Ammon Labs Offers Quick, Reliable Test Results and Offers Empowering Recovery Programs

Illustrating the Value of Behavioral Health Services
PTACC

Pre-Arrest Diversion Workshop Series

Learn how to bring effective pre-arrest diversion and deflection solutions to your local communities.

AmmonLabs.com/Diversion

ARC
Addiction Research Consortium

Substance Use Disorder:
Positioning for Success in 2019

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 • 9:30 am-2:30 pm

Convene with treatment leaders and research experts to identify strategies on how to leverage data to maximize reimbursement and improve patient success.

Rutgers University
Livingston Student Center
Piscataway, NJ
RSVP by March 1st

AmmonLabs.com/ARC

The Ammon Foundation
2nd Annual

Winter Reception
An Evening of Empowerment

February 23, 2019
7:00pm - 10:00pm

Kean University
STEM Building
Union, NJ
RSVP by February 15th
Cocktail attire

Enjoy breathtaking views, exceptional food including a raw bar, mocktail station, and live music.

All proceeds go directly towards academic scholarships for individuals in addiction recovery.

AmmonFoundation.org/Gala
We are pleased to feature innovative services for youth in this edition of NJAMHAA News and we appreciated receiving details on programs from several of our members.

These services are impressive and impactful, as well as diverse. They include school-based programs that help parents and school staff, as well as children; outreach and early intervention to adolescents who are homeless; dialectical behavior therapy for teens and coaching for their parents; a leadership academy for adolescents with Tourette Syndrome and possibly co-occurring mental illnesses; a program specifically for youth who are aging out of the child welfare system; and vocational services for high school students with disabilities.

We will also feature either a new member provider organization or a new leader at a member organization in each issue. In this edition, we are highlighting Bergen New Bridge Medical Center and its partnerships with CarePlus New Jersey, Integrity House and Rutgers Medical School to provide integrated care.

In addition, we will highlight a NJAMHAA approved vendor or a member of one of our councils - Information Technology, Integrated Healthcare, Life Sciences and Innovation, and Education - in each issue of NJAMHAA News. The feature in this edition is the publication’s sponsor, Ammon Labs, which is a member of our Integrated Healthcare Council and to whom we are extremely grateful for their generous support.

We hope you find NJAMHAA News enjoyable and valuable and we look forward to featuring your organization in the future.

“Stay tuned for opportunities to feature your organization in future issues!”

Debra L. Wentz, PhD
President and CEO, NJAMHAA
Ammon Labs Offers Quick, Reliable Test Results and Offers Empowering Recovery Programs

[continued from page 1]

along with their expertise in the use of drug testing in addiction treatment, has helped us shape our extensive test menu,” Andrew said. “What makes us really stand out is the speed and efficiency with which we develop these test methods and offer them to our clients,” he added.

Ammon recently announced the availability of customizable antipsychotic test panels that are accurate, reliable and compliant with all industry guidelines and federal regulations.

“This specialized and unique testing panel for psychiatric care is very important and pivotal in assuring patient compliance and the efficacy of psychiatric medical prescribing. Without this specialized testing panel, providers would be handicapped in their attempts to ascertain the efficacy of the medications that they are prescribing, and medication changes and alterations would be happenstance without some firm basis to rely upon. Decision making in prescribing can be enhanced by having these test results available,” Dr. Baxter explained.

In addition, Ammon has organized a distinguished Speakers Bureau Program. “We have a dedicated team of thought leaders and renowned experts who provide educational, timely and relevant content in the fields of addiction science, prevention, treatment, recovery support, data analysis and more,” Andrew said.

“With the increase in opioid overdoses and the decrease of available Narcan/naloxone (the opioid overdose antidote), Ammon has pursued an initiative to supply these kits and the subsequent training to police departments and other community organizations in need,” Andrew added. To date, Ammon has donated more than 500 kits in New Jersey, Maryland and Connecticut. Ammon also provides naloxone training to state municipalities, local businesses and its own employees. “Through our training and naloxone donations, Ammon has been indirectly responsible for saving hundreds of lives. Countless more donations and training sessions are planned for 2019,” according to Andrew.

Opportunities Opened through the Ammon Foundation

“Driven by the visionary leadership of Executive Director, Mariel S. Hufnagel, the Foundation aims to realize its critical

“When individuals in recovery are holistically supported to build purposeful lives, the likelihood of them maintaining their recovery substantially increases.”

