

HISTORY

Nationally, the community mental health system was established under the Community Mental Health Services Act of 1957, and funded in the late 1960's. The New Jersey mental health system was established and is governed under NASA 30:9A which describes the Rules and Regulations of the Division of Mental Health Services for state funded mental health services.

MISSION

The mission of the **New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services** is to promote mental health through assuring that all residents of **New Jersey** receive the mental health services they require; enabling adults and children with mental health problems to function at their highest possible level; assuring that services are tailored to individual consumer's needs; and ensuring that appropriate quality services are provided in both public and private sectors.

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

The twelve members of the Somerset County Mental Health Board are appointed by the Board of Chosen Freeholders for three-year terms.

Members must represent the diversity of its population and municipalities. The perspectives of families and consumers must also be represented. The membership of Mental Health Boards is described in NASA 30:9A.

MEETINGS

The Somerset County Mental Health Board meets a minimum of ten (10) times per year on the first Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in conference room #2 at the Human Services Office, 27 Warren Street, Somerville. The Board is staffed by the County Mental Health Administrator (908) 704-6302 and supported by the Somerset County Department of Human Services.

All regular meetings are open to the public. Please call (908) 704-6300 to confirm meeting date and place, or to ask for directions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Somerset County Mental Health Plan:

- * initiate a planning process to assure an adequate continuum of community mental health services for both children and adults
- * assure board community representation in all planning processes
- * annually review and/or survey needs for mental health services and identify service gaps
- * establish goals and objectives to assure the provision of a continuum of mental health services
- * establish and prioritize critical service needs
- * create action plans to initiate or expand services to meet identified gaps and priorities.
- * oversee the establishment and operation of a comprehensive system of community mental health services for all who need such services, assuring that those most in need receive a reasonable level of service. Children and adults at-risk of hospitalization or with a history of hospitalization are a first priority.
- * actively coordinate planning and services with other county offices and departments to address the mental health service needs of residents of all ages with mental illnesses and serious emotional disturbances across all service providing systems.
- * actively coordinate planning and services to address the mental health needs of residents during a disaster.

B. Implementation of County Mental Health Plan:

- * solicit, receive, review and recommend funding applications consistent with the County Mental Health Plan and its priorities for service development
- * review and recommend Certificate of Need Applications related to mental health service expansion for the Department of Health
- * review and recommend affiliation agreements between state contracted agencies and other community providers
- * receive, review and advise all Division of Mental Health Services on all State funding contracts for community services
- * advise the Board of Chosen Freeholders on mental health priorities and recommend contracts for services
- * facilitate consumer advocacy and self help groups
- * review and recommend funding allocations to agencies within the County, consistent with the Mental Health Plan priorities

C. Monitoring:

- * provide oversight and monitor the provision of mental health services under contract with the Division of Mental Health Services
- * act as the first level of outside appeal for client grievance with contracted agencies when internal resolution does not succeed

D. Community Education:

- * encourage, develop and participate in mental health community education

COMMITTEES OF THE MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Planning Committee: oversight of the planning process for the County Mental Health Plan, annual update and implementation of action plan. Assure that the planning process fulfills the mission of the Mental Health Board

Board Operations Committee: plan annual orientation, review and update By-Laws, assess membership needs, assess functioning of the board, attendance, agendas, role of administrator and activity of the Professional Advisory Committee

Contracts Review Committee: review, recommend and monitor any contract over which the MHB has oversight, including implementation of remediation recommended by State site reviews, and compliance with contracted levels of service provision

COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM

1. Core Services: emergency; short-term care facilities; local inpatient services
2. Mental Health Support Services State/County hospitals, local inpatient units, partial care, outpatient, residential rehabilitation, medication monitoring, emergency housing, case management, psychiatric emergency services, mental health ombudsman and advocacy, intensive in-home services, and consultation and education.
3. Specialized Treatment Capabilities for Dually Diagnosed Clients
4. Generic Community Services

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

Annually an advisory board of professionals are appointed to the PAC by the Chairperson of the Mental Health Board. The PAC provides technical assistance to the Mental Health Board and addresses issues and conducts studies as requested by the Board.

2015 MEMBERSHIP SOMERSET COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Carol Stephenson, Chairperson - Citizen
Guy Catapano – Vice Chairperson - Citizen
Lori Goldblatt - Citizen
Diane Hunsinger - Citizen
Joanne Kemp - SC Bd. of Social Services
Mary Jane Postal - Citizen
G. Robert Santye - Citizen
Barbara Stewart - Citizen
Lisa Stone - Citizen
Lynn Weckworth - United Way of Northern NJ
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Patricia Walsh, Freeholder Liaison
Pamela Mastro - Mental Health Administrator



2017 SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder Director
Patrick Scaglione, Freeholder Deputy Director
Patricia L. Walsh, Freeholder
Mark Caliguire, Freeholder
Brian D. Levine, Freeholder

Free e-mail subscriptions:
www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe.html

SOMERSET COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



SOMERSET COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



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(908) 704-6300
Fax# (908) 704-1629

Department Mission: To coordinate and facilitate the provision of services and programs, which work to address economic self-sufficiency

