

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
November 12, 2013  
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The November 12, 2013 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Rebekka Zydel, Chair at 5:35 p.m.

Members Present:

Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep.  
Linda Csengeto, OTA Rep./CEAS/CoC Rep.  
Cynthia DeGazon, Citizen Rep.  
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.  
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.  
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep./Liaison Planning Committee  
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep.  
Michelle Roers, United Way of NNJ  
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Mary Fleck, Good Grief  
David Johnston, Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
Mary Giorlando – DDD

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Shelia Carter, MCDHS  
Frank Pinto, MCDHS (departed 6:12 p.m.)  
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

**Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Rebekka Zydel, Chair**

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

**Guest Presentation – Good Grief, Helping Children & Teens Cope with Loss –**

**Dr. Mary Fleck**

Good Grief provides education, advocacy, and year-round peer support groups for children and teens coping with loss due to death. Their mission is to normalize grief in our society and create resilient communities where children coping with loss grow up emotionally healthy and able to lead meaningful and productive lives.

There are peer support groups for parents and children ages 3-18, and young adults ages 18-30, who have lost a parent or sibling due to death. The groups are designed to help children share feelings and memories about the person that died and identify ways of coping and growing through their grief. Children and teens meet in small groups with others their own age. Groups run all year long and meet every other week. Parent groups

meet separately and run concurrently to the children and teen groups. Groups are facilitated by trained adult volunteers who are supervised by Good Grief staff.

For further information or to schedule an orientation please call the Director of Family Services at 908-522-1999 x 8002. Good Grief is a non-profit organization; their services are free of charge to children and their families. They are supported solely through private support from individuals, foundations and companies, and receive no state or federal funding. They also offer workshops and presentations on grief and loss for parents, educators, students, mental health professional and volunteers. There is a fee for workshops and presentations.

**Approval of September 24, 2013 Minutes –**

The motion to approve the September minutes was made by Ken Oexle and seconded by Tom Pappas. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition.

**County of Morris Department of Human Services – Mr. Frank Pinto**

The Affordable Care Act is rolling out and the Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) is handling registration for clients. This is the expansion of Medicaid. There are 35,000 people in Morris County eligible for this. There are a lot of problems with the website. Fortunately so far there is not a mass inundation of cases. They will soon move to an open enrollment system to match Medicare open enrollment. This will mean more work for OTA. OTA will have to continue to monitor and try to get more staff on board. They have some new staff approved. The new staff will fill the current vacancies. People should sign up for this now. If they wait until after April they will be penalized.

This year the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) are requiring the Alliances attend mandated training around New Jersey. If any Alliances miss the training they will not be funded. There were six towns that missed the training. They are trying to figure out how to get these towns trained so they will get their money. Mr. Pinto suggested that perhaps Mr. Nebesni could train the towns that missed the training. If the GCADA doesn't agree then these six towns may not get their money. However, either way the total pot given to the Alliances will still be the same. Some discussion ensued about this.

October 29 marked the one year anniversary of the Super Storm Sandy. The County held a Public Officials Forum to help educate towns about the County services. There were about 10 or 12 municipalities in attendance. Three awards were given at the Public Officials Forum for the top towns donating the most to the county wide food drive M.C.M.A.T.C.H. (Morris County Municipal Action to Curb Hunger).

At the Freeholder's meeting tomorrow the Grant-in-Aid funding for 2014 is on the agenda. The hope is that all funding requests for 2014 will be approved. Peer Grouping funding will be cut next year as the move to Managed Medicaid rolls out.

Mr. Pinto stated that the census at Morris View Health Care Center has increased. He believes the increased marketing is paying off and more people are aware of Morris View

Health Care Center. Morris View has a new bright blue sign up on West Hanover Avenue. They have a 5 star rating and provide premier health care. Morris View Health Care Center currently has a waiting list. Deaths are down this year from 87 last year to 47 this year.

**New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – Mary Giorlando (for W. Zoccola)**

- Respite Group Home (GH) opening – A six bed respite GH will open soon. The ARC Morris has located the respite GH formerly located in Chatham. The home is located on Horse Hill Road in East Hanover. The home will be able to support individuals who have ambulation and specialized medical needs.
- Medicaid – The Department continues to work with families to assist in applying for Medicaid. Services and supports through DDD are now largely contingent on reimbursement from Medicaid.

Some further discussion ensued about recent changes in DDD.

For further information on DDD see their website at [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd).

**New Jersey Department of Human Services – Department of Child Protection and Permanency – Dave Johnston**

DCP&P Stats for October 2013

Morris East

Total - 93

CPS - 77

CWS - 16

Morris West

Total - 136

CPS - 105

CWS - 31

County Totals

CPS – 182

CWS - 47

Top Three Municipalities in County:

Dover and Mt. Olive – 21

Randolph – 18

Updates:

Christie Administration Marks the tenth Anniversary of New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program – Program provides youth scholarships to further education and pursues dreams.

For immediate release Friday, November 8, 2013.

Contact Ernest Landante, Jr. (609) 292-0422

Trenton, NJ - The Christie Administration is celebrating the achievements of nearly 200 former foster children at an event this Saturday to mark the tenth anniversary of its New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program.

Administered for the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) by Princeton-based Foster and Adoptive Family Services, the program helps eligible foster, adoptive, kinship, and homeless youth pursue their career dreams with a scholarship of up to \$5,000 to attend college or a trade or career school.

“Despite the difficulties they experienced during their earlier years, these young people have shown tremendous spirit and determination in pursuit of an education,” said DCF Commissioner Allison Blake. “By overcoming obstacles, these young people are on their way to becoming outstanding leaders. We are proud of what they’ve accomplished and what they are yet to accomplish in their lives.”

Scholars have earned four year degrees from Rutgers University, Seton Hall University, Montclair State University, Rowan University, Kean University, William Paterson University, Georgian Court University, Fairleigh Dickenson University and other colleges and universities.

“November” has been designated as National Adoption Month. For many people across the United States, adoption provides a means for building and strengthening families. It places children into loving permanent homes where they can flourish and grow up to become happy, healthy, productive members of our national community. Adoption also enables adults to experience the unique joys of parenthood. For 2013 Morris has finalized 39 adoptions. Ms. Zydel stated that in the past once the child was adopted by a family they would lose any assistance they were receiving. Parents would often wait to adopt the child since they didn’t want to lose the money. There have been some changes and now the parent will continue to receive some assistance after the child has been adopted.

Check the website for the RFP out on Sandy Recovery Life Skills:  
[www.nj.gov/dcf/home/hurricane.html](http://www.nj.gov/dcf/home/hurricane.html).

#### **Staff Report – Ms. Becker – No Report**

#### **Staff Report – Ms. Carter**

Ms. Carter went over the changes in the HSAC by-laws. Copies of proposed changes and proposed new by-laws were emailed to all and extra copies are on the table. The two changes are:

1. The number of committees is less (from 5 standing committees to 4).
2. CEAS/CoC is removed from the HSAC’s standing committees and is now a separate committee. The CoC committee will nominate their Executive Committee before the end of the year. There will be a liaison to the HSAC to keep the board informed.

Mr. Oexle made a motion to accept the new by-laws as discussed and distributed.

Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition.

**Subcommittee Reports –  
CoC – Linda Csengeto**

There was discussion on the Morris County HUD CoC change of Infrastructure needed to strengthen the CoC and to optimize opportunities for funding.

CEAS/CoC will become the Morris County CoC (and CEAS/CoC members are invited to become members of the Morris County CoC) and have an Executive Committee (nominated by M.C. CoC) with by-laws per HEARTH regulations. They will no longer be under HSAC as the HSAC is not an independent body (it has appointed positions) and HSAC must be separate from Morris County CoC.

A Nominating Committee has been formed to nominate people to form the Executive Committee which will oversee the Morris County CoC and make decisions. The Executive Committee will be a free standing body. The Executive Committee elects an agency as the lead agency. For the first three years the lead agency will be the County of Morris.

HSAC must be represented at the Morris County CoC and the Executive Committee.

Project Homeless Connect will take place on Thursday, December 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Planning Subcommittee – Ken Oexle**

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. Child & Family Resources is serving all eligible applicants and receives about 12 new applications a week.

Morristown Neighborhood House was allocated 5 Dedicated Vouchers in October via the Roster. One is being utilized and the 30 day clock is still in effect for the remaining 4.

**Legislative – No Report**

**Nominating/By-Laws – Charles LaRussa**

Mr. Armstrong has accepted the nomination as Chair and Ms. Deb Merz has accepted the nomination of Vice Chair. This will be the slate of officers for the vote at the January board meeting.

**Advisory Committee Reports**

**Morris, Sussex Warren (MSW) HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee – No Report**

**YSAC – provided by Jessica Mondino and read by Ms. Zydel**

- Yvette Long from the Aspire program presented
  - Leadership development
  - Boys age 12-17

- 3-8 week program
- Maria Vinci-Savetierri from Deidre's House asked for the committees help in compiling a list of psychiatrists who work with childhood trauma. Most are not insured or underinsured so the psychiatrist would need to work with a sliding scale.
- Dave Johnston discussed the Medicaid extension which has moved the age that Medicaid covers from 21 to 26. This will be effective January 1, 2014.
- Daytop is looking for a clinician for outpatient treatment.

Ms. Mocarski stated there will be a Morris County Parent/Youth Summit Presenting: John Morello's Dirt. It will be held on November 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the Meadow Wood Manor. Please see fliers on the table. Reservations are required.

**Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – David Hollowell**

The WIB and Morris, Sussex, Warren Employment and Training Services (ETS) are partnering with the NJ Financial Services Talent Network (FSTN) to recruit area youth for entry level bank teller positions. The partners are targeting bank teller positions because they are relatively easy to obtain, are part of a somewhat defined career path and are projected to grow in the next ten years.

The FSTN has been successful in recruiting young bank tellers in the Newark area and seeks to replicate its success in Morris County. The WIB and ETS will arrange presentations on financial services occupations for current youth program participants and will recruit additional youth through a coordinated marketing effort with the FSTN and the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

ETS will offer training and retention services to newly employed youth to maximize their opportunity for stable employment.

**Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Charles LaRussa**

The next meeting will be held on December 12. All are welcome. There was no November meeting.

**Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – No Report**

**Partnership Announcements – None**

**Old Business –**

Ms. Zydel asked if there any response to the letter the board sent to Commissioner Velez in regard to e childcare. Ms. Becker stated that there was no response.

**New Business –**

Ms. Brands stated that it appears the Family Success Center's Healthy Families Project is offered at the Dover location. They said there was going to be a program opening in Morristown but it seems that the program is only offered in Dover. Ms. Becker and

Ms. Carter recently met with the Family Success Center and talked about the program opening in Morristown. Ms. Zydel stated that there was a letter sent to them about concern over their providing duplicative services. It seems there is still some confusion about what their charge is. Perhaps the board could invite them back for further information and discussion. There are many models for them to follow since there are Family Success Centers in other counties. The Division of Family and Community Partnerships are over the Family Success Centers and monitor them. Further discussion ensued about this.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m. The next meeting will be held January 28. There will be no December meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Mocarski  
Program Development Aide