

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
November 18, 2014
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The November 18, 2014 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Marcia Brands, Co-Chair at 5:35 p.m.

Members Present:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep. Liaison CoC Executive Committee
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep., Liaison Legislative Subcommittee
Kevin Collins, Child & Family Resources
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.
Xiomara Guevara, MCOHA
David Hollowell, Liaison, Workforce Investment Board
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep., Liaison Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans
Tom Pepe, Citizen Rep.

Also Attending:

Dave Johnston, New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Jodi Miciak, United Way of NNJ
Wendy Zoccola, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

Staff in Attendance:

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

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Marcia Brands, Co-Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Presentation – Jodi Miciak, United Way of Northern New Jersey

ALICE Update-

For a growing number of New Jersey households, the struggle to survive has become a way of life. On many levels New Jersey is an affluent state – one with high median incomes, quality schools, and prosperous corporations. But a look more closely at almost any New Jersey community and you will find that even with this affluence, a growing number of people are barely getting by. Every day, families make tough choices such as deciding between quality childcare and paying the rent.

According United Way of Northern New Jersey ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Reports 890,000 NJ households go to work each day but still can't be sure they can put dinner on the table each night. Many are unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, child care, health care and transportation. They are child care workers, mechanics, home health aides and office assistants – workers that we

need in our communities. The survey shows that 1/3 of households are struggling to survive.

The United Way Study that began in NJ is now in partnership with six other states. The United Way is working with other states trying to make this a national public awareness campaign. They may also have a project with 13 southern states. They need to find a way to look at each areas own demographics and align the work and address each population.

Data collected shows that financially unstable households continue to grow. Many jobs pay \$20 or less. There was a recent article in the newspaper about the low pay in Morris County makes it very hard for people to survive. Morris is short of affordable housing. There is a need for about 294,000 more low cost units in NJ. This is a major concern since much of the ALICE population works in our community.

We need ALICE in our communities and we need more housing. United Way is helping to increase affordable child care for ALICE population. They are working to help the 22 child care centers and building a more positive culture.

The United Way is involved with the Housing Alliance. There is a need to pull together interested parties to advocate for affordable housing. The Housing Alliance is a Morris County entity and a 501C3. It is a housing community developer with a network in Montclair. It was suggested that perhaps the CoC Executive Committee might also want to be involved in advocating or help in this effort.

For further information on the ALICE report see

http://www.unitedwaynj.org/give/camp_documents15/14UWALICE%20One%20Sheet_NJ_Medres.pdf

Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the September 23, 2014 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 – Wendy Zoccola

- The reduction in workforce due to Woodbridge Developmental Center's closing is completed. The Morris County Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Office in Flanders was unaffected.
- No new Group Home openings this month.
- The NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities is moving from a contracted system of care reimbursement to a Medicaid based Fee for Service system (FFS). More information about Fee for Service Rate Schedule is available at the Department of Human Services/DDD programs web site. Individuals, families and providers will receive materials to assist in understanding the new system.

- Fee for service questions can be submitted through the Divisions Fee for Service Helpdesk at DDD.FeeForService@dhs.state.nj.us.
- Support Coordination Agencies will be selected and assigned to individuals. These agencies will develop a Person Centered Plan that aligns service needs and Medicaid reimbursement.
- The Roll Out is expected to be in the end of December. Individuals new to DDD will be the first group of service recipients to be included in the new system of care.
- The roles of existing DDD staff may be redefined as Support Coordination agency workers become more involved with the individuals.
- Funds for the DDC/Developmental Disabilities Clinic in Morristown and Union have will be cut in half.

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

Data for October

Morris East Office

Child Protective Services Investigations – 83

Child Welfare Assessments – 23

Total – 106

Morris West Office

Child Protective Services Investigations – 104

Child Welfare Assessments – 28

Total – 132

Morris County Totals – 238

Ms. Suzanne Alvino has been hired as the new Area Director replacing Ms. Elizabeth McGovern who retired.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has a Request for Information (RFI) asking organizations interested in a “Collaborative Mental Health Care Pilot Program” in two regions in New Jersey. The pilot program shall implement a best practice model to ensure appropriate screening, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of children, youth, and young adults presenting in pediatric primary care settings with behavioral health disorders.

