

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

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep./Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep./United Way N.N.J. Success by Six
Linda Csengeto, CEAS/COC Rep./M.C. OTA Rep.
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.
Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep.
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.
Kathy McKeithen, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep./Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans
Rebekka Zydell, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Larry Melick, Visitor
Stephanie Melick, Visitor
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS
Bob Parker, New Bridge, Visitor
Jack Patten, MSW Workforce Investment Board
Frank Pinto, MCDHS
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS
Sabine Von Aulock, MCCD
Carmen and other Homeless Solutions Guests

- I. Call to Order** – The February 22 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Ken Oexle, Chair.
- II. Welcome and Introductions** – Everyone was welcomed and introductions were made. Mr. Oexle circulated the subcommittee sign up sheet as well as the membership roster for updating.
- III. Guest Presentation:** Homeless Services, Carmen
A presentation was made on problems some homeless people face.

The goal of social services agencies is to help clients become self sufficient. Yet some of the residents in shelter have been in and out of the social service system for many years. The homeless find themselves stuck. Often steady work and employment disqualify them from services.

Carmen told her personal story. Carmen's children were young and she had a good paying job. She was a single parent and was struggling trying to pay the rent, buy food

and pay for the bills and childcare. She went to social services for assistance. She could barely manage to pay the bills and was trying to get help to pay for childcare. The worker that interviewed her came back with two bags of groceries and told her that was all they could do. Carmen ended up losing her job. She often had to stay home to take care of her children since she could not afford the cost of childcare. Carmen has been in and out of the social service system for more than ten years now.

Carmen has a few suggestions that she and others in shelter developed:

- Clients receiving Temporary Rental Assistance (TRA) want to work and once they get a job they are generally immediately disqualified from assistance. Perhaps the client could be given a grace period. If there was a grace period from when employment starts to when the TRA ends or some assistance with housing costs this would help. It would give an opportunity to clients to get back on their feet and a better chance of success.
- Clients would like to have one designated worker assigned to them to more efficiently communicate.
- Carmen and the other clients recommend that priority for housing be given to individuals who are homeless living with relatives or in shelters. It is very difficult living in a shelter and it would be most helpful if they were given priority to housing available. It would also help if there could be more rent controlled housing.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Tamayo stated that since the HSAC is a planning and advocacy group, perhaps the HSAC can advocate for some of these requests. The fact is that when Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) ends TRA also ends. Childcare continues for two years after the client gets a job. If the goal is to get the person off welfare quickly, some federal and state protocols aren't working and need to be changed. Mr. Tamayo suggested that some of these issues could be brought up at the State Human Services Director's meeting. Ms. Roers stated that the Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) study shows that Morris County is in a unique position since its poverty level is 2%-4% and in many other areas across the country poverty is at 10%-15%. Yet, there are 23% of Morris County residents living the ALICE lifestyle. Housing and childcare are big challenges. There is a need to look at the current system in place. Perhaps the new HEARTH Act could help those who are struggling. There needs to be a lot more funding for housing, homeless shelters and TRA.

Ms. Becker suggested that OTA could hold an orientation for clients, so they become more knowledgeable of how public services work.

Ms. Becker suggested that the HSAC could write a letter to the New Jersey Department of Human Services (NHDHS) asking if there is the possibility of making changes to TRA requirements. She asked Mr. Tamayo if he could check at the state level to determine if this would be a worthwhile endeavor for the HSAC given the federal requirements related to TRA's. Ms. McKeithen suggested that something be done

about OTA's slow response to returning the clients phone calls. Mr. Pinto stated there are currently changes in the works which will quicken OTA's response time to clients.

Mr. Oexle thanked Carmen and the others for coming. He also expressed to Carmen that this board hopes to have the opportunity to help make some of these suggested changes happen. Carmen thanked the board for hearing their stories. Ms. Becker let Carmen and the other guests know they are welcome to join the various community meetings and share their story. Carmen and the guests from Homeless Solutions left the meeting at about 6:20 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made to approve the January 25, 2012 minutes by Linda Csengeto and seconded by Tom Pappas. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions.

