

**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, October 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  
\*\*\*Maureen Lebel – LSW, PhD.  
\*\*\*Carolyn Torre - RN, MA APN

**Excused:**

\*\*\*Susan Rubino, MD

**\*\*\*Board Member Via Microsoft Team and Via  
call in on Microsoft teams**

**TPH Staff Attendance:**

Maria Christensen, CEO, James Hollen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer-Operations (DCEO), Faith Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer-Clinical (DCEO), Intikhab Ahmad, M.D., Clinical Director; Michelle Senni, Executive Assistant to the CEO, Towana Wilkins, Business Manager, Julie VanHouten – Associate Hospital Administrator 1  
Sheila Kwoka, Assistant Secretarial 3 to the CEO/Board Secretary

**Guest:**

Mary Jean Weston-DMHAS  
Kimberly Stroman – Risk Manager (For Frank Miller)  
Monica Kelly – Complex Administrator for Travers

**Excused:**

Frank Miller – QI Director  
Meghan Henry-MacLeod - Legal Liaison

**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 September 15, 2022, meeting were approved as corrected.

## **BOARD REPORT:**

### **September Monthly Report:**

- Ms. Torre noted that the number of patients on 1:1 observation was lower but still at 9%. The percentage of patients on CEPP status was at 23%, close to the goal of 20%.
- Ms. Torre noted an increase in restraints. In part, this relates to visits to and from the emergency department.
- Ms. Torre noted preparations for a pending survey by the Joint Commission.
- Ms. Torre congratulated the New Leaf Gardeners on their sales of flowers and for work performed at the Raycroft complex.
- Ms. Torre noted the extraordinarily high delinquency rate of 390% in physician dictation.
- Dr. Lebel favorably noted pastoral services support for injury/assault and grief.
- Dr. Lebel inquired about the Stepping Stone Clinic. Dr. Ahmad will ask Sonja Myers for more information about this.
- Ms. Carr favorably noted programs conducted by the New Leaf Gardeners.
- Ms. Carr expressed strong appreciation for improvements in the format of the monthly report that have made the report more useful.
- Mr. Weisfeld asked why the daily and monthly census figures differ. Mr. Hollen will check on this discrepancy.
- Mr. Weisfeld asked about substantive changes in Infection Prevention (IP) policies related to COVID. The IP Policies are in the process of being updated, and the current IP Manual is posted on the TPH website.
- **Auxiliary Report:**

Ms. Senni reported that the Auxiliary currently is accepting donations. Items are requested to be clean and in good condition. Large items also being accepted. They can be dropped off at the Guard House so they can be taken to the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is preparing to put together the holiday gifts for the patients and is expecting donations.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Incident Committee - Dr. Maureen Lebel**

Dr. Lebel report that there are no changes this month. Dr. Lebel noted that the demographics have changed over the past 3 years, with more patients arriving from Ann Klein Forensic Center. Assaults are trending down.

- As per the NJDOH website, for the first 9 months of 2022 six patient to patient assaults resulting in **major** injuries were reported at all four state psychiatric facilities. One occurred at TPH. Two patient to patient assaults did occur at TPH during September, resulting in **moderate** injuries.
- From January 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022, forty-seven patient to patient assaults resulting in **moderate** injuries were reported at all four facilities. Nineteen (40 percent) occurred at TPH.
- Risk Management reported 172 incidents at TPH during September 2022. This is down from 197 in the previous month. No incidents at TPH were at the A+. This is down from 2 in August.

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

- **Mental Health Related Bills** Currently Before NJ Legislature and recently active: Dates of recent action in bold.
- **S2668/A508: Establishes annual cost of living adjustment based on Consumer Price Index for programs providing mental health services, substance use disorder treatment services, or services to persons with developmental disabilities.**  
Sponsors: Senate: Greenstein; Vitale; Gopal. Assembly: Benson; Murphy  
1/11/22: Introduced in Assembly, referred to A. Human Service Committee;  
no action since 5/16/22: “in Senate, referred to Senate Health and Human  
Services Committee **10/6/22**: Reported from S. Health C. with amendments;  
referred to Senate Budget/Appropriations  
Link: [https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S3000/2668\\_R1.PDF](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S3000/2668_R1.PDF)
- **A1700/S524: Creates Mental Illness Diversion Program to divert eligible persons away from criminal justice system and into appropriate case management and mental health services.**  
Sponsors: Assembly: Quijano; Mukherji. Senate: Ruiz; Cunningham  
Introduced: A and S: 1/11/22. No movement in Senate, since. In  
Assembly: **9/29/22**: Reported from Assembly Judiciary Committee; referred  
to A. Human Services, C. Link:  
[https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A2000/1700\\_S1.PDF](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A2000/1700_S1.PDF)

