

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
June 24, 2014
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The June 24, 2014 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Debi Merz, Chair at 5:32 p.m.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep., Liaison MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep. Liaison United Way N.N.J., Success by Six
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep., Liaison Legislative Subcommittee
Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep.
David Hollowell, Liaison Workforce Investment Board
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep., Liaison MHSAAAB
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep., Liaison Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans
Michelle Roers, United Way of NNJ

Also Attending:

Wendy Zoccola, New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities
Joanne Bjornson, Family Promise of Morris County

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS
Frank Pinto, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Merz, Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Presentation by Joanne Bjornson on Family Promise

Family Promise is a non-sectarian, not-for profit organization dedicated to ending the crisis of homelessness faced by Morris County families by partnering with other public and private agencies, religious congregations and community volunteers to provide shelter, case management and mentoring services leading to self-sufficiency.

Each year, many families in crisis are provided emergency shelter, meals and support services. In 2013, 37 individuals were served in the shelter program. They were also assisted with meals and support services, to obtain permanent housing, employment and childcare. A host congregation (over 75 congregations in their network) provides overnight lodging for a maximum of 14 guests for a period of one week at its facility. Support groups provide volunteers and food. Guests are given dinner, evening companionship, beds for the night and early morning breakfast. Their daytime hours are

spent searching for employment, working, attending classes and/or seeking affordable housing.

In 2013, the Community Support Program (CSP) served 32 families and 8 single women. The CSP provides assistance to those who have successfully transitioned from shelter to their own homes. CSP families receive in-home case management, on call support/crisis intervention, financial literacy and debt reduction, mentoring programs, and in-kind support. The main goal of this program is to keep families housed and together and break the cycle of homelessness and generational poverty. CSP was expanded to include providing case management to families currently on the waiting list and those who have transitioned to permanent or transitional housing from other agencies.

Family Promise is currently working with Our Place to transition their program to Family Promise. Family Promise is the most viable option that can provide a seamless merger with Our Place, to continue to serve the needs of the chronically homeless in Morris County. Our Place new name will be “Our Promise”.

Approval of May Minutes

The motion to approve the May minutes was made by Ms. Mary Jane Melo and seconded by Mr. Tom Pappas. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – Frank Pinto

There will still be some Peer Grouping revenue through the next few years; however, it will be decreasing.

There will be an impact on the department as Managed Medicaid rolls out effective July 1. Managed Care will impact Morris View Healthcare Center and all nursing homes. The rates of those already in Morris View and other nursing homes will be frozen at the current rate for the first two years. New patients will be billed at the new lower Managed Care rates. There will be a \$30 per day loss per patient. This year the impact will be approximately \$30,000; however next year the impact will be about \$300,000. This whole process is unfolding. It is a new way of business and time will tell what the effects will be.

New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – Wendy Zoccola - June

Listed below are the projected numbers of service recipients coming to the community as a result of the closing of Developmental Centers and the return of individuals from out of state residences to NJ. These numbers reflect planned development to date.

Morris-89
Bergen-103
Passaic-55
Sussex-40
Warren-25
Hudson-8

All clients have moved from the North Jersey Developmental Center. In August 2012 the census was 361. In May 2014 the census was 66.

Moves from the Woodbridge Developmental Center have begun. The current census at Woodbridge is 165. The census in August 2012 was 333.

Total Moves as a result of Olmstead-241

Possible Government Shutdown- In the event of a State Government shutdown on July 1st contingency plans are being discussed. It is anticipated that essential staff will report to their workplace.

2014 graduates (age 21+) – transition to adult services has begun. New process involves a support coordinator from a privatized agency and flexibility to select preferred program.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Department of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) – Dave Johnston

DCP&P Data for May

Morris East Local Office

Child Protective Services Investigations –84

Child Welfare Assessments –36

Total – 120

Morris West Local Office

Child Protective Services Investigations – 97

Child Welfare Assessments – 41

DCF

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families' (DCF) announces the availability of funding for the purpose of providing Out of Home Treatment Services. Annualized funding is available up to \$5,110,000 and thereafter if the contract is renewed and funding is available. The goal is to create a service environment with professional competencies and capabilities to maintain a treatment milieu that is functionally relevant to youth with behavioral health challenges. DCF is seeking proposals from private or public not-for-profit entities and for profit organizations to provide Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Intensity of Service (IOS) to youth age groups 11 to 14, 15 to 17, and 18 to 21 through its Children's System of Care (CSOC).