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

Mr. Pinto talked about the Morris View Health Care Center. Please see the website at www.MorrisView.com. Morris View is now also a subacute facility. As of January 31 the first new patients were in rehabilitation at the subacute unit. This unit now has a census of six patients. This is very big help to Morris View's income since the reimbursement for patients in the subacute unit is paid by Medicare and not Medicaid. The Medicare reimbursement is at a significantly higher rate than Medicaid. Through these six patients alone Morris View will take in over \$60,000 in revenue for the last three weeks. The Freeholders will hold their April 9 meeting at the Atrium at Morris View Health Care Center. All are welcome to attend. This will be a great opportunity for the public to visit Morris View Health Care Center.

The 2012 Not-For-Profit Conference: Telling Your Non-Profit's Story – The Key to Success in 2012 is coming up on Thursday, April 26, 2012. It will be held at the Meadow Wood Manor on Route 10 East in Randolph. The Morris County Chamber of Commerce is the lead agency for this conference and we are continuing to promote it. Preregistration is required. See the flier for further information.

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

- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), which provides funding for specific services for homeless people, was almost doubled to \$177,429. The Program Review Committee met earlier today to hear the presentations of the six applicants for the ESG.
- There is a lot going on with the Homeless Energy and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, which also serves the homeless, and is driving the Emergency Solutions Grants changes.

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

At the Governor’s speech yesterday was the budget address. The good news is that DHS fared well with no cuts. The state budget is at \$32.1 billion which is larger than last year. There are many significant changes taking place. They are moving some parts of the Department of Health and Senior Services. Specifically the Senior Services piece is moving to DHS, all the nursing homes and long term care facilities. This is a huge budget item and involves a lot of money and personnel. The Department of Health and Senior Services is now going to be the Department of Health only. DHS is also moving Behavioral Health in Children to the Department of Children and Families. Some of the Division of Developmental Disabilities will also be moved to the Department of Children and Families. The Department of Children and Families is getting the Division of Women from the Department of Community Affairs. The belief is that all these changes will be better fits. All of this is the proposed; however, the state budget but is not yet the confirmed.

There will also be some structural changes that will align with the Global Waiver which is still not approved. A letter was received from the Federal Government on February 17 that hinted that the Global Waiver will be approved. The Commissioner and some staff are going to Baltimore to meet with the Federal Government and tie up the loose ends.

The State Human Services Council met early in February and the main topic was the E-Child Care. E-Child Care began state wide on January 1, 2012. There are some issues and problems since this is still somewhat new and has only been in effect about 1 ½ months. They are hoping as the issues roll out they will be able to deal with them. They are trying to find out where the problems are. The Assembly had hearings and asked folks to provide testimony on how this has been playing out. Someone stated that some of the agencies didn’t get their machines in time. That was straightened out.

As President of New Jersey Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NJACCRRA), President of Child & Family Resources and as a representative of the Advocates for Children of New Jersey, Ms. Zydel was asked to provide testimony at one of the Assembly’s Legislative hearings. Ms. Zydel stated that there is concern by clients about confidentiality and stigmatism. There is also a problem with the use of English as the primary language. There is a need for a second language. There are many challenges with the new system. They are looking to attach a committee to follow this as it rolls out.

Ms. Zydel stated that for the first pay period there were 1,000 payments made and 49% were accurate. They are currently analyzing the second pay period. This week the third period will end.

VIII. New Jersey Department of Children and Families – No Report

IX. Staff Report – Laurie Becker and Shelia Carter

Laurie Becker -

HEARTH Act – All are invited to a meeting on Wednesday March 7, 2012 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Morris View Healthcare Center, HIPPA room. Mr. Richard Brown and Ms. Taiisa Kelly of Monarch Associates will be making a presentation and facilitating discussion. In order to meet HUD requirements related to this year's Continuum of Care for Homeless services application, Morris County and community agencies must consider potential changes in the homeless services system to maximize HUD funding. This is everyone's opportunity to weight in. Monarch strongly urges consideration of merging with another Continuum of Care. This could be a multi-county plan.

