

## HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

September 23, 2014

340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The September 23, 2014 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Debi Merz, Chair at 5:30 p.m.

### Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep., Liaison Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV  
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep. Liaison United Way N.N.J., Success by Six  
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep., Liaison Legislative Subcommittee  
Kevin Collins, Child & Family Resources  
Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep.  
Xiomara Guevara, MCOHA  
David Hollowell, Liaison Workforce Investment Board  
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.  
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.  
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep., Liaison Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans  
Tom Pepe, Citizen Rep.  
Michelle Roers, Citizen Rep., United Way of NNJ

### Also Attending:

Darrell Holcomb, Future Project  
Dave Johnson, New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
Kelly O'Neill-McGuire, MSW Employment & Training Services  
Sharon Schlam, New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
Wendy Zoccola, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

### Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Jennifer Carpinteri, MCDHS  
Shelia Carter, MCDHS  
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS  
Tim Tansey, MCDHS

### **Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Debi Merz, Chair**

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

### **Approval of June Minutes**

The motion to approve the August minutes was made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Mr. Tom Pappas. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions. The motion carried.

**New Jersey Department of Human Services – Ms. Wendy Zoccola**  
Information for Community Partners

You can subscribe to the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities' e-news bulletin, *Division Update* through the link below. Questions and comments are welcome and encouraged.

Please send an email to [DDD.Communications@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:DDD.Communications@dhs.state.nj.us) with "Division Update Subscribe" in the subject line.

Webinar for Families Scheduled

We have scheduled a webinar geared for adults with developmental disabilities who are receiving Division-funded services and their families. The webinar will discuss the new rate structure that was released in July, and is intended to assist individuals and families in understanding how the shift to a fee-for-service system will impact their services.

**When:** Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**What:** *Understanding the Fee for Service Rate Structure: An Overview for Individuals and Families*

**Presenters:** Elizabeth M. Shea, Assistant Commissioner and Thomas Papa, Chief of Staff

**Registration:** [Reserve Your Space Now](#) or visit the [DDD News and Announcements](#) web page and follow the registration link provided there.

Woodbridge Developmental Center Closing

Closing is anticipated by January 1, 2015.

Reduction in Force/ RIF/bumping is expected to begin by September 30, 2014.

Moves into the Community have begun.

Development of group homes and day program locations is ongoing.

Residential Development

Renovations and construction continue 4 residents per home

-Budd Lake - Indian Spring Road projected opening in October /REM

-\*Denville - Morris Ave. Mental Health and DD project, renovations continue/YCS

-Lincoln Park - McKinley St. projected opening November 1 / Advancing Opportunities

-Chatham - Fairmont Ave. Olmstead and 1 community emergency-nearing end of renovation/ARC Morris

-Florham Park - Woodbine Road Woodbridge and Greenbrook DC/ Universal Institute

**OPEN**

-Parsippany - Littleton Road/ Special Homes

-Flanders - Emmans Road/ YCS

-Kinnelon – Boonton Ave. /residents from community/ Broadway Respite

Parsippany – Moraine Road/ The Rose House

**New Jersey Department of Children & Families (DCF) –  
Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) – Mr. Dave Johnson**

Data for August

Morris East Office

Child Protective Services Investigations – 52

Child Welfare Assessments – 25

Total – 77

Morris West Local Office

Child Protective Services Investigations – 81

Child Welfare Assessments – 30

Total – 111

Morris County Totals – 188

Morris/Sussex/Passaic Area Director Elizabeth McGovern retired on Sept. 1, 2014 after 44 years with the agency. Interviews are going on for her successor. Area is being covered by Assistant Area Director Michelle Quinn.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) seeks information from the housing community including Public Housing Authorities (PHA), Continuums of Care, affordable housing developers, as well as social service and community based agencies, and other public/private agencies regarding the availability of housing subsidies that might be leveraged to provide housing interventions for child welfare involved families.

