

## HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

April 25, 2012

340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

### Members Present:

Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep.

Linda Csengeto, CEAS/COC Representative, OTA Rep.

Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.

Kathy McKeithen, Citizen Rep.

Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.

Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.

Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep./Aging, Disabilities & Veterans Advisory Committee

Michelle Roers, United Way of N.N.J., departed meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources, departed meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### Also Attending:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS

Shelia Carter, MCDHS

David Johnston, DCF, DYFS

Jack Patten, MSW WIB

Pat Mocariski, MCDHS

Frank Pinto, MCDHS, departed meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Luis Tamayo, NJDHS, departed meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- I. Call to Order** – The April 25 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order at 5:35 p.m.
- II. Welcome and Introductions** – Everyone was welcomed and introductions were made.
- III. Approval of the March 28 Minutes** – A motion to approve the minutes was made by Linda Csengeto and seconded by Tom Pappas. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions.
- IV. County of Morris Department of Human Services** – Frank Pinto  
There are two affordable housing bills pending. The A2717 bill extends the time period for municipalities to commit to expend collected development fees and payments-in-lieu of constructing affordable units. S1566/A2168, New Jersey Residential Foreclosure Transformation Act, establishes the New Jersey Foreclosure Relief Corporation, dedicated to the purpose of purchasing foreclosed residential properties from institutional lenders and dedicates them for occupancy as affordable housing.

The Legislative Subcommittee will be convened by Ken Oexle to review legislation on Tuesday, May 1 and prepare recommendations for the Freeholders.

Ms. Roers stated that at the last meeting, the board discussed writing a letter to local municipalities regarding the impact of not committing affordable housing trust funds by July 17, 2012. Ms. Roers prepared a letter for the board's review. It was discussed and agreed that the letter would be forwarded to towns with outstanding balances. The board voted on this letter and it was unanimously approved to send it out as soon as possible since the deadline is quickly approaching.

The Board also voted unanimously to have Ms. Roers, accompanied by Ms. Zydel, attend tonight's Freeholder meeting on its behalf to:

- Let them know the need for affordable housing is understood by this committee and is important to us;
- That there is a plan in place to continue to study the issue;
- Resources in the community are diminishing;
- Many funding opportunities have already been cut;
- There is a need to take action now to help end homelessness;
- Ongoing needs assessments continually rank housing as a high priority;
- Express the committee's desire for the Freeholders to refrain from action on pending legislation until further information is provided; and,
- Thank them for their approval on funding that is available.

**V. County of Morris Planning and Development, Division of Community Development – Sabine Von Aulock**

During this morning's Freeholder meeting, members of the Community Development Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee, and Jeff Bashe of this committee, made presentations announcing funding recommendations on three Programs Community Development runs. These programs are the Community Development Block Grant, the Home Investment Partnership, and Emergency Solutions Grant. A comment period on the recommendations is available to the public through May 8 by going to [www.morrisplanning.org/divisions/community](http://www.morrisplanning.org/divisions/community) or calling (973) 285-6061.

The Community Development Block Grant was cut by 23%. The Home Investment Award was reduced by 39.9%. The Home Investment award is now only \$600,000 whereas it was over \$1 million. It is essential, moving forward, to figure out the best way to use all available funds.

**VI. New Jersey Department of Human Services Report (DHS) – Luis Tamayo**

The budget increased to \$13.4 Billion an increase of 17.9% from last year.

Last week Commissioner Velez met with the Attorney General from the Dominican Republic and established a reciprocal agreement to enforce child support payments. New Jersey is one of the first states to accomplish this agreement. The Dominican Republic is 1 of 21 countries where New Jersey made this happen. The U.S. and Dominican Republic will benefit by collecting on each others behalf.

Originally, the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) was federally funded. Now, it is primarily State funded. As a result, agencies funded under SSBG may receive letters informing them that their contracts are being moved from one state department to another. For example, contracts related to children's services housed under the NJ Department of Human Services will be moved to the Department of Children and Families, vice versa or other NJ Departments. The contract for the HSAC will remain under the NJ Department of Children & Families.

**VII. New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Dave Johnson**

The numbers Sue Jones reported in the last months report were too high. The correct numbers for Feb. will be reported at the next meeting.

For March the numbers are high.

Morris West	-	115 Child Abuse and Neglect
		<u>38</u> Child Welfare Assessments
		153 Total
Morris East	-	104 Child Abuse and Neglect
		<u>31</u> Child Welfare Assessments
		135 Total
		288 Grand Total for Morris County

The top towns reporting cases in Morris County are Morristown (27), Mt. Olive (27), Parsippany (23) and Dover (22).