- **S3031/A1924:** Requires health insurance carriers to categorize mental health treatment and therapy received by victim of domestic violence as medically necessary treatment and provide full benefits coverage, therefore. Sponsors: S.: Gopal; Ruiz; A.: Swain; Benson.
- **S3031/A1924 (cont.)**  
Introduced: S: **9/22/22**: Referred to Sen. Health and Human Services.  
“A: 1/11/22: Referred to A. Financials Institutions and Insurance  
Link: [https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S3500/3031\\_I1.PDF](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S3500/3031_I1.PDF)
- **A4604/S682: Requires suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.**  
Primary Sponsors: A.: Rooney. S.: Bucco; Gopal  
Introduced: A.: **9/22/22**; S.: 1/11/22  
Link: [https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/A4604/bill-text?f=A5000&n=4604\\_I1](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/A4604/bill-text?f=A5000&n=4604_I1)
- **A4540/S1133:** Requires mental health evaluation of all animal cruelty offenders (adult or juvenile).  
Primary Sponsors: A. Jimenez. S.: Vitale  
Introduced: A.: **9/22/22**; S.: 1/11/22  
Link: [https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S1500/1153\\_I1.PDF](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S1500/1153_I1.PDF)
- **Executive Order:** Recent Mental Health related:  
8/31/22: Executive Order #305: establishes Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council under the Attorney General to decide how to best utilize NJersey’s share of national litigation drug overdose settlement.  
Link: <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-305.pdf>  
**Statutes:** Recent Statute related to Mental Health:
- **P.L. 2022, c.36** Signed by Governor, June 30, 2022  
“The Attorney General shall establish a pilot program to be known as the Alternative Response to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation (ARRIVE) Together Pilot Program. The program shall be designed to provide accessible crisis intervention, mental health screening, or other support to individuals experiencing mental health crises who have contacted or are engaging with law enforcement.” The new law provides an appropriation for the pilot program.  
Link: [https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/PL22/36\\_.PDF](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/PL22/36_.PDF)
- **Schulley Trading Post – Mr. Neil Weisfeld**  
  
The Schulley Trading Post is being renovated. The Board of Trustees is coming to TPH after the meeting today and will have a chance to sample food products prepared by the Schulley Trading Post.

- **Therapeutic Environment Committee – Ms. Patricia Carr**
  - **Recent Accomplishments:**
    - Adirondack chairs are widely used and greatly appreciated.
    - All recreation areas are kept clean and free of hazards.
    - The Amphitheater has been power washed.
  - **Currently in Progress**
    - Autumn Festival decorations are being gathered.
    - Arrangements have been handled for a band, face painting and a tractor hayride at the Festival.
  - **Waiting in the Wings to be accomplished:**
    - Winter changeover to occur early December.
  - **Wish List:**
    - Feb/2022 wish list concerning awnings on walkways not yet accomplished.
    - Attention to derelict/boarded up buildings, perhaps a start by renovating small house at gate 1.
    - The TPH community can be canvassed for suggestions regarding the old, eyesore buildings.
    - What about a pickle ball court? Nets are easily set up even on macadam.
    - Bowling alley? Bowling Green?
    - Is it time to revisit a pool, say one with a maximum depth of 3 to 4 feet?
- **Welfare Fund – Mr. Weisfeld**

Mr. Weisfeld noted that there was an increase in the Welfare Fund. The improvements to the Schulley Trading Post are going well and we are optimistic.

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

1. **Public Input re: Opioid Settlement funds** – The State of New Jersey is seeking public input on how the opioid settlement funds should be used. Please see the link below, provide your thoughts, and share with your contacts.

[https://www.nj.gov/opioidfunds/?utm\\_campaign=20220902\\_nwsltr&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.nj.gov/opioidfunds/?utm_campaign=20220902_nwsltr&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

2. **Virtual Narcan trainings** happen every month. See flyer for October dates. For more information or other dates, please contact Diane Villari at [dvillari@jsashealthcare.org](mailto:dvillari@jsashealthcare.org).



Narcan October  
ZOOM 2022.docx

3. **ATLAS Treatment Locator** – A free webinar about the ATLAS system for locating treatment services for substance use/addiction will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> (see flyer). This will include a demonstration of the ATLAS website.



ATLAS 10.26.22.pdf

4. **988 Update** – The 5 NJ 988 Lifeline centers continue to manage calls, chats and texts. Additional funding was provided to the centers for one-time costs such as training and additional/upgraded technology. An overview of 988 and development of the 988 system in NJ is available in this Update: [988 Update \(September 2022\)](#). Mary Jean will make a presentation on 988 following the November Board meeting.

5. **Decrease in Veteran Suicides** – VA released a report showing that Veteran suicides decreased in 2020 for the second year in a row; fewer Veterans died by suicide in 2020 than in any year since 2006. See [article from Veterans Crisis Line](#) for more information.

6. **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)** is a course that teaches people to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training teaches how to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis.

- a. MHFA is being offered on NJ college campuses.
- b. Teen MHFA is being offered in several NJ High Schools. The goal is to train students to recognize signs of mental health struggles in their peers and support them in getting help.

7. **Rutgers-UBHC Partial Hospitalization** program is now taking referrals in Cherry Hill, Monmouth Junction and Newark.

8. **RFPs**

a. [Child and Adolescent Psychiatry \(CAP\) Fellowship Training Initiative](#)

b. Additional RFPs listed at

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

**COMMUNICATIONS** – There were no communications this month.

**OLD BUSINESS** – There was no old business this month.

**NEW BUSINESS** – There was no new business this month.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – There were no comments from the public.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sheila Kwoka  
Secretary Board of Trustees

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Neil Weisfeld  
Chairperson

NW/sk

**Please take note:** Dr. Ahmad's presentation on Violence Prevention will take place after today's meeting. I will be sending everyone a hard copy for Dr. Ahmad presentation on Violence Prevention.



Bi Annual VPC  
Report.pdf