Andrew Haupt
Chief Marketing Officer
Ammon Labs
mission and vision through its two core programs: the Ammon Recovery Scholars Program and the Empowerment Workshop Program,” Andrew said.

Through the Ammon Recovery Scholars Program, the Foundation offers scholarships to individuals in recovery to pursue education and provides academic, personal and professional support to recipients.

The Empowerment Workshop Program consists of six nationally recognized, evidence-based modules on life-skills training. “All workshops are facilitated by Certified Ammon Empowerment Coaches, who are individuals in recovery with lived experience. We believe that when individuals in recovery are holistically supported to build purposeful lives, the likelihood of them maintaining their recovery substantially increases,” Andrew said.

In 2018 alone, the Foundation facilitated 97 Empowerment Workshops, serving hundreds of unduplicated participants, at 12 partner sites across New Jersey. Also in 2018, the foundation awarded $96,398 in scholarships to 63 recipients across the nation.

“Madeline is one of countless incredible success stories and an example of how the Foundation’s programs save and change lives,” Andrew said. In May 2018, Madeline received an Impact Scholarship, which will cover her entire tuition for culinary school. Through the Empowerment Workshops, Madeline became “armed not only with the skills to be an exceptional chef, but also with the skills to navigate life successfully while building a stable and rewarding career. Today, Madeline is gainfully employed and thriving. She credits the Ammon Foundation for her success.”

Expansion and Enhancements in Progress

“Ultimately, Ammon Labs’ goal is to become the premier provider of laboratory services for addiction treatment facilities on the Eastern Seaboard,” Andrew said. We have already begun to expand our footprint beyond our New Jersey roots and into surrounding states. In 2018, we opened our new satellite lab in Webster, Massachusetts and have added new service territories throughout the East Coast.”

“We plan to expand into these markets carefully and delicately so that the Ammon brand and what we stand for doesn’t get lost or diluted. We care greatly about the quality and attention given to each one of our clients and their patients. Ammon understands that in some cases, these test results can be life changing for the patients, and we do everything in our power to be accurate and provide test results that professionals can rely on,” Andrew stressed.

Other, very specific goals for the Foundation include having a meaningful scholarship program that has significant impact by giving at least $100,000 to a minimum of 50 individuals; offering 200 workshops on basic life-building skills attended by a minimum of 400 people from various regional areas serving diverse populations; strategically increasing support and thus engagement with Ammon Recovery Scholars and Ammon Recovery Participants through the Community Engagement Initiative, which includes, but is not limited to, peer recovery coaching and professional mentorship; creating a comprehensive and sustainable data collection process for demographics and outcomes; and raising at least $500,000 to support Ammon Foundation’s programs.

“Ammon’s specialized and unique testing panel for psychiatric care is very important and pivotal in assuring patient compliance and the efficacy of psychiatric medical prescribing.”

Dr. Louis Baxter, Sr., FASAM, Past President, American Society of Addiction Medicine
This edition of NJAMHAA News is the first of a new format. Member providers will be invited to share information on their programs based on a theme identified for each issue. For the current edition, the theme is innovative services for youth.

NJAMHAA thanks the members who provided the information below and looks forward to highlighting many other members’ programs and their impact in future issues of NJAMHAA News.

Rutgers Health - University Behavioral Health Care’s (UBHC’s) School and Community Based Programs

Through these programs, the UBHC staff is partnering with school districts across the state to identify problematic behavior and intervene during the early stages to assist parents and school personnel in developing comprehensive strategies for addressing these behaviors, explained Sonia Rodrigues-Martò, MA, LPC, ACS, Program Director. The broad range of services consists of individual, family and group counseling; psychoeducational groups for children, parents and school staff; after-school programs and in-school suspension counseling; crisis intervention; psychiatric consultation and medication management; consultation for child study team evaluations; staff development workshops and consultation; drug/alcohol prevention programming and assessment; and case management and integration with community programs.

“We customize our programs to meet the needs of every student, community and school district. We also provide a wide array of professional development opportunities to school staff and workshops for parents in addition to our clinical services,” Rodrigues-Martò said, adding that this is the only program in the state that brings child and adolescent psychiatrists to provide weekly consultation and medication management in schools.

“We also collect data to track trends among issues gaining prevalence in schools and then turnkey that information to provide staff and parents with professional development about the current issues facing the school and community. Additionally, we have weekly team meetings in our programs to track each student’s progress and to identify any areas that need further improvement or development,” Rodrigues-Martò added.

Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services’ HOST Program - Homeless Outreach Support Team

Bridgeway has received a five-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration to implement this program, which will be unique in its sole focus on underserved adolescents (16 to 24 years old) living with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance, as well as those with co-occurring substance use disorders. “Through HOST, Bridgeway will provide evidence-based treatment and supports, assertive outreach and early intervention services to assist each individual to navigate through the complexities of the homelessness and mental health systems,” Lisa Giannascoli, Director of Marketing and Development, explained.

“HOST will utilize technology by working with our partners in emergency rooms, shelters and police departments to notify us when a homeless person is identified. Once notified, HOST staff will provide rapid assessments and linkages with housing and services,” she said.

Bridgeway developed a living room in its Elizabeth office to serve as the HOST Hub where homeless individuals can drop in to use computers and other resources and receive care management. The program will utilize Critical Time Intervention (CTI), a time-limited case management model to help individuals strengthen their support networks. “CTI has been proven to decrease homelessness, hospitalizations and re-arrests, and increase individuals’ ability to successfully transition back into the community,” Giannascoli said. “Ultimately, we will connect individuals to the local continuum of care and housing authorities so they can access appropriate supportive housing.”

Trinitas Regional Medical Center’s Adolescent Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Program, Child and Adolescent Outpatient Unit
Atara Hiller, PsyD, Psychologist, Coordinator, created this program in 2014 to provide more effective and efficient treatment to teens at high risk, who present with suicidal and self-harming behaviors and co-morbid difficulties, such as depression, anxiety, interpersonal difficulties, school avoidance, substance use, eating disordered behavior and trauma symptoms. “These clients often have a significant history of utilizing and cycling through higher levels of care and/or languishing in...”
The adolescent DBT program consists of individual therapy for teens, individual parent coaching sessions, multi-family skills groups, telephone coaching and a DBT consultation team. “It is innovative in allowing greater access to high-quality, evidence-based treatment to teens and families who cannot otherwise afford out-of-pocket treatment costs,” according to Dr. Hiller. “Moreover, the program is the only one of its kind to offer DBT in Spanish, thereby expanding the reach of this beneficial service.”

Since its inception, the adolescent DBT program has served more than 100 English- and Spanish-speaking families, and the program continues to grow. “Research on the adolescent DBT program at Trinitas has shown that its clinicians have been effective at helping clients achieve their treatment goals and reduce the need for higher levels of care, with high levels of retention and satisfaction with treatment,” Dr. Hiller said.

New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome and Associated Disorders’ (NJ CtS) Tim Howard Leadership Academy
The Leadership Academy is the only program of its kind in the nation. “It helps level the playing field for teens with Tourette Syndrome [TS] and it promotes self-advocacy, self-leadership, resilience and grit—all important skills to succeed,” said Executive Director Faith Rice. Established in 2014 for the New Jersey TS community, the Academy has been attracting teens from throughout the U.S., Canada and even Australia.

This intensive, four-day program takes place on Rutgers University’s Busch Campus each August. Participants learn about the brain mechanisms behind TS, the psychological disorders that present challenges, coping skills and the social aspects of having a stigmatized condition.

“For many participants, the Academy is the first time they have an opportunity to spend time with other teens diagnosed with this often misunderstood neurological disorder. The coaches serve as mentors and role models who, through the sharing of their own experiences with TS, are instrumental in our participants’ growth and success,” Rice said. “The Academy provides an intentional space to build critical skills that will empower young people with TS to excel and, through that success, inspire others. Teens become advocates for themselves and others. They face their next school year with a newfound confidence, new sense of self and newly acquired coping skills. They also leave the Academy with new friends, connections and contacts they can reach out to for support.”

Community Access Unlimited (CAU’s) Transition Opportunities Program (TOP)
Through its Transition Opportunities Program (TOP), CAU, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, provides a comprehensive array of residential and support services to youth (13 to 21 years old) who are aging out of the child welfare system.

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“Members receive independent and transitional living services to prepare them for a self-reliant adulthood. Depending on individual need, services can include day programs, supervised housing, community services, daily living skills, case management, advocacy/outreach, education assistance, planning and counseling. TOP strives to create new services when unique needs arise,” said Joanne Oppelt, Assistant Executive Director, Business Development.