Ms. Roers stated that HUD is going through a lot of transition and is seeking a local provider to take on funding administration. Ms. Roers stated that we need to find out the advantages as well as risks of such a merger. Mr. Bashe asked if this funding could be used towards a service like Our Place. Ms. Becker stated that HUD is moving away from funding drop-in centers and looking to put more funding into permanent housing. Ms. Roers said that it is an exciting opportunity to look at housing and to collaboratively strengthen homeless services. There is a need to get a better sense of clients needs and address how to move them out of homelessness.

Ms. Becker stated that there will be a Community Retreat Day in May to get input from the community for the new ten-year homeless plan.

Shelia Carter -

Ms. Carter stated that she came away from the State Human Services meeting with some thoughts as well regarding e-Child Care:

- Before e-Child Care, payment was based on monthly attendance and a monthly payment was made.
- A child with a full time child care contract (6 or more hours a day, 5 days a week) must have 80% attendance in order for the provider to receive full payment.
- In a month where there are 22 child care days (like January), a child could be absent 4 days and the provider would still receive full payment.

With the implement of e-Child Care – payment is based on daily attendance within a two week period of service. 80% attendance is now applied to 10 care days instead of 22.

- If in a two week period, 10 days of care, a child is absent 2 days, the provider would still receive full payment.
- If the child is absent 3 days the provider payment is reduced by 3 days.

Question: In the case where a child is absent 3 days should not the payment only be reduced by 1 day considering the 80% attendance policy allows for 2 absences?

- Under circumstances where the child is absent due to illness (which typically manifests itself as consecutive days of absences), with the provision of a doctor's note, adjustments can be made to ensure the provider is compensated the full payment.
- There are occasions when children could be absent 2 days in one week and 1 day the following week. Illnesses such as a stomach virus', which require 24 hour exclusion from child care, do not require a visit to a doctor.
- In these cases, providers would not receive full payment and the necessary documentation required for an adjustment would not exist.

The change in payment period:

- Jeopardizes a family's ability to sustain child care and subjects families to undue pressure to obtain a doctor's note, compounding the financial strain these low wage earning families face.
- Increasing the number of medical co-payments and/or doctor's fees.
- It creates an environment that promotes fraud as families may choose to utilize the previous check in/previous check out options in an effort to ensure their provider's payment is not reduced.

Commissioner Velez's response:

There is major concern related to paying for empty slots. They have to pay for what is used. She was glad these issues were brought to her attention. Commissioner Velez feels her focus at this time is to get the system implemented and then address the gaps in the policy issues.

X. Subcommittee Reports –

CEAS – No Report

Planning Subcommittee – Childcare Dedicated Voucher Process – Rebekka Zydel

The subcommittee ranked the applications that were received and put the applicants in order on a final list. As vouchers become available the subcommittee recommends going down the list to give a maximum of four vouchers to each agency in ranked order. They will start allocating infant/toddler slots since this is the highest priority need in this county. Ms. Carter stated that there are about 30 agencies that applied and made the list and 6 agencies that applied and did not make the list. All agencies have been notified. Ms. Zydel stated that there are currently about 15 slots that are not being utilized. There are currently 381 children on the waiting list and 295 families. The agencies have 60 days to fill the slots.

Program Review Subcommittee – Emergency Solutions Grants –

Kathy McKeithen

The Program Review Subcommittee heard presentations and overview of six applicants. All programs were ranked and recommended for funding. The motion to approve this funding recommendation was made by Tom Pappas and seconded by Rebekka Zydel. All were in favor with two abstentions by Linda Csengeto and Bob Armstrong. Motion was carried. Subsequently, the recommendations will be presented at a public hearing on Thursday, April 19, followed by a meeting and vote of the full

Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee. Finally, the Freeholders will vote on the recommendations at their meeting on Wednesday, April 25. Notifications of awards will be distributed following that Freeholder meeting.

