

ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

UPDATES – JULY 19, 2016

MORRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

The MC Advisory Council on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans reported that they are advocating to save the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). The U. S. Senate Appropriations Committee recently approved a 2017 spending bill that completely eliminates funding for the Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Older adults, people with disabilities and their families and caregivers need assistance understanding the A, B, C and Ds of Medicare. Operating in every state, SHIPs answer questions about Medicare and help people solve problems. Eliminating SHIPs would leave millions who need support comparing coverage options, appealing denials, applying for financial assistance, and navigating increasingly complex Medicare benefits stranded with nowhere to turn. Please take action and join Medicare Rights and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and write to your elected officials about why investing in unbiased, personalized Medicare counseling is important to you and your community. Please sign the petition:

http://action.medicarerights.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19066

At the end of May Jennifer Carpinteri, Director of Human Services, announced funding available through Morris County for 2017. Funding available was for Child Abuse Prevention (CAP), Social Services for the Homeless, Grant-in-Aid (GIA), Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Senior Support and Chapter 51. Social Services for the Homeless Applications were due first with the due date of June 17. The Human Services Advisory Board received four applications for Social Services for the Homeless. All four agencies proposals were reviewed and it was voted to fund three of the four agencies. This funding is in the amount of \$225,881.00 (slightly reduced from last year).

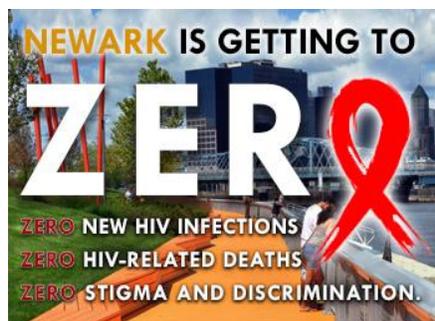
CAP, GIA, GIA Senior Support applications were due on June 30. Many applications were received and will be reviewed by the appropriate advisory boards in the next two months. Chapter 51 applications are not due until July 22. For further information on Morris County Funding please see the website at www.morriscountynj.gov/hs.

Agency monitorings for 2016 subgrants are being done by the HSAC, MHASAB and other county advisory boards throughout the summer. Monitorings are generally done on an annual basis to see the progress of each agency and to determine if they are fulfilling their subgrant agreements.

CITY OF NEWARK, RYAN WHITE GRANTEE

“GETTING TO ZERO”

The City of Newark and the Department of Health and Community Wellness has partnered with Emmis Communication’s Hot 97 radio station to raise HIV awareness and encourage Newark residents to get tested and know their HIV status. The theme of this initiative is “Newark Getting to Zero” and will drive our efforts towards zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths, and zero stigma and discrimination for those living with HIV/AIDS. Several sites throughout the City, along with the city’s Mary Eliza Mahoney Health Center offer free, rapid HIV testing. During the campaign, which runs July 25th through September 18th, participants will be entered in a drawing to win two tickets to attend the Drake & Future concert at the Prudential Center in October. For more information, feel free to call (973) 733 - 4402.



PLANNING COUNCIL

The NEMA Planning Council last met on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 1:30pm at the Planning Council Offices. The Planning Council will next meet on Wednesday, July 20, 2016.

CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE (COC)

The COC Committee last met on Thursday, July 14th and worked on the Service Standards for: Health Education Risk Reduction Service Standards and Outpatient Ambulatory Health Standards. At their previous meeting in June the committee reviewed and approved the Other Professional Services Service Standards. During previous meetings the committee also had a lengthy discussion on barriers to care. COC members discussed the issues with insurance and reauthorizations for medications. Additionally, there was discussion on routine testing. One idea that came out of the discussion was for outreach testing sites to work with non-HIV private doctors to ensure routine HIV testing is being done.

The COC Committee additionally developed outcomes for psycho social support services, health insurance premium and cost sharing assistance and emergency financial assistance. The COC next meets on Thursday, August 11th at 10 a.m., at the Planning Council Office.