This Request for Information (RFI) is asking interested organizations for information about the availability and type of housing subsidies they have access to in order to assist DCF with program planning. Only organizations with access to housing subsidies or a plan for accessing subsidies should consider responding.

All responses to this RFI are due by 5:00 p.m. EST on or before Monday, September 15, 2014. Responses shall be accepted on a rolling basis. Responses may provide a basis for DCF to develop Requests for Proposals (RFP) for supportive housing models or other housing interventions. The Department is seeking brief and concise answers to each of the questions listed below. Applicants shall not contact the Department directly, in person, or by telephone, concerning this RFI.

Applicants may request information and/or assistance from [DCFASKRFP@dcf.state.nj.us](mailto:DCFASKRFP@dcf.state.nj.us). For further information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/notices/>

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) announces the availability of \$400,000 for the purpose of establishing one Coordination Center for Child Abuse and Neglect Forensic Evaluation and Treatment to assist the Department, its network of

Regional Diagnostic Treatment Centers, and other providers conducting forensic evaluations and providing treatment recommendations for the Department with:

- Ensuring that NJ DCF's Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P), and children and families have access to Centers of Excellence in the area of child abuse and neglect assessment and treatment within New Jersey;
- Supporting and disseminating best practices to improve the quality of child abuse and neglect assessment/evaluation and treatment;
- Training, coaching, and providing technical assistance to the forensic evaluation provider community;
- Advancing understanding and scholarship in the area of child abuse assessment; and,
- Assisting DCF with ongoing planning activities in the area of child abuse, neglect, evaluation and treatment.

There is funding up to \$400,000 available and a mandatory bidder's conference on Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. at The Professional Center at DCF, 30 Van Dyke Avenue, Auditorium #1, New Brunswick, NJ. Proposals are due by Dec. 12 at 12:00 p.m. For further information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/notices/>.

**Staff Report – Ms. Laurie Becker**

Ms. Jennifer Carpinteri was introduced. Ms. Carpinteri stated that she has worked in the county for 12 years and was in Behavioral Health for seven years. She then went to work at the Juvenile Facilities and then Risk Management. Ms. Carpinteri is currently splitting her time between Risk Management and her new position as Human Services Director. She will start full time as Human Services Director on October 1.

**Staff Report – Ms. Shelia Carter**

Mr. Tansey was welcomed. He is from Community Development which is now a part of our Division.

**\*ESG Reallocation – Mr. Tom Pepe**

It was identified that there was an additional \$13,175 available from the 2013 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG). There was a notice of availability posted on the county website. The notice announced the funding available and agencies interested had to submit letters of interest. This money is for services for the homeless. There were two applications received. One application was from Family Promise of Morris County and the other from the Mental Health Association of Morris County (MHAMC). The subcommittee reviewed both applications. Based on the merits of each application Mr. Jeff Bashe made a motion that the entire award of \$13,175 go to one agency. Mr. Tom Pappas seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion was carried.

Mr. Tansey stated that from here the board's recommendation will go to the Community Development Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee. They will take the board's recommendations into consideration for this additional ESG money. The Community Development Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee will then vote and make the final decision. After their vote a resolution will be passed.

**Subcommittee Reports –**

**Planning Child Care – Voucher System Update (Sept.) – Mr. Kevin Collins**

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served and they receive approximately 30 new applications a week.

They currently have ten unutilized dedicated vouchers at Dover Child Care, nine at Madison Day Care, four at Ada Budrick CCC, nine at Roxbury Day Care Center, three at Collinsville, three at Morristown Neighborhood House and one at Parsippany Child Day Care. The 30 day clock is still in effect for these centers.

Dedicated vouchers that were open at Parsippany Child Day Care and Madison Day Care last month have been filled.

The total current number of openings is 39 for our fifteen Child Care Voucher Centers. This is a result of children aging out of the programs. We are hopeful that they will be filled by the end of the month.

**Program Review -**

**Funding – Closed Session – 2015 Funding Recommendations**

There was a motion to close the meeting.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act and per the board's normal resolution language and the closed session began at 5:45 p.m. All those in conflict with any of the funding streams were asked to leave the meeting.

**RETURN TO MEETING**

The meeting reopened to the public at 5:55 p.m.

**ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Tom Pepe stated that the funding subcommittee met, reviewed and discussed all Child Abuse Protection (CAP) and Grant-in-Aid (GIA) funding applications. This year there were two new applications received. All together there was 1 CAP and 24 GIA applications in total. The subcommittee recommends the HSAC approve all 2015 CAP and GIA funding recommendations as discussed in closed session.

On motion of Mr. Tom Pappas and seconded by Ms. Debi Merz, the 2015 CAP and GIA funding recommendations are approved. There were two abstentions and no opposition. The motion was carried.

### **Youth Homelessness – Mr. Dave Johnson**

The Aging Out Task Force meeting scheduled for Sept. 16 was cancelled due to a power outage. It is rescheduled for Oct. 7 at 10:00 a.m. at 30 Schuyler Place in Morristown. All are welcome.

The Task Force has been gathering data and looking at youth that isn't being served. This information is part of a report the county is putting together.

Ms. Becker stated that each county has been asked to work on a plan of action to address youth homelessness. Once the plan is formed they will provide this information to Dr. Allison Blake, Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families. The focus is on 17-24 year olds. They are trying to collect data and gather information on the gaps and the needs for youth at risk of homelessness. They will also be connected through the youth advisory board. There will be someone from Rutgers attending this meeting. They will be working on putting together a resource directory.

### **Advisory Committee Reports**

#### **Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Mr. David Hollowell**

##### Community Work Experience Program (CWEP)

##### Background:

- CWEP is utilized to provide work and training experience to WorkFirst New Jersey recipients (e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and General Assistance/Food Stamp (GA/FS) to make them more marketable and job-ready for self-sustaining employment.
- Placements are with either a public, private non-profit, or private charitable employer.
- CWEP placements are directed towards organizations and agencies directly involved in useful public service areas, such as health, recreation, child and adult care, education, environmental protection, social services, etc.
- A CWEP participant is not placed with a private-for-profit employer.

##### Morris County CWEP Program:

- (110) MC non-for-profit CWEP work sites.
- ( 61) MC TANF and GA/FS participants currently enrolled.
- Since June 2014, thirteen (13) individuals have been hired by CWEP sites; and two (2) are awaiting final paperwork.
  - CCM (Randolph)
  - Morris County EduCare (Succasunna)
  - Salvation Army (Dover)
  - Little Learners (Denville)
  - Kids At Play (Lincoln Park)

- Morris County Nutrition Center (Rockaway)

**Note:** In April 2014, Employment and Training Services contacted MC CWEP sites and strongly encouraged them to utilize NJ DOL On-the-Job Training contracts to hire CWEP participants. The OJT program has been widely accepted and continues to be an employer incentive.

Morris County CWEP Recognition:

- On July 8, 2014, the following MC CWEP sites were formally recognized by the MSW Workforce Investment Board and Employment and Training Services for their exceptional service to, and support of the Program:
  - Morris View Healthcare Center
  - Morris County Urban League
  - Morris County EduCare

For further questions or to learn more about the Community Work Experience Program, please contact Mr. Gil Sutherland, MSW Employment & Training Services on (973) 285-6873.

**Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Robert Armstrong**

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee met on Sept. 16 at 11:00 a.m. at NJ AIDS Services in Morris Plains.

The NEMA HIV Health Care Planning Council finalized a Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA) Report on August 20. The annual grant application for Ryan White funding is being sent to the Health Resources and Services administration (HRSA) this month from the city of Newark which will include the funding requests for Morris County. The PRSA Report indicates that the number of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Morris County is 827 as compared to Essex County where the number of PLWHA is 9,766.

New Jersey AIDS Services, which included the Eric Johnson House, is celebrating their twentieth anniversary on October 17.

The New Jersey Ride Against AIDS will be held on Sept. 27 with a 25, 50 or 100 mile course for the riders.