Potential bidders must attend a mandatory bidder's conference at 1:00 p.m. on June 25, 2014 at 222 S. Warren St. in Trenton, NJ. Questions will be accepted in advance of the bidder's conference by providing them via email to DCFASKRFP@dcf.state.nj.us. For further information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/notices/>

Staff Report – Shelia Carter

On Monday June, 16, the Urban League of Morris hosted an Affordable Care Act enrollment debriefing in preparation for the second open enrollment period beginning November 15, 2014 for January 2015.

Challenges during first enrollment

- The demand for information and assistance was higher than available local resources
 - Enrollment *Assistor training was simultaneously occurring*. In addition, they were unaware of enrollment partners and other service locations within the county and state.
 - Enrollment Assistor's had difficulty getting through on direct private help numbers, adding to client frustration. Sources for information included Healthcare.gov website or 1-800-718-2596, Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) 1-800-706-7893 (available year round).
 - Dealing with a wide range of consumers with specific life situations who weren't clear on how to address personal situations within the Marketplace application process.
 - Consumer case management became part of the navigator/enrollment assistor role. There were issues with subsidy and finding a plan covering specific needs of the consumer, i.e. for chronic illness.
- **NJ FamilyCare**
 - Very slow response time, four month waiting period (county level). NJ FamilyCare coverage applied for through the www.HealthCare.gov website is experiencing technical issues whereby individuals determined eligible or potentially eligible for NJ FamilyCare may not be enrolled. This is because accounts have not been transferred from the Marketplace to New Jersey. The NJ Department of Human Services is working with the Marketplace to obtain necessary information to complete the enrollment process. Insurance coverage will be retroactive to January 1, 2014.
 - If people applied for NJ FamilyCare through www.NJfamilycare.org or by phone, they can track their application status by calling 1-800-701-0710.
 - If people applied through a County Board of Social Service office, they must wait for communication, by mail, from that office regarding eligibility and contact that office for follow-up. It's possible the application may be in process.
- **Stigma:** Associated with NJ FamilyCare include: lack of doctor participation, consumers hesitating to choose Medicaid.
- **A need for more translators.**
- **Lack of transportation/accessibility within certain demographic areas.** (NORWESCAP established sites at libraries throughout Morris County – which everyone may not have known).

Lessons Learned

Suggestions for Consumers

- Cheapest plan is not always the best plan
- Be proactive, educate self and be persistent

Suggestions for Enrollment/Centers, Assistors, Community Partners

- *System collaboration...* work toward strengthening information and referral system.
- *Prepare for increased number* of enrollees since as the penalty increases from year to year, more people may enroll. Health Insurance carriers need to increase the number of

customer service representatives and provide additional contact sources. *Continuing education* for enrollment Assisters: Department of Health & Human Services/NJ FamilyCare, Centers of Medicare and Medicaid/Navigators, HealthCare.gov representatives, Insurance Carriers/Health Plan overview navigators and Information and Referral partners.

- *Have a preliminary and follow-up system in place.* The consumer needs to know what to bring and who to contact after enrollment.
- *Presentations* - Health Literacy 101 – (value of health insurance, common terms, concepts) i.e. Federal Poverty Level, Marketplace, NJ FamilyCare, Small Business Health Options Program SHOP; correct general misinformation. *Suggested locations for presentations:* churches, mosques, local organizations, community events, libraries, colleges/schools.
- *Enrollment Centers* – need to have a private area for one-on-one assistance.
- *Outreach:* Latinos (Dover), homeless shelters, Native Americans, Veterans (lacking government insurance), domestic violence victims, young adult- aged out of foster care system, local mental health associations/agencies, schools, community events.
Additional Resources: local newspapers, TV, Radio, websites, social media, Public Service Announcements.

Subcommittee Reports

Planning Child Care – Voucher System Update

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. We are serving all eligible applicants and receive approximately 30 new applications a week.

We currently have no unutilized Dedicated Vouchers at any of the CCVC Centers. The openings from last month at Neighborhood House and Project Safe have been filled.

All 10 slots for summer camp at Jefferson Child Care are filled.

Youth Homelessness – No Report

Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) - David Hollowell

HEALTH CARE CAREER EXPLORATION FAIR

On August 19, the WIB and MSW Employment and Training Services will partner with the NJ Health Care Talent Network to present a Health Care Career Exploration Fair. The event, **which is not a job fair**, will provide health care screenings and information on health care careers. It will be held at the Morris County Public Service Academy. Event flyers and information on specific service offerings will be distributed in the near future.

