providers (OTPs). Funding is through (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) SAMHSA's (State Opioid Response) SOR Grant.

This project will provide (Opioid Treatment Providers) OTP, counselors, and agency leadership with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to ensure that services are provided in a manner which exemplifies the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Health Care.

PREVIOUSLY Announced:

On Dec 31st, the FCC Launched the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

In response to Agencies inquiring regarding purchase of laptops for clients - On December 31, the FCC launched the ACP which assists with purchasing broadband access and devices for eligible consumers,

to help ensure that households can afford internet connections necessary for work, school, and health care. Also launched is a tool kit of materials for partners to download and customize. More materials will be added in the coming weeks. For application questions, contact me and I can forward the email and phone number: ACPSupport@usac.org or call 877-384-2575.

Forthcoming Summer 2022

NJ DHS Social Isolation Survey

The NJ Legislature passed a law requiring the NJ Department of Human Services (DHS) to study social isolation among four specified groups which are: seniors age 65 and older, individuals with disabilities, [individuals with mental illness](#), and those who have or currently serve in the military. Participation in this survey is completely voluntary, and responses will not affect the services you receive. Any questions regarding this survey can be sent to Oresp@dhs.nj.gov. <http://tiny.cc/njsocialisolation>

Senate passed legislation 2953 signed in December 2021 – Legislation passed to expand the scope of inmate re-entry assistance and benefits (e.g., 3-month supply of meds upon release, etc.) to pass legislation to extend benefits to inmates upon release from jail and prison (health care; 3-month supply of meds., etc.).

S-2559 Telehealth Legislation was passed on 12/22/21

The current telehealth services will continue through the end of 2023 under S-2559. This legislation includes a number of provisions that will improve access to telehealth in both the short and long term. Under this legislation, extension of pay parity for the next two years will include a requirement that audio-only behavioral health care services are reimbursed at the same rate as if those services are provided in person. The legislation also permanently prohibits insurance carriers from imposing geographic or technological restrictions on the provision of telehealth services, as long as the services being provided meet the same standard of care as if the services were delivered in person.

Medicaid 1115 Waiver – A new Medicaid 1115 Waiver, to begin 7-1-22, is in development. One goal of the next Waiver is better integration of behavioral and physical health services for those covered under NJ Family Care (NJ Medicaid). The plan is to establish a “carve-in” for services that will be coordinated and financed through Managed Care Organizations. Additional details will be forthcoming as plans progress.

Grant to DMHAS (*NOT to providers*) regarding the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Program and the 9-8-8 rollout - **DMHAS has received a 9-month grant for the State of NJ to plan for closeout of current crisis line in conjunction with the rollout of the new 988-line**; the 9-month grant will help to identify gaps that need to be filled in the current system, and how to most effectively implement 988 in NJ to fill those gaps. Implementation of the new 3-digit crisis call line is projected to begin by summer of 2022, and will serve to provide a quick 3-digit number that is easy to remember for mental health crisis and suicide support.

(National Suicide Prevention Lifeline’s current number is 1-800-273-TALK (8255), and is a national network of local crisis centers providing free and confidential emotional support to those in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24/7)