All bids are due by 12/17/14 – extended from 12/10/14. Statewide funding available is \$1.2 million. Funding Available for Morris/Passaic is \$236.248.

For further information see their website at <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/notices/>.

Staff Report – Ms. Laurie Becker

The 2015 funding award and declination letters went out. Green receipt cards are being returned. Ms. Carpinteri stated there are many changes that are impacting us and although we are rich in resources we must continue to partner with other agencies.

Ms. Carpinteri stated there is a Code Blue meeting on Tuesday, November 25, at 2:30 p.m. at the Public Safety & Training Academy on West Hanover Ave. in Parsippany. The focus of this meeting will be looking at the homeless in the cold and making sure all communities have warming shelters. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Staff Report – Ms. Shelia Carter

The Continuum of Care Committee has been planning and preparing for the annual Project Homeless Connect. This event helps raise awareness to homelessness. In addition there are an array of resources and support services available for those who are experiencing homeless in the community.

The event has historically been held in December. This year Project Homeless Connect will be held on January 28 at St. Peter’s Church in Morristown. Thus it will coincide with the Point in Time count usually done the fourth Wednesday in January. **Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Safe Haven Programs, participating in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), do not need to conduct the PIT survey with people already entered into HMIS.** The information in HMIS need only be accurate to include all adults and children within the household, present in the program, the night of January 27th. All others must conduct paper surveys. Then, enter data into Survey Monkey.

It was suggested that agencies put out collection boxes so that Morris County residents can contribute items for this event. There will be a Point-In-Time training on January 16 so that those filling out the surveys will know the proper way to fill them out.

The Office of Community Development’s funding review process is underway. Applications are due no later than Jan. 9, 2014. This is for the Home, Emergency Solution and Community Development Block Grant funding. Applications may be found on the Human Services website at <http://morrishumanservices.org/community/>

Subcommittee Reports –

Planning Child Care – Dedicated Voucher System Update –

Mr. Kevin Collins

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. Child & Family Resources, Child Care Resource and Referral agency for Morris County, receive approximately 25 new applications a week.

Morris County currently have six unutilized dedicated vouchers at Dover Child Care, one at Madison Day Care, one at Mt. Olive Child Care, two at Little Learner Academy in

Budd Lake, and two at Morristown Neighborhood House. The 30 day clock is still in effect for these centers.

A total of 17 dedicated voucher slots were reallocated to Morristown Neighborhood House in October. This is a result of children aging out of programs and slots not being filled. Ada Budrick Childcare Center lost six slots, Madison Day Care eight, Collinsville Child Care Center two and Roxbury Day Care lost one.

Discussion ensued about how the dedicated voucher system works and implementation of the swipe system which began about three years ago. The swipe system helps better utilize funding.

Mr. Collins, on behalf of the Planning Subcommittee, reported on the consolidation of Madison Day Care with the FM Kirby center. This will affect five low income children receiving subsidies from Madison Day Care. The subcommittee recommended a one time exception to have these five children's vouchers transferred to the Kirby Center. The Kirby Center is not on the dedicated voucher agency list and has agreed to take these five children so the parents can continue to afford childcare services.

Mr. Tom Pepe made a motion that the five vouchers be moved from the Madison Day Care to the Kirby Center for the remainder of the school year. Mr. Jeff Bashe seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. Motion was carried.

Youth Homelessness/Aging Out.In Task Force – Mr. Dave Johnston

The Aging In/Out Task Force invited members of the Rutgers Youth Advisory Board (YAB) to its November meeting. Ms. Iesa Jackson, a YAB ambassador, attended this meeting and gave an overview of what Youth Advisory Boards looks like. Teens and young adults who have experienced foster care talk about their challenges, experiences, successes and create support for one another. Mr. Johnston suggested that perhaps the staff from DCP&P could attend the next YAB meeting and answer their questions.