A Request for Funding Proposal for \$44,337 is on the Department of Children & Families website under public announcements at [www.nj.gov/dcf/divisions/dyfs/](http://www.nj.gov/dcf/divisions/dyfs/). There was also a public announcement made on a sexual assault/abuse/rape grant for Morris County. The deadline for the application was April 23.

The Department of Children and Families was awarded \$9.4 million in Federal monies to expand home visitation services to help at-risk families with an array of health and social services. These services are often known within the department as the Maternal Infant and Child Program.

The offices qualitative review is scheduled the first week in June. Last year, the office was rated at 92%. They are hoping to do as well this year and should find out the results of the review in July.

**VIII. Staff Report – Shelia Carter**

The Planning Subcommittee met and talked about the at-risk youth and family needs assessment the county needs to complete. The online survey was reviewed with minor modifications. The survey will be forwarded electronically to youth, family members, and providers of services. It will be sent via the McContacts database system and housed on the Department of Human Services Website at [www.Morrishumanservices.org/hs/](http://www.Morrishumanservices.org/hs/). The goal is a one month turn around.

Ms. Becker stated that the report will be done in three parts. Ms. Carter, Ms. Farese (Youth Services) and Ms. Becker are working on this together. The committee noted that the last sentence of the survey said “N.J. Department of Children.” It was suggested to add “& Families” to the sentence. The results of focus groups already completed will be a part of the project. A time extension was granted to November; however the committee would like to get this done by the original deadline of August 1.

## **IX. Subcommittee Reports –**

### **CEAS/COC - Linda Csengeto**

There was a report on the April 5 Agency Director’s Meeting regarding the HEARTH Act. The idea of merging CoC’s with another county was discussed.

The outcome was the committee would continue to meet and discuss issues. A potential for merger is still on the table, but no decision has been made at this time. The next meeting will be on May 7, 2:00 p.m. at the Human Services Building.

### **Planning Subcommittee – Childcare Dedicated Voucher Process – Rebekka Zydel**

Of the dedicated vouchers reallocated from the previous RFP only one voucher slot has been filled. The priority need in Morris County is for infants. It is a challenging situation since there are many that need vouchers but may not live near the center offering the voucher. It has been 30 days at this point and the centers have 60 days to fill these slots. If these slots are not filled with infants then preschoolers and school age children may be considered. The hope is that all slots will be filled. The list is large with 353 children on the wait list and 260 families. This is a process that takes time.

## **X. Advisory Committee Reports**

### **Youth Services Advisory Council – No Report**

### **Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Jack Patten**

- The WIB requested and received \$600,000 in Workforce Investment Act Dislocated Worker funds for Program Year 2011, which ends June 30, 2012. The funds, from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, allow the WIB to provide classroom training and on-the-job-training for eligible dislocated workers, without interruption or waiting lists, for the remainder of the program year.
- The US Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) announced the release of “Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success,” a collection of career development exercises and activities designed to help sharpen the communication and other ‘soft’ skills of young workers, including those with disabilities. Curriculum covers communication, networking, enthusiasm and attitude, teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking and professionalism. It targets in-school and out-of-school youth, ages 14-21, and is designed to provide this population with the necessary career and workforce readiness skills. ODEP’s website: [www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills/](http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills/).

### **Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board (MHSAAB) – Laurie Becker**

The last board meeting was on April 12. There was further discussion about Saint Clare's telepsychiatry waiver. The State asked more questions and is wondering if there is really a need for Saint Clare's to use telepsychiatry. Saint Clare's has a few weeks to respond to the State's questions. DMHS is doing their due diligence. They want to be sure clients get the best and the ability to get face to face if they prefer.

The Consumer and Family Forum is June 12 at Saint Francis Conference Center, 122 Diamond Spring Road, in Denville. It will be from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The theme this year is The Many Faces of Recovery – Standing Up to Stigma. There will be three personal recovery stories. An email with further details will follow.

**Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – No Report**

**Morris, Sussex, Warren, HIV Advisory Committee – No Report**

**United Way of Northern New Jersey Success by Six – No Report**

**XI. Old Business – None**

**XII. New Business –**

The Non Profit Conference is tomorrow, April 26, at the Meadow Wood Manor from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The theme this year is "Telling Your Non-Profit Story – The Key to Success in 2012".

**XIII. Public Comment – None**

**XIV. Adjournment –**

There was a motion made by Ms. Csengeto and seconded by Ms. McKeithen to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Fetzner Mocarski  
Program Development Aide