“TOP is more than just a set of youth services. It’s a movement to empower and shape youth at risk into confident, independent adults,” Oppelt said, adding that TOP offers support and education in sexuality and relationships, civil rights, social advocacy, parenting, drug and alcohol awareness, vocational skills and more. Oppelt emphasized that referring to the youth as “members” fosters their sense of autonomy. “Choice is essential to CAU’s approach to supporting youth, and we train our staff to nurture while giving individuals the space to make their own decisions,” she added.

“When our youth members successfully complete our TOP program, we rest assured knowing they have the tools they need to go out and achieve their goals. Our members, dare we say, come out on top,” Oppelt said.

**Jewish Family Service of Atlantic and Cape May Counties’ (JFS’) Vocational Services Program**

The JFS vocational program is a pre-employment program for high school students (14 to 21 years old) with disabilities. Through interactive workshops, participants develop “soft skills” for obtaining and maintaining jobs. Topics include communication skills, teamwork and collaboration, adaptability, problem solving, financial planning, résumé building and job-specific social skills. Participants work directly with job coaches to develop résumés, are trained on using public transportation and receive assistance in completing job applications. After completing the skills sessions, participants have opportunities to participate in work sampling and internships, according to Nina Stolzenberg, PhD, Director of Vocational Services.

In addition to pre-employment training, JFS job coaches specialize in finding the right match between each employee and a job. They are trained vocational specialists who assess job tasks and provide supplemental training on or off site. They stay involved to ensure the employees meet business needs while respecting the employers’ values and standards.

“This program creates positive change for individuals. This vulnerable population is given unique opportunities to gain one-on-one support, as well as comprehensive workshops catered to their abilities and learning styles. Program participants have shown significant increases in confidence, and improvement in communication skills, teamwork and problem solving. Upon program completion, consumers perceive themselves as workers and are properly prepared and even excited for opportunities in the workforce,” Dr. Stolzenberg said.
Bergen New Bridge Medical Center (BNBMC) is the former Bergen Regional Medical Center, which has always been a NJ AMHAA member.

BNBMC is the largest hospital in New Jersey and fourth largest public hospital in the nation with 1,070 licensed beds. It also has one of the largest behavioral health programs with 323 dedicated beds and a variety of outpatient programs, according to Deborah Visconi, President and CEO.

Through partnerships established in 2017 with fellow NJ AMHAA members CarePlus NJ and Integrity House, BNBMC has enhanced its behavioral health and substance use disorder (SUD) service lines. The medical center’s clinical affiliation with Rutgers Medical School has greatly expanded and strengthened its Ambulatory Care Center with more physicians and specialty areas.

The BNBMC staff also partners with the local community in innovative ways. “We view ourselves as a real resource and a partner with our community. Our focus is on access, integration of care, and innovation of care. It’s as simple as having patients involved in their care plans and ensuring access to their information,” Visconi said, noting that BNBMC is the first hospital to be part of the New Jersey Health Information Network.

“We’re here to support our community in any manner it takes,” Visconi stressed.

**Partnership Enables Provision of a Full Continuum of Services**

Visconi explained that there is now a partnership with CarePlus New Jersey; Integrity House, which offers a broad range of SUD treatment services; and Rutgers, which is the clinical affiliate. “This partnership positions us to provide a broader scope of services and identify gaps in the community that we can fill,” she said. “It’s truly a collaboration offering a continuum of care and it enables us to be a tremendous community resource.”

“It allows for CarePlus NJ and Integrity House to be on site at the hospital as part of our treatment teams in both our inpatient and outpatient programs. It provides a seamless way of taking the next steps in an individual’s care and it’s in the best interest of patients for follow-up,” said Kristine Pendy, Chief Clinical Officer for Behavioral Health Services at BNBMC. “We are bringing in evidence-based practices to enhance clinical care – including integration of medical, substance use and behavioral health care on our units – and to improve discharge planning,” she added.

Providing all services in-house is a unique component of BNBMC’s interdisciplinary approach in behavioral health and SUD services, according to Pendy. She explained that most patients have comorbidities, which could be overlooked if care were not integrated. The treatment team, including Integrity House and CarePlus NJ, ensures that complications of medical conditions are addressed along with behavioral health issues and SUDs. Pendy shared an example.
of a young woman who previously had two psychiatric emergency room visits and had a rare condition identified during a medical assessment. “She had surgery to remove the tumor. While her medical prognosis is complicated, she is on the road to recovery and likely will thrive,” Pendy said.

“We’re providing people with a comprehensive roadmap to care,” Pendy emphasized.