The Aging In/Out Task Force will be drafting a report on the progress to meet objectives of the Morris County Plan to Address Youth Homelessness. This plan of action, which focuses on the needs of 17-24 year olds, was submitted to DCF at the end of 2013 as required by Commissioner Blake as a condition of the HSAC planning grant.

Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Mr. David Hollowell

Workforce Innovations Opportunity Act (WIOA) Transition

The United States Department of Labor recently notified states that Program Year 2014 (7/14-6/15) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds can be used for activities to facilitate transition from WIA to WIOA. WIA will end in June 2015 and WIOA will begin in July 2015. The WIB, through the Garden State Employment and Training Association, will request transition funds from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development which has approximately \$600,000 for this purpose. Funds may be spent on

a variety of transition funds including preparing data collection systems for new, complex WIOA requirements.

New One Stop Career System Partner: Libraries

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act allow public and community college libraries to be considered additional One Stop partners. It also authorizes adult education and literacy activities provided by public and community college libraries as an allowable statewide employment and training activity. Additionally, the law defines digital literacy skills as a workforce preparation activity.

WIBS are encouraged to explore ways that public and community college libraries can receive funding for employment skills training and job search assistance from the recently-passed Act. The WIB will begin discussions with local libraries, pending additional guidance from USDOL.

WIB Director and ETS Director elected as GSETA Officers

WIB Director Jack Patten was recently elected First Vice President of the Garden State Employment and Training Association (GSETA) and Employment & Training Services (ETS) Director Donna Buchanan was elected Secretary. Both will serve two year terms. Jack Patten previously served as GSETA President from 2007 to 2008 and agreed to return as an officer to assist in meeting the challenges posed by retirements of many senior GSETA contributors.

The mission of the Association is “to provide leadership, and promote quality and excellence for the advancement of New Jersey’s workforce development system and its customers and professionals.”

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – No Report

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Submitted by Charles LaRussa

- There were over 250 people in attendance at the Heroin/Opiate Task Force held November 12 at the Skylands in Randolph. There were various groups represented including parents, school officials, law enforcement, the Prosecutor’s Office and various agencies. It was a great kick off! The conference generated a lot of interest in the task force and many folks signed up to be involved in the task force and the work groups.
- There were four presentations to the board on 2015 Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Contracts. The Mental Health Association, Legal Services of NJ, Morristown Medical Center and Chilton Hospital presented their services to the board. The board also had an opportunity to ask questions. After the presentations the board voted to write a letter of recommendation to DMHAS to renew all four contracts.
- Ms. Janet Monroe, CEO, Greystone, gave a presentation and update on Greystone located at 59 Koch Road, Morris Plains, New Jersey. Due to the closing of two

developmental disability centers there has been a large staffing change affecting about 300 hospital workers. Staff with seniority from the DDD centers has been placed at Greystone. In turn about 300 Greystone staff has been or will be laid off to make room for those coming from other centers. There has been training to all new staff in hope that the transition is seamless to the patients.

The census at Greystone is 549 today. There are 149 Morris County residents and 32 Continuing Extension Pending Placement (CEPP) from Morris County. Greystone is responsible for discharging these individuals into community placements within 120 days per the Olmstead settlement.

Ms. Marcia Brands spoke about the co-occurring services in the hospital. She has worked at Greystone for five years and prior to that worked as a community provider. She has helped develop their substance abuse service program. She stated that about 60% to 80% of patients have co-occurring disorders. There are 50 recovery groups that meet weekly. AA/NA both meet daily. There are Smart Recovery meetings once a week. Three years ago the hospital went smoke free so that was a challenge for many. Since that time they also have group programs for nicotine cessation.

Ms. Brands stated that Greystone has a low recidivism rate due to the many high quality community services available in Morris County.

