

Introduction

The Mental Health Association (MHA) continued its strong focus on the recovery, safety and mental health and substance use disorder needs of consumers and their families in fiscal year 2024. MHA exceeded its service and quality expectations while remaining in a strong financial position. The agency operated in a financially sound manner while advancing its mission of providing services to individuals and their families regardless of their ability to pay.

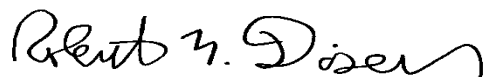
MHA continued to focus on innovative service delivery, emphasizing wellness and recovery:

- MHA remains licensed by the Department of Health at the highest level as a result of the successful triennial survey.
- MHA implemented the New Jersey Statewide Student Support Services program for Morris and Sussex County.
- The agency implemented the Attorney General's ARRIVE police co-responding program in 8 towns in Morris County, as well as expanded co-responding programming to South Orange in Essex County.
- MHA purchased, renovated and moved into a 23,500 square foot building in Parsippany to act as our Morris campus, serving the Northern New Jersey area.
- The agency expanded DCA Homeless Diversion services and a Prosecutor Diversion program into Sussex County.
- MHA was awarded 2 grants to provide Community Wellness Centers (Drop-in programs) in Morris and Sussex Counties.
- MHA met the service needs of the community via its counseling, case management, partial hospitalization, supported employment, criminal justice, educational, supportive housing, therapeutic jurisprudence, faith-based, consumer advocacy, school-based, suicide prevention services and family and children's programs. All services are evidenced based and recovery focused, culturally competent to the diverse communities we serve with an emphasis on the underserved and marginalized persons with health disparities.

Raising mental health awareness was the centerpiece of MHA's performance for fiscal year 2024. MHA provided over 200 community presentations on a range of mental health and addiction recovery topics throughout Northern New Jersey. Suicide Prevention and adolescence mental health were the most common raising awareness activity with presentations to schools, colleges, community groups and houses of worship. MHA produced radio public services announcements appearing on Essex, Morris and Sussex radio stations. In addition, MHA produced and aired its own mental health podcast, The Protective Factor.

Advocacy, on behalf of individuals with mental illness and their families, was a continued interest in fiscal year 2024. Led by the Board's Advocacy Committee and senior staff, the agency was instrumental (working with other community partners) in maintaining funding in the State Budget for FY 2025. The agency advocated strenuously for improving the conditions at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital. MHA advanced its advocacy efforts with two Legislative Breakfasts attended by over 500 people and broadcast live via the internet. Participants included numerous elected officials from the Federal, State and County level. Staff and Board advocated in Newark, Trenton and Washington, D.C. for legislation, mental health funding and the care of individuals with mental illness and those with addictions.

The environment of care is in excellent condition. The agency continues to replace vehicles, as needed, and appropriately maintain the physical plant. Consumer, family and provider satisfaction surveys indicate a high level of satisfaction with MHA and its services.



Robert N. Davison, Chief Executive Officer