**Partnerships Extend to Schools and the Community**

“We are very connected with our school system in looking at the quality of our care and follow-up care. We have presented to student assistance counselors and we are working with superintendents of school systems,” Visconi said. “CarePlus NJ has many school contracts and we utilize their resources to get students back to their schools quickly with succinct plans for ongoing care.”

“For every child admitted, we track the town they live in and the school system. They don’t always attend the schools in their hometowns. We get the school systems involved in students’ care to ensure there’s no interruption to their academic life,” Visconi said.

One of BNBMC’s newer offerings is the Teen T.H.R.I.V.E. Recovery program. “We go to the community and identify teens early on. Groups are tailored to different levels of risk and involvement regarding substance use,” Visconi said. Currently, BNBMC has 19 schools that have students attending the Teen T.H.R.I.V.E. Program. BNBMC provides transportation to ensure the teens are in a safe environment, which further underscores their innovation and partnership with local communities.

BNBMC’s proactive role immediately following a school bus crash in Paramus last year is a testament to their dedication to the community.

“We see ourselves as a vital and integral part of the community and as a resource. So, when the crash occurred, we were available to our community at that time of need. We provided 24-hour phone access for support and counseling as school staff, parents and others were under such duress,” Pendy said. “We immediately connected people with resources. We also held sharing sessions through the summer to provide an outlet for teachers. They were so focused on students and parents at the time of the accident. This session helped them recover as they headed into the next school year.”

Donnalee Corrieri, BNBMC’s Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations, summed it up well, saying, “We go beyond merely providing programs. We have become a central and vital component to our communities and continue to focus on understanding and meeting their needs.”

“It’s truly a collaboration, a continuum and a tremendous community resource.”

Deborah Visconi
President and CEO
Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

[continued on page 12]
BNBMC’s Innovation Is in Clinical and Training Programs

Another innovative program that BNBMC offers is the Common-Ground program, which incorporates the approach and software developed by Patricia E. Deegan, PhD, a renowned presenter on recovery and empowerment of individuals with mental illnesses. Each patient in BNBMC’s outpatient program completes a self-assessment that is shared with the provider before each appointment indicating the consumer’s experience with his/her health, medication and focus for his/her current appointment.

“This is unique because it involves patients in their care planning and helps them have their own voice, which leads to better outcomes. We’ve seen quality results, including better adherence and fewer emergency room visits,” Visconi said. Another positive result is patient satisfaction, which is consistently 4.8 on a 5 point scale.

BNBMC is a teaching hospital in New Jersey and has the largest residency program for psychiatry on the East Coast. The hospital’s broad array of services makes this program unique.

Residents rotate through all specialties – children/adolescents, emergency room, medical, behavioral health, geriatric psychiatry, long-term care and substance use – at BNBMC. The only exception is neurology, which BNBMC partners with St. Joseph’s Health to provide. After residents complete this rotation at St. Joseph’s, they return to BNBMC.

BNBMC graduates eight residents each year. In the most recent graduating class, seven of the eight went on to prestigious fellowships, continuing training in children, geriatrics or SUD treatment. In addition, the residents have presented more than 60 poster projects to the American Psychiatric Association.

“That’s four to five posters each, compared to the average of one to two per resident. We earned top honors at these conferences,” Pendy said.

“We’re providing people with a comprehensive roadmap to care.”

– Kristine Pendy, Chief Clinical Officer for Behavioral Health Services
NJAMHAA IS PROUD TO HOST THE
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“OUT IN THE OPEN. IN IT TOGETHER.”
in NJAMHAA’s conference room through May 16, 2019

You will be drawn into the photos of diverse individuals.
The goal is to eliminate stigma by creating a safe environment
to talk about mental health disorders.

The MHAEM Inside Out Group Action is part of a participatory global art initiative
created by international artist JR, recipient of the TED2011 Prize,
given to visionary leaders with creative, bold wishes to spark global change.

For details on this project or to host this exhibit at your venue,
write to the Group Action Team
at rfolzenlogen@mhaessexmorris.org
or visit http://www.insideoutproject.net/en.
Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems have undoubtedly improved the management and administration of healthcare facilities everywhere. EHRs allow healthcare providers to better organize patients' treatment and records, minimize paperwork and simplify the workflow of healthcare programs.

However, increasing demand for EHRs has led to the proliferation of companies selling systems without any proof of quality. Taking advantage of the boom, these so-called EHR providers pitch their products to healthcare facilities as completely safe, reliable and able to meet providers' needs both now and in the future. These EHRs lack ONC-ACB [Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology-Authorized Certification Bodies] Health Information Technology (IT) Certification. Understanding what this important certification is and its significance to your organization's functioning is critical when deciding on the EHR for your business.

