

Gloucester County Mental Health

June 17, 2025

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Non-Voting Members & Liaisons Present</u>
Warden Eugene Caldwell Ms. Katie Doyle Ms. JoAnn Dunagan Ms. DiAnne Kelly Chief Thomas Ryan Sgt. Selina Pulliam Mr. Shane Stevenson Guest: Ms. Heather Sims Ms. Serena Zuppardo	Ms. Lisa Cerny Dr. Rebecca DiLisciandro Ms. Jamie Grasso Ms. Holly Horwell Ms. Christina Jackey

Welcome and call to order / Open Public Record Act: Kathleen Doyle, Chairperson

Introductions:

- Roll call introductions

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made by Warden Eugene Caldwell to approve the minutes for May 20, 2025; Ms. DiAnne Kelly seconded.

Presentation: Cell Phone Program: Heather Simms and Serena Zuppardo, CSPNJ

- CSPNJ shared updates on the Hospital Cell Phone Project, which provides pre-paid cell phones and training to individuals pre-discharged from NJ psychiatric hospitals to support their transition back into community. Piloted program was launch 2021 NJ DOH
 - Program addresses post-discharge communication barriers.
 - Orientation includes contact setup, calendar use, and linking to community wellness centers. Offering continued support for six months.
 - Phones improve access to telehealth, peer support, and appointments. Linkages to CSPNJ Wellness Centers.
 - 162 individuals received phones; only 2 were re-hospitalized.
 - Positive feedback from participants citing improved access and independence.
 - CSPNJ has learned the importance of pre-discharge orientation is key but needs clearer instruction on service continuation after phone service expires with improved demographic tracking.
 - Future goals for CSPNJ are to expand to all state hospitals, distribute 555 phones, and to streamline tracking and referrals shared.
 - Board members praised the projects impact while recognizing challenges faced by participants with emphasis on the projects role in reducing isolation and maintaining stability.

Systems Review Committee (SRC): Sharon Veneziale, Director of Crisis Services, Acenda

- Gloucester County SRC meets on a monthly basis with acute care programs within the county to enhance and strengthen collaboration among county programs to better serve families and communities.
- Agencies work together to share data, identify service barriers, and coordinate solutions.

- Community liaisons provide feedback from residents to inform program planning and responsiveness.
- Program leads share resources and updates to avoid service gaps and ensure comprehensive care.
- Collaborative efforts help resolve complex cases and ensure individuals receive the right support.
- Ongoing communication outside of formal meetings is encouraged to strengthen partnerships.
- Joint project and data- sharing efforts are common to enhance program reach and effectiveness.
- The group remains open to new ideas to improve services in Gloucester County.

ARRIVE Together: Jim Reed, Supervisor PESS & ARRIVE, Acenda

(Ms. Christina Jackey reported on behalf of ARRIVE)

- 31 individuals served in May. Does not appear any from 988 or MCORT unless they went through police department.
- Approximately 15 individuals were referred to Emergency Department for voluntary or involuntary inpatient care.
- Majority of cases involved discharges to the community.

Acenda Integrated Health: Ms. Christina Jackey

June MHB Report 2025

(May 2025 Data)

Acenda Program Statistics/Updates

- **Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (PESS)**- LOS for the month was 94% with 131 admissions. We completed 44 outreaches and diverted 34 individuals from the Emergency Room. We are currently recruiting for 1 full-time screener and onboarding two screeners to start employment at the beginning of July.
- **Intensive Outpatient Treatment Support Services (IOTSS)**- The program served 17 individuals. IOTSS continues to have rolling admission. The program is pending transition to in person for group facilitation, tentative for the Spring. Acenda is pending outcome of an offer for the full-time licensed clinician. IOTSS is currently supporting clinical interns to support needs as well.
- **Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)**- EISS is at 43% and 39 individuals admitted to the program. EISS served 63 individuals. The program is currently looking to hire a full-time co-occurring licensed clinician.
- **Outpatient**- OP accepts referrals for outpatient level of care, and we are continuing the recruiting process for clinicians.
- **Bridge**-The program is continuing to engage with jails, criminal justice system and other key partners to support the needs of individual served and increase referral process. We are currently hiring an additional .5 case manager.
- **Integrated Case Management Services (ICMS)**- LOS increased to 58%. ICMS had 7 intakes with an ending census of 25. We are hiring 1 additional case manager and have a new hire starting this month.
- **PATH**- LOS was at 75%, with 4 intakes. We onboarded a case manager in April and are still hiring a 2nd .5 case manager.
- **Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC)**- The Program recently has been focusing on process flow with internal screening and referrals from hospitals. 2 admissions occurred with a census of .7.
- **Supported Employment Program (SEP)**- LOS 103%, we currently have a waitlist for services but are working to schedule out intakes within 2 weeks.
- **Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)**- The end of month census in PACT is 44 persons, LOS 80%. PACT is still looking to hire a 2nd nurse and have a June start for a new vocational specialist.

- **Intensive Family Support Services (IFSS)**- IFSS was at 70% LOS. We also continue to exceed our telephone contact performance goal in 2025 for family members.
- Ms. Grasso asked for time frame of when IOTSS will be in person. Ms. Jackey is at the end stages of review but was not given a date.

New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addictions Services (DMHAS) –Ms. Jamie Grasso

*Input report

Notice of Funding Availability

- **Regional Legal Services for Individuals with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD)**
This RFP is for legal and navigation services for individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD). Services will help address legal and social issues that present as barriers to accessing needed services. Up to four million dollars \$4,000,000 will be awarded to support four regional legal service contracts.
Deadline for receipt of proposals is July 22, 2025 - no later than 4:00 p.m.

Announcements

- 10th annual **Suicide Prevention Conference** is Wednesday, September 10th, 2025. All day Virtual Event.
- **Behavioral Health Integration** End of Phase 1 Transition Period will be June 30th, 2025.
- **Opioid Summit 2025** Save The Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025. All day Virtual Event.

Awards To Report

- No new awards to report

Mental Health Administrator: Dr. Becky DiLiscandro

Update:

- Soluna Mental Health App update:
 - Presented to Tri- County CIACC, planning a pop-up event at the Delsea Drive In- late June, sent new flyers that will be shared with board members via email.

DRCC Grant:

- New opportunity to apply for another DRCC Grant for 2025-2026
- Office is busy working with Riggs Creative Group on advertising work who received subcontract to develop content.

Mental Health Awareness Trainings:

- Mental Health First Aid for Older Adults mental health training to is being planning to start in August.
- All funding must be used by September 29th.
- Once flyers are ready, they'll be shared with members.

Funding Cuts to Key Program:

- CARES Institute (Child Abuse Research Education and Services Institute) located in Vineland and Stratford but serve all NJ counties by providing medical and mental health services for children who have experienced abuse and neglect.
 - Funding from New Jersey has been reduced August 1.
 - This will impact services available locally because they had a clinician in the DCP & P East office who will no longer be funded.
- CARES Program (Crisis Assessment Response and Enhanced Service) which supports individuals with serious and persistent mental illness and those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
 - Funding has been cut in half (DMHAS funded).

- They will no longer be able to operate 24/7 services.
- The most affected agencies will be Inspira and Screening Services due to their inpatient bed capacity and community programming.
- The program director will attend the September board meeting to report early impacts.
- Adult Partial Care program at Rutgers will fully close August 1.
 - This reduces options for adult mental health day services and may increase pressure on programs at Acenda and Inspira.
 - MS. Jackey brought up the continued barrier for individuals with Medicaid and those with Medicare who struggle with access to these types of programs. The New Jersey MAPS contract has not been renewed in Gloucester County leaving a critical service gap. Open Discussion regarding need.

A motion was made by Ms. DiAnne Kelly for the Mental Health Board to draft a formal letter to DMHAS regarding: loss of program and services, growing difficulty for residents to access adult's partial care especially those for non-Medicaid and Medicare clients. Requesting a need for support and funding to fill current service gaps in Gloucester County; seconded by Chief Tom Ryan; all members in favor.

Old Business:

- **Next Meeting:** September 16, 2025 2:30pm