The committee continues to compile data for a new Resource Guide for HIV Services in the Morris County region.

A subcommittee meeting to work on a Morris County HIV Resource Guide will be held on August 5 at Zufall Health Center in Dover. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee will be held on December 16, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Hope House in Dover.

### **Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Mr. LaRussa**

- Ms. Becker, Ms. Jacobson and over 50 people met to work on the Heroin/Opiate Task Force initiative. A lot of different groups were represented at the meeting. After discussion the Task Force decided to set up different work groups in preparation of the Heroin/Opiate Conference, scheduled for November 12 at the Skylands.

Work groups are as follows:

- Enhancing access to quality care and treatment;
- Public education and awareness;
- Promotion of drop boxes for medicines; and
- Prescription monitoring and promotion of NJ prescription monitoring programs.

Anyone interested in participating in any of these work groups please sign up or get in touch with Ms. Becker or Ms. Jacobson.

- The 2015 funding recommendations for County Grant In Aid and State Chapter 51 addictions services were reviewed and presented to the full board for approval. The recommendations were approved by the MHSAB at the Sept. 11, 2014 meeting.
- There is an open house to promote Mental Health Awareness to be held at Greystone Hospital, 59 Koch Road, Morris Plains, New Jersey. The date is October 2, 2014 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. You must call (973) 889-4573 to register if you wish to attend.

The next MHSAB board meeting is October 9 at 5:15 p.m. at 30 Schuyler Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor in Morristown. All are welcome.

### **Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans (ACADV) Sept. 11 Meeting – Mr. Tom Pappas**

- October 11, 2014-The Alzheimer’s Association, along with The Caregivers Coalition is holding a session on Caregiver Emergency Preparedness, being held at The Human Services Building, 340 West Hanover Ave.
- Nov 8, 2014-Craft Fair at Morris View Healthcare Center.
- Medicare Part D enrollment is Oct. 15 through Dec. 7.
- Beware of hospital fees. Less than a five day stay in the hospital, you may be responsible for the billing, if you are only there for observation. You need to be admitted, than you will be covered under your hospital insurance or Medicare.
- Veterans Medal ceremony will be held on November 12 at the Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting at 7 p.m.
- The ACADV supports approval of the following bills:
  1. Assembly No. 734 – Makes annual compensation paid to surviving spouses of certain blind or disabled veterans’ payable from date of veteran’s death.
  2. Assembly No. 1170 – “Homestead School Property Tax Reimbursement Act”; provides State reimbursement for 50% of school property taxes paid by seniors, 65 and older.

3. Senate 1353 – Excludes from gross income under the gross income tax certain United States military compensation paid to members of units of the NJ National Guard and reserve components of the United States Armed Forces.
4. Assembly No. 2296 – Makes disabled persons receiving disability payments pursuant to federal Railroad Retirement Act eligible to receive homestead property tax reimbursement.
  - There is an organization that is accepting donations, known as, The Alonso Strong Organization. It is a fundraising effort for a local veteran, Marine Sergeant Aaron Alonso, who returned from Afghanistan injured. You may send your donations to: Alonso Strong Benefit, Inc., 141 East Shawnee Trail, Wharton, N.J. 07885.
  - Comment made on the Homestead School Property Tax Reimbursement Act being defeated. Statement was made on how New Jersey Lawmakers should help seniors remain in their homes and receive a discount on certain situations that would result in living a comfortable and respectable life.

**Youth Services Advisory Council – Pat MocarSKI (report submitted by J. Mondino)**

A special meeting was called to approve the following items:

- 2015 Grant-in-Aid Funding Recommendations;
- 2015 Juvenile Justice Funding Recommendations;
  - Family Court
  - State/Community Partnership
- 2015-2017 Comprehensive County Youth Services Plan; and
- 2015 Juvenile Justice Commission Funding Application.

All items were unanimously approved.

