

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
April 28, 2015
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

Call to Order: The April 28, 2015 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Debi Merz, at 5:02 p.m.

Members Present:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep., Liaison CoC Executive Committee
Linda Csengeto, Liaison OTA
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.
David Hollowell, Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep., Liaison Aging, Disabilities & Veterans

Also Attending:

David Johnston, NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Mary Giorlando, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities
Riva Thomas, New Jersey Department of Human Services
Wendy Zoccola, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

Staff in Attendance:

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

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Debi Merz

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Debi Merz

The motion to approve the February 24, 2014 minutes was made by Mr. Ken Oexle and seconded by Mr. Tom Pappas. All were in favor with no opposition and two abstentions. The motion carried.

Mr. Bashe asked for an update on the possibility of Grant-in-Aid being reduced. Ms. Becker stated that so far things are solid. Mr. Bashe stated that the board discussed having a Freeholder come to talk about the budget process. Ms. Becker stated that would be good at a meeting a little further down the line.

Morris County Department of Human Services – No Report

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Ms. Riva Thomas

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner of DHS resigned. Elizabeth Connolly is Acting Commissioner. So far it has been a seamless transition. On April 20 Ms. Connolly

testified before the Senate Budget Committee. They grilled her for 5 ½ hours and focused on three areas. They asked about CAS (SNAP, Medicaid, and child support), the Return Home NJ Program and Family Care/Managed Long Term Care. The good news is there are no cuts this year.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities rate setting process has ended. The State received over 1,000 comments on the transition plan.

The Acting Commissioner started to meet with Human Services Directors and also the State HSAC.

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

Live Webinars on the Division’s System of Reform-Medicaid-based, fee-for-service system will occur as follows:

Access: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd

The anticipated transition to a Medicaid base fee for service (FFS) system will begin July 1, 2015 with a phased-in implementation timeline of 12-18 months.

What it means for Someone Entering DDD Services webinar will provide an update on the system reform currently underway at DDD and an overview of the process of entering into DDD services for the first time. This Webinar is designed for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and school personnel.

- Saturday, May 16, 2015-11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Friday, June 5, 2015-1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 13, 2015-2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Understanding What It Means for Someone Who Is Currently Receiving DDD Services webinar is designed to provide information to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have already been receiving DDD funded services, their families and service providers.

- Tuesday, May 5, 2015-3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 21, 2015-10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 17, 2015- 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, August 15, 2015-9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

A Combined Application to Become a Medicaid/DDD Approved Provider is available for any individual or agency interested in providing Division-funded camp assistance to New Jersey adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities age 21 and older. The deadline to apply for funding is May 4, 2015. Visit the Division’s Fee-for Service Provider Portal at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/programs/sppp.html.

The Supportive Housing Connection (SHC) is a new partnership between the NJ Department of Human Services (NJDHS) and the NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA). The goal of SHC is to provide access to affordable housing for NJ residents with special needs by consolidating NJDHS's rental subsidy resources into one location for convenient and efficient Management. Additional information about The Supportive Housing Connection may be found at shc@njhmfa.state.nj.us or by calling toll free 1-844-216-6988.

The SHC will administer rental subsidy payments, calculate a tenant's contribution toward rent and ensure that the housing is safe and suitable. The SHC will also offer resources for support to service providers and assist people looking for affordable housing.

As a follow-up to last month's meeting, no one has moved into the group home on Morris Avenue in Denville. Three women have been identified and are waiting on the fourth woman to be identified for the home. All residents need to be identified before move in. One person moved out of Greystone into a group home in Byram and is doing very well.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Dave Johnston

Morris East had 111 referrals. Morris West 125 referrals for a total of 135 referrals which is a little lower than usual.

A Request for Proposal has been issued for regional Diagnostic Treatment Center Services to support the following three regions:

- (1) Southern Ocean, Atlantic: up to \$900,000;
- (2) Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, and Cape May: up to \$1,200,000; and,
- (3) Morris, Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon: up to \$900,000

Applicants may apply to support one, two or all three regions. Separate bids are required for each region. A mandatory Bidders Conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., March 27, 2015, The Professional Center at DCF, 30 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ

All bids are due by 12:00 p.m., May 22, 2015.