WIB CUSTOMERS EARNING

At the North Jersey Partners Regional Symposium on June 10, the following information was reported:

“On average, after participating in a WIB program, adults who found employment were earning an annual salary equivalent of \$26,472 per adult. Newark WIB customers earned on average the lowest salary equivalent of \$20,369, while **Morris/Sussex/Warren WIB customers** earned a salary equivalent of \$35,703, far higher than the other WIBs.”

(Please note that this information pertains only to WIB customers trained using

Workforce Investment Act **Adult** funds. The earnings of WIA-funded **dislocated workers** are substantially higher and are not reflected in this report.) (*Source: "Regional Workforce Symposium," June 2014. The full report can be found at: www.togethernorthjersey.com/northjerseypartners. Click on "Briefing," and go to page 9 for Morris-Sussex-Warren earning data.*)

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Robert Armstrong

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, June 17 at the Zufall Health Center in Dover. The committee met in conjunction with the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC). The committee is developing a Resource Guide of HIV and related services for the Morris-Sussex-Warren area. The committee continues to reach out to non-Ryan White funded providers who serve HIV clients to consider becoming members of the tri-county HIV committee. The current focus is on pharmacists.

The Family Health Center of Morristown reported that they were preparing for chart reviews. They expect to hire a new Patient Navigator (PN) to assist clients in their continuum of care.

Hope House reported that they have had 12 new HIV clients since the beginning of May which is a large increase. Normally Hope House gets 5-6 new HIV clients per year. They are not certain as to why the large influx or do they know if this is a trend.

Zufall Health Center will also hire a new Patient Navigator this year. Consensus was that two Patient Navigators are greatly needed.

The next meeting for the Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, July 15 at 11 a.m. at Hope House in Dover.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Charles LaRussa

There was no meeting in June. The 20 Annual Consumer & Family Forum was held at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown. The Forum brings together officials, providers and the public to talk about what is working and what needs improvement in our human service system. This information helps Morris County prioritize planning, funding and advocacy activities. There was a great turnout and it was a very informative evening.

The next MHSAAB meeting will be held on July 10 at 30 Schuyler Place. All are welcome.

Council on Aging, Disability & Veterans (ACADV) – Tom Pappas

- The Division on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans has moved to the Morris View Healthcare Center, 540 West Hanover Ave.
- A comment was made regarding the concern for the treatment of Veterans in the VA hospitals. It was recommended that action be taken or a statement be made by the

County, especially coming from the Freeholders, with respect to the treatments of the veterans in the VA hospitals. A proposal of action can be made at the next meeting.

- Effective, July 1, 2014, case management will be delivered by the HMO's, (Health Managed Organizations). As a result all Medicaid cases will be transferred to the HMO's. The case managers' responsibility will be geared to the client's applying for benefits and guiding them through the process.
- The ACADV wrote letters of support for the following bills:
 1. Senate, No. 1353 – Creates State Contract set-aside program for businesses owned operated by disabled veterans.
 2. Assembly No. 1885 – Increases annual income limitation for senior and disabled citizens' eligibility for \$250 property tax deduction and bases future annual income limitations on annual CPI changes.
- Disability Community Report- DAWN Center for Independent Living, Inc., is offering a 16 hour, interactive wellness program for adults with disabilities called Living Well with a Disability.

Youth Services Advisory Committee

Jenny Pourakis from Epic Health spoke about their new Autism services area.

- Began in January
- Provide in home Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)
- In network for most insurance companies
- No Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes
- Work with insurance companies to make sure they are in network
- Tiered service model
- Clinician does evaluation (Board Certified Behavioral Analyst-BCBA) and supervises aides
- 6 day classroom training is required for aides
- Certified in QBS-crisis prevention
- Are working to figure out a way to work with families without insurance or on Medicaid

Lauren Blaszak from Celebrate the Children

- Opened in 2004
- Private school
- Developmental, Individual-Difference, Relationship-Based model, Developmental Methodology
- Think individually
- Ages 3-21
- Located in Denville near St. Peters
- Working to redefine definition of Autism because it is such a broad spectrum
- Mainly Autism but also work with other developmental disabilities

There was then a discussion about Autism services in Morris County. It was discussed about possibly having some kind of county wide training on Autism.