RESEARCH & EVALUATION COMMITTEE (REC)

The committee is currently working on the Needs Assessment project. Consumer survey results are being tabulated in response to the questions around VLS and retention in care. The REC next meets on Monday, July 18th at 10:00 a.m. at the Planning Council Office.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES/ COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS (CIA)

The CIA/CC last met Thursday, June 16th at 6 p.m., at the Planning Council Office. There was a presentation from PROCEEDS Inc. about their Retention in Care and Lost To Care (Lost to Follow Up) program. The program is open to all NEMA organization. The Committee will next meet on Thursday, July 21st at the Planning Council office at 6pm.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE CONTINUE DRAFTING THE INTEGRATED PLAN

The committee has had several meetings during June and July. The committee approved the service category definitions in preparation for the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA) process. The committee will continue its work on both the Integrated Plan and the PSRA process at future meetings. The committee last met on July 8th and began to assign timeframe on the Integrated Plan document to committees (responsible parties/ resources). The committee will next meet on Friday, July 29th at the Planning Council office at 9:30am.

FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

PROGRAM UPDATE

- Atlantic Health System and United Healthcare have renewed their contract, ensuring that patients who receive their Medicaid through United do not have to switch insurance providers in order to remain with FHC.
- Morristown Medical Center's Linkage to Care Program has begun to receive referrals from New Jersey's HIPP program and has been able to offer these clients connections to Case Management in the Morris County area.
- Morristown Medical Center's Linkage to Care Program, in collaboration with Morristown Medical Center's Center for Testing, Counseling and Referral, is in the process of standardizing their working relationship with the Greater Planned Parenthood of Northern New Jersey.

EVENTS

- Reminder that Family Health Center will be hosting next week's Advisory Committee Lunch and Learn:
 - When: July 29, 2016 @ 12pm
 - Where: 435 South Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Morristown
 - What: *"Produce" a Healthier You* with Mara Newman, Dietician

HOPE HOUSE

PROGRAM UPDATE

- For the rest of July, here are the support/coping skills that will be offered:
 - 7/20 Self Advocacy Series Part 1 @ 12 (lunch will be served)
 - 7/21 Women's Group @ 1
 - 7/27 Movie Showing @ 1
 - 7/28 General Support Group @ 1
- August groups:
 - 8/4 Men's Group @ 1
 - 8/11 Women's Group @ 1
 - 8/17 Cooking Light, Cooking Right @ 12
 - 8/18 General Support Group @ 1
 - 8/24 Self Advocacy Series Part 2 @12 (lunch will be served)

(Call 973-361-5555 x 154 to sign up for any groups.)
- Hours of Operation have changed to Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:30 to 4:30, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 to 8:30.

NEW JERSEY AIDS SERVICES

EVENTS

- Our annual summer BBQ and cookout will be held on Saturday, July 30th at noon. All welcome to attend. RSVP to Kelly Martins: k.martins@njas-inc.org
- The Bike for Life, a 25 – 50 mile bike ride for AIDS, will be held on Sunday, September 25th beginning and ending in Morris Plains. For more information email: info@njas-inc.org
- Dining Out for Life will be held on October 6th this year. There are participating restaurants in both Morris and Essex counties. For a complete list of restaurants visit: www.diningoutforlife.com/newjersey

PROGRAM UPDATE

- NJ AIDS Services continues to host the following support groups:
 - Grief Support: Fridays at 11:00am
 - Gay Men's Support: Thursdays at 11:00am
 - HIV Support: Wednesdays at 12:30pm

NEW ISSUES/TRENDS

- Access to psychiatric care and providers in our region that participate in Medicaid Expansion plans is a major challenge.
- Copayments for medications and physician visits continue to be presented as challenge for agency clients.

ZUFALL HEALTH CENTER

STAFFING:

- Linkage to Care in Dover opening
- Xiomara Vargas, Medical Case Manager, is on maternity leave
- Judy Ortega, Somerville Ryan White Medical Case Manager, is assisting during clinical

EVENTS:

- Screening Event (National Testing Day) was held at Morristown Green on Friday, July 24 11-3. Zufall/BeWell/Mayor's Wellness Committee sponsored.
- World AIDS Day, December 1: Mobile van to go to Sussex County College for their event and will offer STI & HIV screening/testing.
- Consumer Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 27