The Qualitative Review process assesses system performance and identifies strengths and areas for improvements to support positive outcomes for children and families. The Qualitative Review is managed through the Office of Quality (OQ) within the Office of Performance Management and Accountability (OPMA). The Review process is an intensive week-long review that includes interviews of children and families and other involved stakeholders in their lives as a key method of gathering information. Qualitative

Reviews are conducted in sixteen (16) out of New Jersey's twenty-one (21) counties annually. In addition, targeted Qualitative Review are also performed when areas are identified such as Investigations or Adolescent /Youth Services. The Qualitative Review is one of many ways that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) seeks to understand and monitor its' work with the children and families it serves. The Morris County Qualitative Review is scheduled for the week of May 4, 2015.

A Needs Assessment Work Group has been established, through the Department of Children and Families, Office of Adolescent Services, to create a responsive approach that will focus on service needs and gaps of children and youth in DCF out of home placement (OOHP) and identify service needs of intact families to prevent out of home placement. The Ultimate goal of the group is to develop targeted prioritized recommendations based on findings of the needs assessment. The workgroup is comprised of volunteer members of the community, including members who have expertise in prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. The term of appointment, by the Commissioner's Office, is three years. The group meets quarterly in Trenton and New Brunswick.

The Workgroup needs one young adult member between the ages of 18-21 years, at the time of the appointment (by the Commissioner's office), and is or has been placed under the care and custody of the Department of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P) because of an allegation of child abuse or neglect. If you know of anyone that might be interested in this three year appointment, please contact Niambi London at the Office of Adolescent Services at 609 888-7100.

Staff Reports –

Ms. Laurie Becker

The 2016 RFA is in the pipeline and will go out on May 11. There will be a few minor tweaks this year related to Managed Medicaid. There will need to be a statement or two added stating that all public funding can't reimburse or supplement any Medicaid services. Medicaid is supposed to be payment in full. The HSAC will not have too much of an issue with this but it is a big challenge for the MHSAAAB and the Division on Aging. Federal regulations are coming through the county. The county can't reimburse face to face outpatient counseling services for anyone on Medicaid. The county can provide help to family support groups. The county has to look at other services to fund. Saint Clare's has already made some contract modifications.

Ms. Becker stated that for 2015 it has been level funding and for 2016 it's estimated but not guaranteed that there will be level funding. Preliminary Fall 2015 budget just passed.

Ms. Shelia Carter

Due to the Affordable Care Act many more people have become eligible for Medicaid in New Jersey. Though Medicaid is a Federal program it is administered by state.

The New Jersey Human Services Advisory Council, Regulation Review Subcommittee met April 17 to review regulation governing state and local HSAC's. A presentation of County Human Service Director's recommendations was heard by the committee.

The group discussed ways counties were handling Continuum of Care (CoC) restructuring and difficulty some counties had maintaining Workforce Investment Board (WIB) representation on their boards. The need to expand advisory participation to include seniors and addiction services was also considered. The next meeting is scheduled for May 4.

The 2015 CoC homeless funding process is developing. The next Notice of Intent to apply for funding will be released May 4. Potential applicants are encouraged to attend a technical assistance session on May 8 at 30 Schuyler Place in Morristown. It is mandatory for new applicants to attend. Last year, the Continuum supported five agencies serving clients with HIV, mental illness and victims of domestic violence. The continuum also provided permanent housing vouchers, child care services, homeless outreach, emergency and transitional housing. More information can be found on the Morris County Department of Human Services website at www.morrishumanservices.org

Subcommittee Reports

Planning Child Care – Dedicated Voucher System Update

Mr. Kevin Collins

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. Child & Family Resources is serving all eligible applicants and receive approximately 20 new applications a week.

Currently, two (2) unutilized dedicated vouchers at Dover Child Care are not being used and the 30 day clock is in effect. Collinsville lost two dedicated vouchers. They were reallocated to another center.

Program Review

Funding – Closed Session Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) – Mr. Jeff Bashe

Ms. Merz asked anyone in conflict to leave the room. Ms. Csengeto left the room. There was a motion to close the session by Ms. Debi Merz. Mr. Jeff Bashe seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstention and no opposition.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 5:45 p.m.