**Partnership Announcements –  
Continuum of Care (CoC) – Mr. Jeff Bashe**

The Morris County CoC is an independent body overseeing the local homeless planning process and is established through a consortium of community providers, advocates and stakeholders. They are an independent body overseeing the local homeless planning process and are established through a consortium of community providers, advocates and stakeholders. The membership is open to all interested community members and organizations. The Morris County CoC encourages participation by anyone serving the homeless, currently homeless, has been homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

The Morris CoC reports to an elected Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is made up of not more than 13 members. Membership includes up to 9 voting members that do not receive HUD CoC funds and 4 nonvoting “ex-officio” members that receive HUD CoC funds. The Executive Committee is composed of a variety of organizations representing the larger Morris County Community.

They are working on various procedural items. One thing they are currently working on is the coordinated assessment tool. The purpose of the coordinated assessment is to have a screening or referral tool that all agencies can use. The committees are also setting

priorities in order that the county can get the maximum funding from Housing & Urban Development (HUD). In order to maintain and attract additional HUD CoC funds, projects must fit their priorities. Both committees are gearing up for the 2015 funding cycle.

The next CoC full committee meeting will be on Sept. 30. The CoC applicants have already given their presentations on Sept. 30, 2014 to the CoC Performance Review Committee. The Performance Review Committee scored and ranked the applicants. The CoC award notifications will be sent out tomorrow to agencies with a final application deadline of October 30th.

**Old Business –**

Ms. Merz stated that the board got a response from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in regard to the letter sent about the Family Success Center. Copies of their response letter were distributed. It seems that services are primarily Dover focused. The letter says what Family Success Centers are supposed to do and not actually what they are doing. Further discussion ensued. The letter did not address specific outcomes. The board would like to gather more information. It was suggested that the board invite leadership from the state funding body of the Family Success Center to meet with them. Perhaps the board can ask more specific questions. There is much concern over the possible duplication of services. It was suggested that Ms. Becker draft a letter extending the invite and express the board's concerns. Ms. Becker agreed to draft the letter.

**New Business – None**

**Public Comment –**

Ms. Guevara stated that the Home Energy Season has begun. Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs (MCOHA) provides Home Energy Services. New applications will be available on Nov. 1. Last year they provided energy assistance to 5,000 clients. This year they anticipate providing service for up to 6,000 clients. They have applications for Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Cooling, they also have Weatherization Assistance Program, Universal Service Fund and the New Jersey Shares Program. The New Jersey Shares Program helps those that are over the income limit for the Home Energy Program. Applicants may get a one time stipend to help them.

Ms. Guevara also brought fliers for the Center for Citizenship and Legal Immigration. The Center (part of MCOHA) provides affordable Legal Services. Over sixty people have come in since they opened in August and received help. Their services include: Immigration consultations, deferred action for childhood arrivals, family petitions, support for refugees, support for those seeking asylum, citizenship/naturalization applications, assistance for unaccompanied minors, and assistance for victims of violent crimes, included domestic violence. All cases are represented by a full time experienced attorney.

For further information on any of these programs see their website at <http://www.hispanicaffairs.net/intra/index.php> or call their main number at (973) 366-4770.

Discussion ensued about an article in the Daily Record on the many unaccompanied children from other countries that have come to Morris County. There is a very big need here for these legal services. In Dover alone there were 90 new students. Most of the new students were from Honduras. This influx of new students creates many challenges for the school system.

Darrell Holcomb introduced himself and spoke about the Future Project. He passed out brochures on their programs. They are partnering with PerformCare and other agencies in Morris County. They receive clients through the agencies and also through Medicaid providers. They are trying to get involved in the community and looking for other partnerships. Future Project is an outreach program designed to assess and address the needs of the community, schools, and programs addressing/affiliated with the at risk population. They are looking for Spanish speaking counselors to meet with and work with Spanish families.

For further information please see attached brochure or call their Somerset office at (908) 393-9557.

**Adjournment –**

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Pepe and seconded by tom Pappas. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski  
Program Development Aide