What is the ONC-ACB Health IT Certification Program?
To start, electronic healthcare record certification is administered through the Health IT Certification Program operated by the ONC. The ONC is within the Office of the Secretary for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and was established through executive order in 2004 and legislatively mandated in 2009 through the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act). The ONC partners with several organizations in imposing strict requirements to ensure EHR systems are fully functional, have safeguards against privacy and security concerns and do not pose threats to public health and safety.

At this time, application to become certified is voluntary. The certification process involves multiple functionality demonstrations, attestations regarding system integrity and security, and thorough documentation regarding system design and testing. EHR system providers that meet the requirements are awarded health IT certification by ONC-ACBs. To keep the certification, EHR system providers must ensure that their products continuously maintain the standards required under the program and must submit regular reports to their certification bodies. The certification process is labor intensive, time consuming, and expensive for EHR providers - which is why many choose not to do it. This is also why those who successfully pass are considered to be among the best EHRs.

The Significance of an ONC-ACB Certified Electronic Health Record System (And Why You Should Choose It)
By Anna Komissarenko, President, Zoobook Systems LLC, a NJ AMHAA Information Technology Council Member
Benefits of ONC-ACB Certification
An EHR system with an ONC-ACB certification benefits both health facilities and the public alike.

For behavioral healthcare providers, use of an ONC-ACB certified EHR system ensures the product meets government-prescribed, normalized and validated industry standards. Use of the certified EHR will also improve efficient management of agencies, as demonstrable efficiency improvements are part of the certification process. Cost transparency is also part of the certification process, so providers are assured of “no hidden fees” or other charges when signing with vendors.

First, the risk to their patient data is enormous. There is no authority or oversight body ensuring the data is stored properly and securely to protect it from both hackers and natural disasters. Penalties for unlawful disclosure can be substantial, and that does not include lawsuits from the clients themselves.

Use of an ONC-ACB certified EHR also allows providers access to current and future federal funding initiatives whose access is predicated on their adoption.

Risks of Getting an EHR System without an ONC-ACB Certification
Behavioral healthcare programs face a myriad of risks should they choose to get EHR systems without ONC-ACB certification.

Second, while many providers cite cost as a reason for not using an ONC-ACB certified system, the reality is the savings that will come from increased efficiencies and improved capacities far outweigh the upfront charges. Using a system without ONC-ACB certification can cost far more in the long-term from lost revenue opportunities, data transmission problems, hidden fees and security breaches. Finally, while an EHR without certification can claim to help lessen staff’s workload, only ONC-ACB certified systems have proven their use will result in fewer patient errors and less administrative work, leading to better – and verifiable – patient care outcomes.

“An EHR system with an ONC-ACB certification benefits both health facilities and the public alike.”
Anna Komissarenko
President
Zoobook Systems, LLC

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For the public, the clients served by behavioral healthcare providers, ONC-ACB certification is equally desirable. Most important is the guarantee that their data is secured safely and meets numerous federal guidelines and regulations. They also know their data can be transferred to new providers or clinicians should their providers be using ONC-ACB certified systems. Their care management can be more efficiently and effectively managed, as a certified system meets interoperability requirements to allow electronic data transmission among providers to improve the quality of care.

“An EHR system with an ONC-ACB certification benefits both health facilities and the public alike.”
Anna Komissarenko
President
Zoobook Systems, LLC

References:
- ONC’s Health IT Certification Program Overview (https://tinyurl.com/yb3osbvl)
- About The ONC Health IT Certification Program (https://tinyurl.com/ybkencxh)
- Certified Health IT Product List (https://tinyurl.com/yd89ftpu)

For more Information and a FREE consultation, please call Zoobook Systems LLC at 1-800-995-6997 or e-mail anna@zoobooksystems.com.
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**IT Project Services**