Return to the Meeting

Mr. Jeff Bashe made a motion to reopen the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Ms. Merz seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstention and no opposition. Ms. Csengeto came back into the room.

Actions Resulting from Closed Session

Mr. Jeff Bashe made a motion to fund three of the four agencies that submitted SSH applications. The total amount of funding involved is \$236,637. The motion was seconded by Debi Merz. All were in favor with five abstentions and no opposition. The motion was carried.

2015-2016 Grant-in-Aid (GIA) and Child Abuse Protection (CAP) Funding Priorities

The subcommittee reviewed the 2016 GIA and CAP funding priorities and believe, with minor tweaking, they should be approved. The recommendation was accepted. Ms. Debi Merz made a motion to approve the 2016 GIA and CAP funding priorities with minor tweaking. Mr. Jeff Bashe seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstentions and no opposition. The motion carried.

Youth Homelessness – Mr. Dave Johnston

The Office of Adolescent Services is working on grants. There is one grant due soon and they have switched their focus to try to get funding to address youth homelessness.

“Striving for Success in Transitions to Adulthood” is DCF’s Adolescent Strategic Services Plan. The Plan will provide a variety of living options for transitioning youth on a continuum of therapeutic to non-clinical independent housing for 18-21 year olds. It will also provide pathways to permanent safe, stable and affordable housing for those after the age of 21.

Advisory Committee Reports –

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Mr. David Hollowell

The final Workforce Investment Board Open meeting under the Workforce Investment Act will be held on April 30 at 9 a.m. at the Farmstead in Andover. The meeting will feature a presentation “WIA to WIOA, Sixteen Changes in Sixteen Minutes”. The presentation is an overview of key changes from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA takes effect on July 1, 2015.

Effective January 2, 2015, the WIB determined that WIA Adult funds are not limited and that all adults, 21 or over, are eligible for WIA funded training. The full policy is on the WIB website, <http://www.mswwib.org/policies.htm>. The WIB reviewed this policy on April 21 and determined that it should remain in place through June 30, 2015. The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act does not provide for WIBs to determine that funds are not limited.

Morris/Sussex/Warren HIV Advisory – No Report

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – No Report

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

- May is “Older Americans Month” and the theme is “Get into the Act”. This theme is meant to show that people should get involved in physical activities and also that the Older Americans Act is up for renewal.
- The Senior and People with Disabilities Art Show, sponsored by NORWESCAP, will be held on May 6, 2015, at the Morris County Library, 30 East Hanover Ave., Whippany, NJ.
- St. Francis, AARP and MCCoOPO will be hosting “Living Treasures Award”.
- A Freeholder’s Welcome is planned for May at The Morris View Healthcare Center. The Freeholders have been involved with Morris View and the public need to be made aware of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.
- June is the 25th anniversary of the “Americans with Disability Act”.

- On June 28, DAWN, is hosting an ADA anniversary event at Central Park (Greystone Complex) from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. with the Morris Park Commission and the Dept. of Human Services.
- The Elder Economic Index states that in Morris County, seniors over the age of 65, living alone, 45% are in economic distress. Only 55% of seniors are economically secure.
- On May 5, 2015, ACT (Advisory Councils Together) will be hosting a Legislative Advocacy Day in Trenton. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Medicaid “Qualified Income Trust” QIT. To be eligible for Long Term Care Medicaid, the monthly income must be under \$2,000. Under the QIT, if you are over that amount, the excess amount can be put into a trust and when the client expires, the excess amount in the trust will be turned over to the State of New Jersey.

The Legislative Review Committee members reviewed the following bills and recommend the endorsement of the ACADV:

State:

- Senate, No. 2231 – Requires DHS to use and update NJ Elder Index and related data to the extent possible.
- Senate No. 2668 – Establishes “Gold Alert System” for missing persons with developmental disabilities.

Federal:

- Senate No. 192 – Re-authorization of the Older Americans Act of 2015.

Youth Services Advisory Council – No Report

Partnership Announcements – No report

Old Business – None

New Business –

Please let Ms. Carter know if you have any ideas or requests for presentations to the board for future meetings.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment –

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Mary Jane Melo and seconded by Ms. Cynthia Degazon. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 26, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia MocarSKI
Program Development Aide