Liz Warner from United Way spoke about the Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA)

- K-12
- Started with youth summits and mentoring
- Developed school culture and climate
- Currently working with 12 school districts
- Joint effort with St. Elizabeth's
- Working with schools to address school climate and culture
- Full assessment of everyone in building
- Data assessment and 3 years of support
- Seven consultants are part of the team
- Provide trainings and workshops
- Trying to encourage wider community to participate and help fund the program

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Maria Augustowicz announced that CMO is currently hiring Care Managers and Assistants. Caringpartnerscmo.org
- Sandy Gogerty announced that there was a new Department of Education commissioner, Dave Hesby.
- Dave Johnston reported that there is an RFP out for school based programs for pregnant and parenting teens. Closes on June 6. See www.nj.gov/DCF.
 - May is "Displace home maker" awareness month, CCM Women's Centers 973-328-5025
 - Morris, Sussex, Passaic has a new Assistant Area Director, Michelle Quinn

Partnerships Announcements – CoC Update - Jeff Bashe

There is not much new, however, there will be a meeting this Thursday to review priorities for the upcoming CoC funding cycle for 2014.

Michelle Roers

Ms. Roers passed out booklets "New Jersey Kids Count-the State of Our Counties". This booklet is put out by Advocates for Children of New Jersey and documents key measures of child well-being on the county and state levels. This guide provides a quick glimpse at trends in major indicators of child well being. Data for additional indicators are available on the website www.acnj.org and at www.datacenter.kidscount.org.

Morris is rated number two in overall New Jersey Kids Count Ranking – only behind Hunterdon. Throughout the state there are many child care centers are closing. There is a problem with the free breakfast program for those that qualify. Although there are free breakfast programs many children miss their breakfast. Often their parents are not able to get their children to school early enough and are not able to utilize the breakfast program.

Old Business

Ms. Becker stated that Ms. Merz was honored by the Mental Health Association of Morris County and received the 2014 Golden Bell Leadership Award. The Golden Bell is presented each year to an individual or company that influences public perception of mental illness or makes a significant change in the mental health of children or adults. The leadership nominees have made strides in media, advocacy, children and corporate work. In 2009 in Jefferson Township there were eight suicides over a six month period. While there were places to get help, there was no quick way to connect with the proper mental health professionals.

Ms. Merz met with Celine Gray, the then Executive Director of the New Jersey Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma to start the local program that, in the words of the Jefferson Council resolution honoring Merz, "educates Jefferson Township residents on mental health awareness, wellness and offers supports through recovery and resilience strategies." Thus the local program "Connect" was born. Congratulations to Ms. Merz for being honored with this award.

There were other awards were given out. Ms. Merz' fellow honorees included Governor Richard Codey and Deborah Megaro, CFO of Capital County Children's Collaborative.

Draft Letter to DCF

Discussion ensued about the board's request that Ms. Merz to draft a letter to DCF asking them about the goals and standards of the Family Success Center. At the last meeting this was discussed. The board is interested in finding out how DCF monitors the Family Success Center and if DCF has some statistics on them. Some discussion ensued. Ms. Merz agreed to draft the letter for review and approval by the board at the next meeting.

Agency Monitorings

Ms. Merz stated there are still openings in August for members to sign up for agency monitorings. Please consider signing up. This is a great opportunity to learn about various local agencies. If you are interested, please email or call Pat Mocarski at 973 285-6859 or pmocarsk@co.morris.nj.us.

New Business

Mr. Pinto stated that Senator Menendez announced a grant award with the veteran's transitional community living. They will give ½ million dollars to kick up the paratransit system for purchasing new hardware and software. They have until September to spend this grant.

Lauren Burd is the head of MAPS. The MAPS drivers will have their schedule on board and can log on and request a trip. Updates and changes can be easily made with this new on board system. Once the new system is in place the hope is that services will be increased and costs will be less. Sussex County already has this system in place and things there are going great. Eventually these units can be stationed all over the county.

Ms. Merz stated that she attended Ms. Mary Jo Buchanan's retirement party. Ms. Buchanan is leaving her current position as Assistant County Administrator. Ms. Cathy Burd will be taking Ms. Buchanan's place. With Ms. Burd's diverse background she will be a great fit for this position.

Ms. Roers stated that the United Way's ALICE Report will be ready for distribution in September. ALICE is a United Way project that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE represents residents who earn more than the U.S. poverty line, but less than the basic cost of living. Half a century after the War on Poverty was first waged, United Way is launching a national research project on the ALICE population, to ignite a nationwide dialogue around the size and scope of working Americans who are unable to afford basic needs today. This now has a National impact since ten other states will also be doing this report.

Public Comment

Ms. Delaney stated that her family got together with other families of disabled young adults and together they purchased a home. The state pays for the workers in the home but the families purchased the home. Her son has been happy and thriving in this group home for years. He and his roommates have become a family. Ms. Delaney is continuing to try to spread the word that families must start planning for their disabled children's future.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff Bashe as 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide