

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TRENTON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Trenton Psychiatric Hospital was held on **Thursday, January 20, 2022**, pursuant to notice duly given. In conformance with the Public Open Meetings Law, notice of the meeting has been sent to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian, Newark Star-Ledger and the Secretary of State and a notice placed on the bulletin board of Trenton Psychiatric Hospital.

Present:

***Neil Weisfeld - Chairperson
***Patricia Carr – Vice Chairperson
***Carolyn Torre - RN, MA APN
***Maureen Lebel – LSW, PhD.
*****Board Member Via Microsoft Team and Via call in on Microsoft teams**

Excused:

***Susan Rubino, MD

TPH Staff Attendance:

James Hollen, Acting Chief Executive Officer-Operations (ACEO)
Faith Johnson, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer-Clinical (ADCEO),
Intikhab Ahmad, M.D., Clinical Director, Dr. Heshman Soliman – Direct of Medicine
Colleen Birkhofer, Chief Nursing Officer (CNO),
Michelle Senni – Executive Assistant to the CEO, Frank Miller – QI Director
Sheila Kwoka, Medical Services Assistant/Board Secretary

Excused:

Towana Wilkins, Acting Business Manager,
Mary Jean Weston-DMHAS
Troy Hood – DMHAS

Guest:

Timothy Loesch – Raycroft Complex Administrator

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL:

Roll call was conducted via Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Teams Call-in. The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Minutes from the December 16, 2021, meeting were approved as read.

BOARD REPORT:

- It was asked that could the Board have an analysis of the data, by age, gender as it relates to hospital programming.
- The Board was pleased to see that the assaults were down in the month of December.
- Dr. Lebel asked about the Pastoral Groups sessions and whether they track how many patients attend groups. Ms. Johnson told the Board that Pastoral Services do not track which patients attend the group sessions.
- The Board was pleased to read that the Patients have movie nights on Friday through Sunday. It also asked about the tablets and whether the Patients have Wi-Fi and internet access on the Tablets, which they do. It was said that the hospital's vendor company controls the tablets, and they primarily deal with the Wellness Programs. The tablets do not access Netflix.
- High record delinquency rates for December were questioned Mr. Miller addressed this. The Doctors must complete a discharge summary within 30 days of discharge. The 300% is the total of November and December. If the discharge summary is not completed, the totals go up the following month.
- Ms. Torre addressed the increase in Emergency Room visits. The increase is in reference to the Omicron variant. The Raycroft clinic is closed due to the Complexes being quarantined. Only two Patients went to the hospital because of COVID.
- The Board commented on the Psychology Intern classes. The interns each have a caseload of a minimum of 6 patients. The interns have face-to-face meetings with the patients four days a week.
- The Board would like more information on the Building Pathways that the Social Work Department and Rutgers are developing.
- It was asked whether families can come see their family members here at the hospital face-to-face or whether they still have virtual visits. Most visits are virtual.
- Rehabilitation Staff still meet with patients in person and via Zoom on the tablets. There are four to six patients per group, which are led by Substance Abuse Counselors.
- Information on the status of the Nursing Residency Program was requested. The program is slated to begin in February. Nursing is in discussion with the Nursing School at The College of New Jersey about hiring new graduate nurses. Four new nurses will participate in the Nursing Residency Program. They will be working on the units as well as classroom work here at TPH.

- It was asked whether the patients receive training on the tablets. Training is provided.
- Information about the new Polypharmacy monitoring process was requested. Dr. Ahmad said we are working toward Electronic Medical Records in 2022.
- Continuing high levels of assaults were noted. There were 75 assaults at TPH last month. Dr. Ahmad said a new system is in place for Clinical Analytics, with team meetings on ways to prevent assaults in the Complexes.
- The board would like to see the menus for Christmas and New Year's. Mr. Hollen will send the Menu to the Board.
- The Board would like a presentation on the Dashboard that Mr. Miller created to deal with the programming with patients.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- The Board held elections of Officers. Mr. Neil Weisfeld was re-elected as Chair and Ms. Patricia Carr was re-elected as Vice Chair, both for one-year terms. Both votes were unanimous.

- **Auxiliary Report**

The Auxiliary is taking donations of clothes, movies, books, and puzzles for the patients. If anyone would like to donate to the Auxiliary, you can bring your donation to Gate 2, by the Greenhouse, and give your donation to the guard or you can come up to Security on the 1st floor Parker building and drop it off.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Incident Committee - Ms. Maureen Lebel –No report at this time.**

- **Legislative Committee – Ms. Carolyn Torre**

Ms. Torre has two reports for the Board. The committee report lists and summarizes selected 38 mental health-related bills that Governor Murphy has signed. A second report is a paper Ms. Torre wrote with Ms. Suzanne Drake entitled “Maximizing Access to Health Care in New Jersey The Case for Full Practice Authority.”

- **Schulley Trading Post –**

In December there was a deficit for the month of December as the Schulley Trading Post had to be closed for a week and a half due to COVID-related quarantines. A total of \$4,000.00 was deposited into the Welfare Fund. They are still doing the commissary 3 times a week.

- **Therapeutic Environment Committee – Patricia Carr** No report at this time.

- **Welfare Fund Committee –**

The new bus is on the grounds and has been painted. The bus will be used to transport patients across the campus. The bus driver is waiting for his

commercial driver's license. Patients will have an opportunity to demonstrate creative talents by decorating the outside of the bus.

**Report from Ms. Mary Jean Weston, MSW, Regional Coordinator
Office of Community Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
(January 20, 2022)**

- 1. RFP for Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)** – An RFP was issued for creation of EISS programs in the 10 counties where this service is not currently available (Passaic, Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Union, Salem, Gloucester, Burlington, Somerset, Cape May). Total annualized funding for each of the counties is \$1 million from the \$10 million total funding amount available, which is subject to State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to 10 awards to the above listed counties.
- 2. Temporary Rule Modifications** – In response to COVID-19, the Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) issued guidance allowing the use of telehealth/telemedicine/telecommunication in various service areas. DHS and the Department of Health have since formalized this guidance in temporary rule modifications pertaining to several regulations including: community mental health, licensed residential services (MH & SUD), outpatient services (MH & SUD), community support services (CSS), homeless services (PACT), and partial care. These rule modifications allow the use of telehealth/telemedicine/telecommunication by behavioral health provider agencies. Provider agencies and treatment professionals must also comply with all applicable federal and State laws/regulations.
- 3. 988 SAMHSA Grant for Capacity Building** – DMHAS is applying for a \$2.5 million federal grant to expand the capacity of call/contact centers in New Jersey to respond to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL). In July, the NSPL will become 988, the 3-digit dialing code for mental health crisis and suicide prevention in July, 2022. By that time, the centers will need to respond to an increasing number of calls, chats and texts that originate in NJ, and provide follow up for any contacts during which suicidal ideation was reported at the time or in the previous 24 hours.
- 4. COVID-19 Cost Reimbursement** – The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has announced a reimbursement opportunity for eligible COVID-19 related expenses. Funding from SAMHSA-Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) will provide reimbursement to non-profit, contracted Mental Health (MH) providers for expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), certain Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure costs, COVID testing and related expenses. Eligible expenditures must have an invoice/purchase date between October 15, 2021, and February 1, 2023.

5. **COVID Connect – Call 1-833-223-0011 for referral to counseling** for stress, difficulty sleeping, poor concentration, increased alcohol/drug use, anxiety, depression, or other issues related to the ongoing challenges of COVID.

COMMUNICATIONS – No Communications at this time

OLD BUSINESS –

- Ms. Carr reported that the Task Force on the Hospital’s Image held its first meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Weisfeld addressed the Board on his agenda for 2022 as Chair: His priorities are:

- To support the Task Force on the Hospital’s Image.
- To upgrade the Schully Trading Post and secure sufficient revenue.
- To ensure high-quality programming for all patients.
- To seek ways to improve access to appropriate mental health care throughout New Jersey, with the assistance of Ms. Mary Jean Weston and others.

Mr. Timothy Loesch, Complex Administrator, provided the Board an update on the Raycroft Complex. Some patients were discharged to the community and some patients went to Anne Klein Forensic Center (AKFC). All staff in the Raycroft Complex are active in helping the patients get better so they can be discharged.

Mr. Loesch broke down the total number of patients discharged in 2021. They are as follows:

- Raycroft discharged **68** total patients last year:
- **48** patients were discharged into the community
- **17** patients were detainees appropriately returned to corrections
- **3** patients were sent to AKFC.
- Of the patients discharged into the community or corrections, the total length of stay was **47,538 days which equals 130.2 years** at TPH.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – No comments from the Public at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Kwoka
Secretary Board of Trustees

Neil Weisfeld
Chairperson

NW/sk