- The next MHSAAB board meeting is January 8 at 5:15 p.m. at 30 Schuyler Place, 3rd Floor in Morristown. All are welcome.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans (ACADV) November 13 Meeting – Mr. Tom Pappas

- Information and assistance and case management phone calls for September and October totaled 720. Sept. calls were 349 and Oct. calls were 371.
- Flyers on the Craft Fair have been distributed to Nutrition Congregate sites, Senior Housing facilities and Veterans offices. These fliers will also be shared with the general public.
- The ACADV supports approval of the following bills:
 1. Assembly, No. 239 – Exempts individuals with certain types of military service from certain professional and occupational fees and continuing education requirements.
 2. Assembly, No. 733 – Permits certain portion of municipal development trust funds to be spent on housing affordability assistance.
 3. Assembly, No. 755 – Increases personal needs allowance to \$55 for low income persons residing in certain facilities.
 4. Assembly No. 3589 – Prohibits adoption of new rules exceeding federal standards unless specifically authorized by State law or necessary to protect public health, safety or welfare.
 5. Assembly Res. No. 181 – Memorializes New Jersey Supreme Court to include certain work by attorneys assisting veterans as pro bono.

6. Senate No. 2508 – Authorizes certain county veteran identification cards to serve as proof of status for veteran designation on driver’s license or identification card.
- There will be an ACT meeting in Nov. 25, at 10:00 a.m. in the ground floor conference room at the Human Services Building.
 - The Program Review Committee met on Oct. 16 and discussed what tool the agency should use in determining the priorities for 2015. A survey was recommended and it should include a question on the age group of the participant since it will determine which age group needs more services.
 - The Veteran’s Service Officer assisted 122 clients in Sept. and Oct. and supplied clients with 344 pieces of information.
 - There was a Veteran’s Medal ceremony Nov. 12 at the Freeholders meeting. Eight Veterans were honored.

Youth Services Advisory Council – written report submitted by Jessica Mondino, Youth Services Coordinator, MCDHS, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services

PRESENTATIONS

Marvine Barnes – Principle of the Transitional Education Center “TEC School”

- There is one school in each county, each serving a different population
- Morris County serves at risk and court involved youth.
- Referrals come from court
- Based on their behaviors they are unable to stay in public school
- Middle to high school
- Classified or not
- Work at own pace
- Probation can meet with kids at school
- Also work with non court involved youth
- Can hold up to 30 students
- 7 kids per classroom
- Diploma issued from home school
- Have graduation ceremony
- Can take referrals from anywhere
- 12 month program Jan-Dec
- School day 8:30am -2pm
- Sending district sets up transportation
- Also serves Sussex County youth.

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

There is hope that in the next few months Our Promise will come to fruition. There is a need for a service such as this in the community. Recently a homeless person fell and died on the steps to Our Place. There are not enough places for the homeless to go. The hope is that Our Promise will be a place for them to go as well as a way for the homeless to get referrals and connect with agencies and services in the community.

Old Business –

Ms. Becker stated that the in regard to the letter about the Family Success Center that was sent to Ms. Charmaine Thomas, NJ Dept. of Children and Families, in Trenton. There has not yet been a response. Mr. Bashe suggested it a little more time before bumping it up to the next level. Ms. Carter is the contact person for this.

New Business –

Ms. Carter stated that the nominations committee is preparing the slate of officers for 2015.

Ms. Guevara distributed the Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs (MCOHA) Home Energy Assistance Fliers. If you need help paying your heating bills or know someone that needs assistance call MCOHA for further information at 973-366-1131 or download an application at www.mcoha.org. The deadline is April 30, 2015.

Public Comment –

Mr. Dave Johnston stated that there was recently a stabbing of a case manager in Camden. The worker was stabbed 21 times by one of his clients. Fortunately the wounds were not fatal. Please be careful when you are out there.

Adjournment –

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Mr. Jeff Bashe. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide