

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
February 24, 2015
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

Call to Order: The February 24, 2015 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Mary Jane Melo, at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep., Liaison Legislative Subcommittee
Linda Csengeto, Liaison OTA
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep., Liaison Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans
Tom Pepe, Citizen Rep.
Michelle Roers, United Way N.N.J.

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Mary Jane Melo

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Ms. Melo stated on behalf of the nominating committee the recommendation is for Ms. Debi Merz to continue as Chair and Ms. Marcia Brands as Vice Chair. All were in favor with no abstention and no opposition. Motion was carried. Ms. Debi Merz, newly elected Chair, took over the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Debi Merz

The motion to approve the November 18, 2014 minutes was made by Mr. Tom Pappas and seconded by Mr. Tom Pepe. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions. The motion carried.

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) –Written report

- Mental Health/DD group home – this has previously been discussed. This is updated information regarding the location of the home and associated provider agency. Location-Morris Avenue, Denville.
Renovations are not complete yet. Anticipated move in date of the first of four residents is April/May, 2015. Two individuals are identified for this home. Referrals for the remaining two beds will be forthcoming. The agency provider for this home is YCS.

- The DDD liaison for Greystone has changed. It was previously managed from the Flanders DDD office. The functions of the Greystone liaison are now part of the DDD Olmstead Unit. The contact person is Michelle Whitmore (609) 689-1935. Michelle's office is in Hamilton, NJ.
- Implementation of the new Rate Structure - this is the shift from a Contract Reimbursement System to a Standardized Fee-For-Service System (FFS). The System is built on a Medicaid platform that considers the individual, the provider and the service. Webinar for individuals, families and other stakeholders will be available soon on the DDD web site at www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd.
- FFS will go into effect for individuals in licensed residential settings beginning January, 2016.
- Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, Jennifer Velez, has resigned. Elizabeth Connolly, the current Department Chief of Staff, has been appointed the Acting Commissioner.
- RHNJ (Return Home to NJ) and the Olmstead moves have slowed down. Time is needed to prepare agencies and agency staff for the specialized needs of the proposed residents.
- No new homes have opened in Morris County this month.

New Jersey Department of Children & Families (DCF) – Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) – No Report

Staff Reports – Ms. Becker

Ms. Becker said that Ms. Carpinteri is sorry she wasn't able to join us tonight. Ms. Becker stated that with Managed Medicaid there will be great challenges forthcoming. There is concern that Grant in Aid stay in tact since in other counties this money seems to be dwindling. There will be significant challenges ahead since the county funding cannot supplement any Medicaid reimbursable services. There will need to be strong advocacy to help keep the current funds and move them to other services. Next meeting hopefully Ms. Carpinteri can report further on the impact of these changes.

Ms. Carter –

On February 11 the Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) contract was monitored by the Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development (DFD). The monitoring went well.

There will be a slight restructuring of the Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) Affiliation Agreement. A flat fee of \$50 a night for either a family or individual was being charged to the grant for motel placement. Moving forward varying rates will apply according to the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, preapproved pay scale. This change allows OTA to better meet the higher cost for having multiple people in one room.

Project Homeless Connect was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Mental Health Association of Morris County is taking the lead in working with Morris County's

Continuum of Care (CoC) Committee to decide when to reschedule the event. Despite inclement weather the Point-in-Time count of the homeless was held.

Orientation packets were reviewed with board members. It was noted the By-Laws will be updated following reauthorization of State HSAC regulations. The State of New Jersey Department of Human Services is convening a subcommittee to work on updating the regulation. Input will be sought from advisory members to take back to state meetings as the work progresses.

Subcommittee Reports –

Planning Child Care – Dedicated Voucher System Update –

Mr. Kevin Collins

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served and approximately 20 new applications a week are being received.

There is currently one unutilized dedicated voucher at Dover Child Care, two unutilized dedicated vouchers at Collinsville CCC, three unutilized dedicated vouchers at Mt. Olive CCC and one unutilized dedicated voucher at Parsippany Child Day Care. The 30 day clock is still in effect for these centers.

Program Review

Funding – Closed Session – Emergency Shelter Grant – Mr. Tom Pepe ---

Ms. Merz asked anyone in conflict to please leave the room. Ms. Csengeto left the room. There was a motion to close the meeting.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 5:40 p.m.

Return to Meeting

The meeting reopened to the public at 5:50 p.m. Ms. Csengeto came back into the room.

Actions Resulting from Closed Session

Mr. Tom Pepe stated that the subcommittee recommends the HSAC approve all 2015 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funding recommendations as discussed in closed session.

Mr. Pappas made a motion to support the subcommittee's recommendation. Ms. Degazon seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstention. The motion was carried.

Youth Homelessness/Aging Out In Task Force – No Report

Advisory Committee Reports – Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – David Hollowell WIB ANNUAL REPORT

The WIB Annual Report for Program Year 2013 (7/13-6/14) has been posted on the WIB website (MSWWIB.org). The report contains fiscal and performance data, member information and the WIB Chair's and Director's message on important Program Year 2013 developments and issues.

WIB AND ETS INCREASE OJT CONTRACT LIMIT

The WIB and Morris, Sussex, Warren Employment and Training Services have raised the limit on Workforce Investment Act funded On-the-Job-Training (OJT) contracts from \$4000 to \$5000, effective immediately. The increase will make OJT more attractive to small businesses, which are the principal employer partners in OJT. The change also reflects the WIB's intention to greatly expand the OJT program as the area labor market generates a significant number of new jobs.

Morris/Sussex/Warren HIV Advisory – No Report

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board –

- Ms. Lisa D. Taylor, Esq. gave a presentation on Medicaid Changes and Public Funding. Ms. Taylor explained that after the Affordable Care Act became law in 2010 there was a provision of expanded Medicaid. Many people that were previously ineligible for Medicaid became eligible. These changes had a great impact on healthcare and healthcare providers.
- On February 24 there will be a meeting of the Morris County Task Force on Opiates: Saving Lives through Education, Advocacy and Treatment. The meeting will be held at Morris County Prevention is Key, 25 W. Main St. in Rockaway. There has been a lot of interest in this task force and the work groups. Anyone interesting in the Task Force may contact Beth Jacobson at (973) 285-6867.
- The 21st annual Consumer and Family Forum will be held on June 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Haggerty Center, 353 East Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ. The Forum is for individuals and their families who have been involved with or who want to learn more about Morris County's publicly-funded human services. The event is sponsored by the Morris County Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board and Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders.
- The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) released its Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Involuntary Outpatient Program (or programs) that will serve Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties. Bidders may submit proposals that would provide for a program to serve one county or for a program that would serve multiple counties. A maximum of five awards will be made through this RFP and no more than \$300,000 will be awarded per county.

- The next MHSAAAB board meeting is March 12 at 5:15 p.m. at 30 Schuyler Place, 3rd Floor in Morristown. All are welcome.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans (ACADV) Feb. 5 meeting – Tom Pappas

- Members were advised of the policies and procedures of Council for 2015.
- May is Older American’s month. This year the theme is “Getting into the Act”. The Older American’s Act has not been reauthorized since 2010, and we are hoping it will be approved this week.
- The Federal Legislation authorizes each County to have an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and for 2016 Morris County is requesting an increase in the initial fiscal budget for the following:
 - 11% for 3B services
 - 9% for Home-delivered meals
 - 4.5% for congregate meals
- Veterans may now register at any VA Clinic to obtain a VA Choice Card, which will allow them to get medical care sooner and closer to their residence and without cost to them.
- New Jersey PAAD eligibility for 2015 will be \$26,575 or less for single and \$32,582 or less for a married couple, and Senior Gold Prescription discount program is \$10,000 above PAAD limits. Applications are available on the State of New Jersey website.
- The Legislative Review committee recommended the endorsement of the following bills:
 - Assembly, No. 126- Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for development of Northern New Jersey Veterans Memorial cemetery.
 - Assembly No. 1075- Permits conversion of insurance policies to Medicaid long-term care.
 - Assembly No. 3848 –Provides civil service preference to military service members who did not serve in theater of operation but received campaign or expedition medal.

Youth Services Advisory Council – written report submitted by Jessica Mondino, Youth Services Coordinator, MCDHS

PRESENTATIONS

Center for Evaluation and Counseling – Comprehensive Adolescent Program

- Works with the court
- The program is modeled from Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) programs
- 90 day program
- Free
- 12-18 Male and Female
- Case by case for younger
- Continues through 18th year
- Psycho educational groups

- Anger management, life skills, job skills etc.
- Wrap around Case Management services
 - Link to services if needed, substance abuse, medication etc.
- Individual sessions once a week for counseling and case management
- Mandatory family piece
- Individualized case plan review every 30 days
- Letter of completion with information covered during program and status at end
- Do not have to be on house arrest or home detention
- Required minimum of one face to face a week, usually two a week
- Located in Parsippany
- All court involved youth
- Can do drug testing on site, at extra cost.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolee Marano from DAWN Center for Independent Living announced that they are receiving a grant from Caring Partners to deliver a 90 hour expansion version of their life skills program. The focus will be on social skills and recreation. There will also be training sessions for parents and a sibling group. It is a half year grant and will start in February.

The next YSAC meeting is March 19 at 340 W. Hanover Avenue in Morris Twp.

Partnership Announcements – Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Becker

The HUD CoC Executive Committee met at the end of January. This committee is charged with overseeing HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless funding and has met a full year. The County was strongly encouraged to form this community lead group. The HSAC has an influence but does not make final recommendations on this funding. \$1.7 million is involved. There is still a lot to figure out and the committee needs to revisit some things. The committee will revisit the initial By-Laws. They are discussing possible changes in membership representation. They voted on the local selection process and approval of the process related to funding. They are also developing monitoring procedures.

The committee, with the county's involvement, needs to figure out how to conduct monitorings. Many of the same agencies are funded by the county under separate funding streams. The question is whether it is appropriate for the county person to participate in monitoring since the CoC is no longer a County run initiative. There is a need to make this a simple and efficient process.

The next CoC Executive meeting is March 26, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at 30 Schuyler Place in Morristown. Mr. Jeff Bashe is the HSAC representative on the committee.

Ms. Carter stated the HSAC also has the responsibility of looking at homeless services. That is how the former CEAS subcommittee of the HSAC initially started. Other

counties have also developed community led CoC's and some are working through this. In some cases counties have consolidated their services.

Ms. Carter volunteered to be on the state HSAC Subcommittee working on updating HSAC regulations.

Old Business – None

New Business –

Ms. Roers stated that perhaps there are things we want to advocate for to the Freeholders for in the 2016 budget. They have not yet introduced the budget (believe it will be introduced in April). There was discussion about issues/concerns in regard to a recent court ruling regarding county employee's pension. It was suggested that the board invite Hank Lyon and/or Kathy DeFillippo to join us for a meeting.

Ms. Brands stated that since the Commissioner Velez resigned there will be changes coming. There used to be someone from the Commissioner's office that gave us updates on what is going on. Perhaps the board could invite someone from that office to attend or send reports. Ms. Carter stated that they still send the Eclips reports from the Commissioner's office. Ms. Carter used to send them out to the board. Since there is interest in getting updates she will resume sending out Eclips via email.

Ms. Merz asked if the committee might like to change to meeting time to 5:00 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m. There was a motion made to change the meeting time to 5:00 p.m. by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Mr. Tom Pappas. There were no abstentions and no opposition and the motion was carried.

There was also discussion on whether the committee would be interested in moving the meeting back to 30 Schuyler Place in Morristown. General consensus of the group was they would like to keep the meeting at this location.

Board members signed up for subcommittee assignments.

Public Comments –None

Adjournment –

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Tom Pepe. The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m. Reminder the next meeting is on April 28, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia MocarSKI
Program Development Aide