

Gloucester County Mental Health Board

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2025

Location: Teams

Attendance:

**Voting Members:** Katie Doyle, Selina Pulliam, Suzanne Smith, Shane Stevenson, Carol Weinhardt

**Non-Voting Members & Liaisons:** Rebecca DiLiscandro, Jamie Grasso, Holly Horwell, Christina Jackey, Nicole Moore, Jim Reed, Sharon Veneziale

**Presenter:** Ke’Nesha Jones

**Welcome and call to order / open public record act: Kathleen Doyle, Chairperson**

- Roll Call: Kathleen Doyle, Chairperson

**Approval of minutes from June 17, 2025 meeting**

- A motion was made by Shane Stevenson to approve the minutes for June 17, 2025.

**Presentation: Crisis Assessment Response & Enhanced Services (CARES): Ke’Nesha Jones, MA, CARES Clinical Coordinator**

- Staffing & Budget Cuts: CARES lost 7 staff and left 3 positions unfilled due to state budget cuts. Less than half of the original staff remain, but services continue at full effort.
- Hotline Changes: 24/7 hotline now answered by RWJ-contracted staff after hours. CARES clinicians follow up the next business day.
- Services: Crisis intervention for adults 21+ with IDD (formal diagnosis not required). Environmental assessments, linkage to services, family/agency support. Case duration: up to 120 days.
- Crisis Assessment: CARES does not perform mobile screenings or legal documentation. Responds to ER referrals; collaborates with Trinitas (22 beds now available).
- Project ECHO: Complex cases reviewed by a multidisciplinary hub team. Real-time recommendations and written follow-up provided.
- START Collaboration: START focuses on proactive stabilization; CARES handles crisis response. Programs now collaborate and refer cases to each other.
- Q&A Highlights: Funding discussions are underway between DMHAS and DDD. Staff shortages have led to prioritizing true crisis cases. Gloucester and Burlington are high-volume counties. Referrals accepted from screening centers and directly from the community. CARES offers training and education to agencies.
- Dr. DiLiscandro requested stats for Gloucester County. Ms. Jones responded she will report at the next SRC meeting, on 9/25.

**Gloucester County Professional Advisory Committee (GCMHPAC) Updates: Nicole Moore, GCMHPAC chairperson**

- Focused on expanding older adult services.
- Attended Mental Health First Aid Training for Older Adults on Sept. 9.
- Collaborated on resource cards and magnets with QR codes.
- Encouraged continued community feedback on service needs.

### **NAMI – Gloucester County Chapter: Suzanne Smith**

- August meeting had 20 families in attendance.
- Planning a fall launch and Sept. 30 outreach event with PLAN NJ on estate planning and independent living.
- New webpage launched for Gloucester County NAMI.
- Continues to serve as a referral hub for families.

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

- Nearly 400 calls since launch in November 2023.
- Participated in multiple National Night Out events.
- Partnered with 16 police departments countywide.
- Ongoing outreach to law enforcement to assess needs and offer services.

### **Acenda Integrated Health: Christina Jackey, Senior Director of Acute Care Services, Acenda**

SRC Resource Fair Update: Sharon Veneziale

- Date: October 7, 2025 | Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- Location: United Methodist Church, Pitman
- 12 tables and 15 programs participating.
- FAQ handout in development; flyer re-circulated via SRC.
- Sharon confirmed food has been ordered; RSVP responses still encouraged.

Acenda Program Updates: Christina Jackey

June MHB Report 2025

(August 2025 Data)

Acenda Program Statistics/Updates (\*input report)

- **Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (PESS)**- LOS for the month was 81% with 112 admissions. We completed 22 outreaches and diverted 13 individuals from the Emergency Room. We are currently recruiting for 2 full-time screeners. We have hired one full-time screener and PRN screener.
- **Intensive Outpatient Treatment Support Services (IOTSS)**- The program served 20 individuals. IOTSS continues to have rolling admission. The program is back in person at 200 Holly Dell Drive. Individual therapy is still virtual.
- **Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)**- EISS is at 65% and 59 individuals admitted to the program (jump from last month of 43). EISS served 72 individuals. The program is currently looking to hire a fulltime co-occurring licensed clinician and peer; however, support through integrated health teams is covered with clinicians while hiring.
- **Outpatient-** OP accepts referrals for outpatient level of care, and we are continuing the recruiting process for clinicians.

- **Bridge**-The program ended with a census of 3, 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)**- Agency LOS increased to 90%. ICMS had 6 intakes with an ending census of 39. We are hiring 1 additional case manager.
- **PATH**- LOS was at 92%, with 3 intakes and ending caseload of 13. We are hiring a .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 11, we are seeing an increase in referrals.
- **Supported Employment Program (SEP)**- LOS 82%, due to staff time off.
- **Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)**- The end of month census in PACT is 44 persons, LOS 81%. PACT is fully staffed and working on increasing census.
- **Intensive Family Support Services (IFSS)**- IFSS was at 64% LOS, due to a staff out on leave impacting service units temporarily.

**NJ Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (NJDMHAS): Jamie Grasso, Program Analyst Award:**

\*Input report

**Notice of Funding Availability**

**No active RFPs**

- **Designated Screening Services Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Middlesex, Morris and Somerset Counties**

This RFP is for the continued provision of Designated Screening Services for Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Middlesex, Morris, and Somerset Counties. Total annualized funding is \$12,633,713 subject to State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making one award for each of these county-based service areas, resulting in six total awards.

Deadline for receipt of proposals – no later than 4pm on September 4, 2025

- **Awards To Report**

**Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) for Individuals with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) at Licensed SUD Treatment Agencies**

This was award August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and aims to assist with legal and navigation services for individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD).

\$392,857 awarded to Maryville Residential Program for Burlington/Gloucester

\$392,857 awarded to Maryville Outpatient Program for Cumberland/Gloucester

\$392,857 awarded to The Cooper Health System for Camden

- **Announcements**

Thank you to all who attended the 10<sup>th</sup> annual **Suicide Prevention Conference** last Wednesday.

- **Opioid Summit 2025** will be Wednesday, September 17, 2025. All day virtual event.

- **Trainings**

**Rutgers Training Series - IFSS and ACFS Rutgers Training Series Thursdays 9a.m. – 11 a.m.**

Aug 21st	Understanding Trauma for Individuals and Families
Aug 28th	Individual and Group Approaches to Trauma Treatment
Sep 4th	Proactive Anger Management Through Crisis Intervention & De-escalation
Sep 11 & 18	Motivational Interviewing: Empowering Change with Communication

- **CSS 9-Week Training Series** Registration Open with training beginning the week of September 15th until the week of November 10th. Trainings will occur on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. – 1p.m. and Wednesdays from 12:30 -3:30 p.m.
- **CSS Webinar** is scheduled for Friday September 26th 9:30 – 11 a.m.

#### **Mental Health Administrator: Dr. Rebecca DiLisciandro**

- Adult Partial Care: Letter sent to DMHAS; meeting being scheduled with county leadership.
- DRCC Program: 97 volunteers (22 from Gloucester County); \$56,500 grant awarded
- Mental Health First Aid Training: Funded by DMHAS and Municipal Alliance; remaining sessions on Sept. 22 (full), Sept. 23 (4 seats left), and Sept. 29 (full).
- Medicaid Monitoring: Survey sent to agencies to assess impact of renewal frequency.
- 988 Updates: June answer rate 80.1%; 49% increase in call volume; LGBTQ+ “Press 3” option discontinued; MCORT dispatches over 200 since March.
- Reminder: SRC Resource Fair is October 7 at 5:00 PM. Drop-in format; dinner provided; RSVP to Sharon Veneziale.

#### **Old Business**

- Next meeting: October 21, 2025 2:30pm

#### **Adjournment**

- A motion to adjourn meeting was made by Suzanne Smith; Shane Steven seconded.