- Group Purchasing discounts for hardware and software, industry events, publications, marketing services, and more
- Vendor User Group promotion and facilitation
- Grants facilitation and access to philanthropic donations; resources reported regularly via newswire and E-Blast.
- Partnerships with state and local government entities, e-learning companies, benchmarking firms, and leading technology vendors provide access to an array of products and services.
- Annual Technology Conference presents the latest information on popular trends and emerging technologies; first-hand information about non-profit policy and funding issues and regulatory mandates; opportunity to network with top technology companies.
- Bits & Bytes newsletter highlights IT Project activities, product evaluations, industry surveys, vendor news, case studies, technology tips and techniques, grant information, and much more.
- Consultation services for EHR implementations
- Expert technical support and network engineering services below industry market rates
- LAN/WAN/VPN, VoIP, Disk to Disk backups, Internet Monitoring solutions
- Managed Services for all your circuits, servers and desktops
- Technology plan development
- Assistance in purchasing technology solutions
- Compliance assistance (federal and state, as related to privacy and security)
- Grant and product donation information
- Training, workshops and conferences
- Website development and maintenance at below market rates

**Bundled Services**

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**Technical Assistance & Consulting**

- On-site business process analysis for optimal technology implementation and utilization
- Assistance with technology evaluation, selection, and implementation
- Technical liaison with technology and telecommunication vendors to ensure cohesive operations
- CIO-level assistance with development of long- and short-term strategic technology plans
- Assistance with development of technology policies and procedures
- Help desk support; remote and on-site system administration and troubleshooting
- Configuration, administration, and maintenance of LAN and WAN networks
- Software installations, configuration, documentation, and training
- Hardware installation or relocation and deployment
- Forms design and deployment for efficient, accurate data collection and reporting
- Emergency on-call and on-site services
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Employment Opportunities

With the many changes taking place in the behavioral healthcare environment and the reconfiguration of agencies, many staff openings are becoming available, and many staff members are seeking positions. As a result, NJAMHAA has been offering its members this service: Alerting members about openings or availability of staff via e-mail, for a charge. A fee for placing the posting and the cost of the communication has been paid for by the individual or entity advertising the position.

CFO: Preferred Behavioral Health Group (PBHG)

PBHG seeking a CFO position who is accountable for the financial operations of a not-for-profit behavioral health organization with an annual operating budget of $25 million and 400 employees celebrating 40 years of service in 2018. Responsibilities include the development of a financial and operational strategy, metrics tied to that strategy, and the ongoing development and monitoring of control systems designed to preserve Preferred Behavioral Health Group’s assets and report accurate financial results.

Send cover letter and CV to Dottie Kocak, Human Resources Director at Dkocak@PreferredBehavioral.org for further information.
All Our Voices Must Be Heard to Reinforce the Behavioral Health System and Protect the Lives of New Jerseyans Who Rely on It.

Join NJAMHAA’s Partners in Advocacy Program to gain everything you need to be the most effective advocate and strengthen your organization by achieving our goals:

- Training on written and verbal advocacy strategies and skills
- Talking points on our priority issues
- Template letters for requesting meetings with legislators and follow-up letters
  - Position papers
  - Timely legislative alerts

Contact Cindy Aviles, Coordinator of Advocacy and Member Services at 609.838.5488, ext. 225 or caviles@njamhaa.org
or Mary Abrams, Senior Health Policy Analyst, at 609-838-5488, ext. 221 or mabrams@njamhaa.org for more details, including how to become a Partners in Advocacy Leader!

See the full list of current Partners in Advocacy on the next page
# Partners in Advocacy Leaders

If you are in district 4, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 35 or 36, please consider serving as a Partners in Advocacy leader!

