

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
August 22, 2012  
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

Members Present:

Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep.  
Linda Csengeto, CEAS/COC Rep./OTA Rep.  
Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep.  
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.  
Elizabeth Manley, Caring Partners/Youth Services Advisory Committee  
Kathy McKeithen, Citizen Rep.  
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.  
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.  
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep.  
Michelle Roers, United Way of N.N.J.

Also Attending:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Shelia Carter, MCDHS  
Susan Jones, DCF - DCP & P – MELO  
Terry Newhard, NORWESCAP/departed at 6:25 p.m.  
Jack Patten, MSW WIB  
Frank Pinto, MCDHS  
Pat MocarSKI, MCDHS  
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS  
Sabine Von Aulock, MC Community Development

- I. Call to Order** – The August 22 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. Guest Presentation – Poverty** – Terry Newhard, NORWESCAP  
NORWESCAP has completed the study of perspectives of 1090 low income people in northwest New Jersey. Every five years they endeavor to gain a better understanding of the needs of individuals and families they serve. They use this information to raise awareness in the community about the issues that under-resourced families face everyday. There are many perceptions about the causes of poverty. The insights gathered in this study will help people in the community get a more educated view of their neighbor's struggles. The data is also used for planning purposes, so that key issues and trends can be addressed.

Mr. Newhard showed a slide show presentation and talked about the findings of this study. The poverty level for a family of four in any state is \$22,250. There are many

people working that are at the poverty level. There were 1,223 surveys taken and out of those surveys 1,090 of the people that responded are having difficulty managing. Morris and Somerset Counties are the two most expensive counties to live in New Jersey. In Morris County a two bedroom apartment costs about \$1289 per month. That means that a person would need to make about \$24.69 per hour to be able to afford an apartment in Morris County. About 70% of those survey responders were renters and not homeowners. Other information on the slides was reviewed and discussed.

NORWESCAP has been in existence since 1975 and their mission is to improve the lives of low income individuals and families in need in Northwest New Jersey primarily by offering, referring or collaborating with others to provide programs and education which help foster self-sufficiency. Mr. Newhard stated that it is the job of the nonprofit world to change the community mindset. It is not tolerable and it is not alright for there to be poverty. It is everyone's issue and problem. For further information on NORWESCAP and their 2011 Poverty Study see their website at [www.norwescap.org/](http://www.norwescap.org/).

**IV. Approval of July 25, 2012 minutes** – There was one correction to the minutes noted on the first paragraph of the second page. The sentence reads in reference to the possible closing of the Sussex County Nursing Home “If they close this facility it would have positive impact on us” the sentence should read “If they close this facility it may have a positive impact on us”. Mr. Pappas made a motion to approve the minutes with noted correction. Ms. Merz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no opposition and one abstention.

**V. County of Morris Department of Human Services – Frank Pinto**

A proclamation was presented at the August 22 Freeholder work session for Hunger Awareness Month. Rosemary Gilmartin from the Interfaith Food Pantry was present to receive the proclamation. The proclamation is titled “September 2013 – Hunger Awareness Month”. There will be a county-wide food drive called M.c.M.A.T.C.H. (Morris County Municipal Action to Curb Hunger). This food drive will help to address the crucial needs in our own communities. September will see the launch of this new and exciting initiative M.c.M.A.T.C.H. Sponsored by the County of Morris Department of Human Services in conjunction with the Interfaith Food Pantry, Curbing Hunger Inc. and Volunteer Management Centers, this is a county-wide drive to gather food and help restock the shelves at the Interfaith Food Pantry and other local providers. Many towns are already on board and towns can go on line to register. Municipalities must register to participate. Municipalities will be competing in one of three divisions based on population. Food may be donated between Sept. 1 and Sept. 21. Each town can decide which food pantry they want to make their contribution. The winner of each division will be determined by the total food collected. Date and venue for awards will be announced at a later date. For further information contact the Interfaith Food Pantry at 973-538-8049 or email [interfaithfoodpantry@micp.org](mailto:interfaithfoodpantry@micp.org).

**VI. County of Morris Planning and Development/Office of Community Development – Sabine VonAulock**

There will be a free forum for non-profits. This forum will be held on September 7, 2012 at the Morristown Neighborhood House on 12 Flagler St. in Morristown from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The purpose of this forum is to offer strategies enabling non profits to identify strengths and weaknesses and find complementary opportunities in the community on which to build. Registration is free but required as space is limited. Please see flier for further details and RSVP to Ms. VonAulock at 973-285-6061 or [svonaulock@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:svonaulock@co.morris.nj.us).

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

The closure of two developmental centers has begun. The North Jersey Developmental Center in Totowa and Woodbridge Center will be closed in the next five years. Vineland will not be closing. If anyone would like further information on these closing check the website for more details at [www.state.nj.us/humanservices](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices).