To check which district you are in, based on the town where you are located or towns you serve, please visit [http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/districtnumbers.asp](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/districtnumbers.asp).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland</td>
<td>Greg Speed</td>
<td>Cape Counseling Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gspeed@capecounseling.org">gspeed@capecounseling.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>Cindy Herdman Ivins, Frank Blee, Julie Drew, Laura Rodgers</td>
<td>Center for Family Services, AtlanticCare Behavioral Health, AtlanticCare Behavioral Health, JFS of Atlantic &amp; Cape May Counties</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Cindy.HerdmanIvins@centerffs.org">Cindy.HerdmanIvins@centerffs.org</a>, <a href="mailto:Francis.Blee@atlanticare.org">Francis.Blee@atlanticare.org</a>, <a href="mailto:julie.drew@atlanticare.org">julie.drew@atlanticare.org</a>, <a href="mailto:lrodgers@jfsatlantic.org">lrodgers@jfsatlantic.org</a></td>
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<td>Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem</td>
<td>Anthony DiFabio, Elizabeth Verdi</td>
<td>Robins’ Nest, Inc., Robins’ Nest, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adifabio@robinsonestinc.org">adifabio@robinsonestinc.org</a>, <a href="mailto:everdi@robinsonestinc.org">everdi@robinsonestinc.org</a></td>
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<td>Camden</td>
<td>Judyann McCarthy</td>
<td>Center for Family Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmccarthy@centerffs.org">jmccarthy@centerffs.org</a></td>
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<td>Burlington, Camden</td>
<td>Steve Shultz</td>
<td>Volunteers of America Delaware Valley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:SSHultz@voadv.org">SSHultz@voadv.org</a></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Burlington, Camden</td>
<td>Amanda Rodriguez, Derry Holland</td>
<td>Legacy Treatment Services, Oaks Integrated Care</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adrodriguez@legacytreatment.org">adrodriguez@legacytreatment.org</a>, <a href="mailto:Derry.Holland@oaksintcare.org">Derry.Holland@oaksintcare.org</a></td>
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<td>Atlantic, Burlington, Ocean</td>
<td>Jim Cooney, Cindy Herdman Ivins</td>
<td>Ocean Mental Health Services, Center for Family Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcooney@oceanmhs.org">jcooney@oceanmhs.org</a>, <a href="mailto:Cindy.HerdmanIvins@centerffs.org">Cindy.HerdmanIvins@centerffs.org</a></td>
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<td>Ocean</td>
<td>Mary Jo Buchanan, Jim Cooney</td>
<td>Ocean Partnership for Children, Ocean Mental Health Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mjbuchanan@oceanpartnership.org">mjbuchanan@oceanpartnership.org</a>, <a href="mailto:jcooney@oceanmhs.org">jcooney@oceanmhs.org</a></td>
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<td>Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean</td>
<td>James Marhold</td>
<td>Declarations, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmarhold@declarationsinc.org">jmarhold@declarationsinc.org</a></td>
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<td>Hunterdon, Mercer</td>
<td>Barrett Young</td>
<td>Rescue Mission of Trenton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Barrett.young@rmtrenton.org">Barrett.young@rmtrenton.org</a></td>
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<td>Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset</td>
<td>David Harkness, Barbara Schlichting</td>
<td>Hunterdon Medical Center, Somerset Treatment Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:harkness.david@hunterdonhealthcare.org">harkness.david@hunterdonhealthcare.org</a>, <a href="mailto:BarbSTS@aol.com">BarbSTS@aol.com</a></td>
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<td>Middlesex, Somerset</td>
<td>Suzanne Siverio Kreie</td>
<td>Coordinated Family Care</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sskreie@coordinatedfamilycare.com">sskreie@coordinatedfamilycare.com</a></td>
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<td>Union</td>
<td>Marlyse Benson</td>
<td>Trinitas Regional Medical Center</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MBenson@Trinitas.org">MBenson@Trinitas.org</a></td>
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<td>Morris, Somerset</td>
<td>Jim Curtin</td>
<td>Daytop New Jersey, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcurtin@daytopnj.org">jcurtin@daytopnj.org</a></td>
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<td>Essex, Morris, Passaic</td>
<td>Bob Parker, Lou Schwarcz</td>
<td>NewBridge Services, Inc., The Bridge</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Parker@NewBridge.org">Parker@NewBridge.org</a>, <a href="mailto:Lschwarcz@thebridgenj.org">Lschwarcz@thebridgenj.org</a></td>
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<td>Monmouth, Ocean</td>
<td>Mary Pat Angelini, Jim Cooney</td>
<td>Preferred Behavioral Health Group, Ocean Mental Health Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mpangelini@preferredbehavioral.org">mpangelini@preferredbehavioral.org</a>, <a href="mailto:jcooney@oceanmhs.org">jcooney@oceanmhs.org</a></td>
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<td>Essex, Passaic</td>
<td>Robert Davison</td>
<td>Mental Health Association of Essex &amp; Morris</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdavison@mhaessex.org">rdavison@mhaessex.org</a></td>
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<td>Bergen</td>
<td>Vicki Sidrow</td>
<td>Vantage Health System</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vsidrow@vagenj.org">vsidrow@vagenj.org</a></td>
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<td>Bergen, Passaic</td>
<td>Joe Masiandaro</td>
<td>CarePlus NJ, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jam@careplusnj.org">jam@careplusnj.org</a></td>
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<td>Bergen, Essex, Morris, Passaic</td>
<td>Karen Acker</td>
<td>West Bergen Mental Healthcare</td>
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NJAMHAA’s Mission

To promote the value of its members as the highest quality behavioral healthcare providers for the residents of New Jersey through advocacy and professional development.

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