The Task Force on the Closure of State Developmental Centers conducted a comprehensive evaluation of New Jersey's seven developmental centers. They looked at the economic impact and resources from different angles. The availability of apartments and group homes played into the mix. The State Department of Human Services is beginning the process by moving 650 residents out of these centers. Some of the residents may be going to other developmental centers.

The State Human Services Advisory Council recently met. Ms. Carter was in attendance. The waiver process was discussed and it is still not finalized. There was a question about peer grouping money. The answers are evolving but this will take time. The hope is to know further information by September 7 when the Commissioner meets with the Human Services Directors.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities has begun the transfer of children. They will still be involved until 2013. Some further discussion about this ensued.

**VIII. New Jersey Department of Children and Families - Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly know as the Division of Youth and Family Services) - Susan Jones**

Effective July 12, 2012 the Morris, Passaic, Sussex Area Office of the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly know as the Division of Youth and Family Services) and the Morris East Local Office have moved to the Mack/Cali Corporate Center, 201 Littleton Road – Lower Level, Morris Plains, NJ 07950. The Morris East Office can be reached at 973-829-3600 and the Area Office can be reached at 973-829-3650. The staff is very happy with there new location. The customers that are unable to get to the new office are being picked up transported there.

The case loads are 524 families – 1,078 children. There are 180 children in placement.

**IX. Staff Report – Shelia Carter/Laurie Becker**

Ms. Carter stated that at the State HSAC meeting Margaret Milliner, Assistant Director, Division of Family Development, Childcare Operations, gave an overview on procedures they are developing for administering the Childcare Dedicated Voucher Process. The draft procedure mandates that counties have a Childcare Planning Committee as part of the HSAC. However, according to HSAC regulation HSAC's are to be assigned responsibilities rather than mandates for required subcommittees. They are working to incorporate this idea into the procedures they are developing. There were also a lot of budget and Medicaid questions discussed at the meeting.

The Funding Review Subcommittee is scheduled to meet and review 2013 funding applications on Sept. 5 and Sept. 6. Social Services for the Homeless and Child Abuse Protection are scheduled for Sept. 5 at 9:00 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m. Grant-in-Aid is scheduled for Sept. 6 from 9:30 a.m. through most of the afternoon. The meeting notice will go out at the end of the week. There must be careful consideration that anyone participating in the funding review process cannot be in conflict. Please read through the conflict of interest policy statement. Parking passes will be available and lunch will be provided on both days.

Please take the time to look at the Morris County Website. There are many events posted and lots of information. Non-profits may also post their own events as well. Please see [www.morrishumanservices.org](http://www.morrishumanservices.org)

Ms. Becker stated that she is working the At-Risk Youth & Needs Assessment. The Department of Children & Families charged the HSAC with putting together a report to help guide priorities for at-risk youth and families for in and out of home placement. There were surveys done online, on the website, and focus groups helped to get some of the surveys completed. Ms. Becker feels it would also be useful to review the NORWESCAP Poverty Study before completing the final report. The final report must go to the state by November 30. The HSAC will probably be asked to approve the report at the Oct. meeting. There will be further information provided on the Needs Assessment at the September meeting. The Planning Committee will meet and review this report and present their recommendations to the board.

Ms. Carter said there have been a lot of focus groups working on the Homeless Plan and strategies. They got a lot of information from the retreat in May. Work is continuing on this process.

**X. Subcommittee Reports –  
CEAS – No Report**

**Planning Subcommittee – Childcare Update – Provided by Rebekka Zydel and read by Ken Oexle**

In August, the waiting list has 65 children representing 59 families. This is significantly down from more than 300 children during the months of October – May.

Dedicated Voucher Status:

Parsippany Child Care: 2 utilized dedicated vouchers will likely be used.

The Magic Garden: 1 unutilized dedicated voucher will likely be reallocated.

Flanders Valley Country Day School: fully utilized.

Little Learner Academy: 4 unutilized dedicated vouchers will likely be reallocated.

Peer Place: fully utilized.

Ada Budrick: 3 unutilized dedicated vouchers will likely be reallocated.

Collinsville Child Care: 2 unutilized dedicated vouchers will likely be used.

Dover Child Care: 10 unutilized vouchers will likely be used.

Jefferson Child Care: fully utilized.

Madison Day Care: fully utilized.

Morristown Neighborhood House: fully utilized.

Mt. Olive Child Care: fully utilized.

Roxbury Day Care: 2 unutilized, will likely be used.

Salvation Army Day Care: 2 unutilized, will likely be used.

Programs “next in line” to receive dedicated vouchers:

Flanders Valley Country Day School

Richard F. Blake Children’s Center

Little Learner Academy

**Program Review Subcommittee – HUD Homeless Funding – Marcia Brands**

The subcommittee met on August 20 to go over the applications received for those that are interested in applying for HUD Continuum of Care (COC) funding. Six applications were received. Of the six applications only one was a new application. All other five agencies were renewals. The committee went over all the applications and heard presentations by each of the agencies. The committee recommends that all interested parties go forward with the full application. They felt that all these agencies services are needed and being utilized. The committee further recommended that if there are any additional funds available the new program applying is funded. Ms. Csengeto made a motion that all programs applying are endorsed and if additional funds are available the new program also be endorsed. Ms. Manley seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. The motion was carried.

**Subgrant Modifications – Kathy McKeithen**

The committee reviewed three subgrant modifications.

1. Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance – Social Services for the Homeless Program (SSH-1203)  
They would like to move \$2,000 from rent subsidy category for SSH and allocate \$500 to the Utility Category and \$1500 to the Security Deposit

Category. The committee recommends granting this request. Ms. Merz made a motion to approve this subgrant modification request and move the \$2,000 into other requested categories. Ms. Roers seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstention. The motion was carried.

**2. Housing Partnership for Morris County – Spanish Homebuyer Education Program (GIA-1208)**

The Housing Partnership currently has four billing components in this subgrant: Initial Calls, Paso a Paso Workshop, Follow up Counseling and Homeownership Preservation. They would like to incorporate the Homeownership Preservation component into the Follow up counseling component. They have found the Homeownership Preservation workshops are not well attended and participants in pre-purchase counseling need more extensive follow up session and support in order to navigate the homeownership process. There was a motion made by Ms. Brands to incorporate the Homeownership Preservation component into the Follow up Counseling component. Ms. Merz seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions.

**3. Roxbury Day Care Center – Scholarships for Infant/Toddler Preschool Children (GIA-1234)**

They are requesting two modifications to the subgrant agreement. One is to increase their cost unit of \$142 per week to \$149 per week for each child, up to 50 weeks. The second request is to modify and increase the ages from 3 months to 2.5 year olds to 6 weeks to 3.5 year olds. There was a motion made by Ms. Csengeto to grant the increase in unit cost per child and to modify and increase the ages of the children. Ms. Merz seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions.

**XI. Advisory Committee Reports**

**Youth Services Advisory Committee – No Report**

**Workforce Investment board – Jack Patten**

On July 15, the WIB received a Notice of Obligation for \$79,000 to fund Learning Links in Program Year 2012. The Link costs approximately \$210,000 to operate annually. The WIB notified the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD) that, absent additional funding, the Learning Links in Dover, Franklin and Phillipsburg will close in November 2012. NJLWD informed the WIB that it will issue a Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO) in September 2012 for Adult Education funds that could be used to fund Learning Links. Since WIBs will not be eligible applicants under the NGO, the Morris-Sussex-Warren Adult Education Consortium has agreed to apply for funds on the WIB's behalf. Detailed discussions of application contents will begin when the NGO is issued.

**Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board (MHSAAB) – Charles LaRussa**

The next board meeting is on September 13 at 5:15 p.m. at 30 Schuyler Place in Morristown. The funding subcommittee will present recommendations for 2013 funding for Grant-In-Aid, Chapter 51, and Municipal Alliances. The full committee will vote on these recommendations.

Ms. Delaney asked what is going on with the folks coming out of Hagedorn. No one is certain. Ms. Delaney stated that many families of disabled children come to see her disabled son's house and how this type of group home works. Ms. Carter stated that the state is trying to develop more resources and services for the disabled throughout New Jersey.

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

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

**United Way of Northern New Jersey (UWNNJ) – Success by Six – Michelle Roers**

The UWNNJ Success by Six has been doing advocacy for the children of New Jersey. They are trying to help childcare centers improve their quality. They hope to enter into a partnership with Advocates for the Children of New Jersey and the State Advocacy Group.

**XII. Old Business**

Ms. Roers stated that Coalition on Affordable Housing (COAH) needs to review the request by the Governor in reference to Affordable Housing Money; however, this review seems to now be at a halt.

**XIII. New Business**

Ms. Roers stated that it was a great presentation given today by NORWESCAP on their Poverty Study. Over the upcoming holiday weekend the United Way of Northern New Jersey (UWNNJ) will release their new Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) Report. UWNNJ started this report about 5 years ago to add greater depth to understanding the people in our community who live each day one crisis away from falling into poverty. Ms. Roers will email the report to Ms. Carter to forward to the board prior to the actual release.

**XIV. Public Comment – None**

**XV. Adjournment –**

There was a motion made by Mr. Pappas and seconded by Ms. McKeithen to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Fetzer MocarSKI  
Program Development Aide