XI. Advisory Committee Reports

Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) – Liz Manley

At the meeting a presentation was made by Morris County Prevention is Key on the Strategy to Reduce Youth Contact by Delivering Evidence-based Services (STRYDES).

STRYDES, an initiative of Morris County Prevention is Key, is committed to eradicating the overrepresentation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system. We hope to sustainably reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) rates on identified contact points in our County, by providing direct services to families and at risk youth or individuals who have had previous contact with the Juvenile Justice System, as well as offering training and technical assistance for judicial officials, law enforcement officers and school administration. Ultimately our goal is to ensure equal and fair treatment for every youth in the juvenile justice system, regardless of race and ethnicity.

STRYDES will establish and foster a partnership with the juvenile court system, probation departments, school districts, law enforcement, parents and communities in two (2) towns of Morris County reflecting the highest disproportionate minority contact; Dover and Morristown.

The next YSAC meeting is scheduled for March 15 at 2:30 p.m. at the Morris County Human Services Building at 340 West Hanover Avenue, Ground Floor Conference Room.

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Jack Patten

The WIB was created in 1999 by Governor Whitman. At that time the WIB was viewed as a social service provider; however, now the WIB serves businesses. The policy and planning done is not a direct service. Often employers don't know where to get workers from. The WIB hooks up workers with employers.

The WIB, as part of the North Jersey Partners Consortium, will submit an application to the U.S. Department of Labor for \$3.2 million in Workforce Innovation funds to establish single points of contact in health care, life sciences, financial services and transportation, logistics and distribution. The single points of contact will provide business services to targeted employers and gather information on their employment and training needs.

The application will also request expansion of community work experience for welfare recipients to include for-profit work sites. The proposed expansion will benefit businesses by providing labor at no cost and helping program participants access a wider range of employment experiences.

The WIB is also a member of N.J. Advanced Manufacturing Talent Network. Advanced Manufacturing is a major contributor to the Morris County economy. On March 23, at County College of Morris, the network will hold a discussion with metal fabrication industry manufacturers to determine critical industry needs that can be addressed through curriculum development and training. There will be a special emphasis on aviation manufacturers, a growth industry in Morris County.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board (MHSAAB) – Charles LaRussa
Saint Clare's Psychiatric Screening Center had submitted a waiver request to N.J. Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to use telepsychiatry instead of face to face assessment for involuntary hospital commitment. The MHSAAB was charged with providing a letter of recommendation on this waiver request to the state. In order for the MHSAAB to get a better understanding of how telepsychiatry works they had a presentation from Insight Telepsychiatry, LLC. After the presentation the board wanted further feedback from other counties already using telepsychiatry before making a recommendation. Ms. Becker reached out to other counties already using this service and they were all very satisfied. They all felt that the benefits of telepsychiatry outweighed any concerns. After further discussion the board agreed to write a recommendation letter to DMHAS in support of Saint Clare's Waiver Request with eight recommendations included in the letter.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Tom Pappas

Medicare has a series of preventative programs. For further information you can visit their web site at www.medicare.gov. The changes to Medicaid care management will not take place until January 2013.

The Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans has a blog. If you want to broadcast a pertinent issue you can contact the division at 1-800-564-4656.

The New Jersey Foundation on Aging has set their annual conference for June 14. This year's topic will be senior legal issues.

May is Older Americans Month. This year the theme is "Never Too Old to Play."

Morris Area Paratransit System (MAPS) will celebrate its' 25 anniversary in April.

Veteran's Affairs and Community Hope has received a grant to build additional housing for homeless veterans on Lyons Campus in Lyons, New Jersey.

Morris, Sussex, Warren, HIV Advisory Committee – Robert Armstrong

On May 6 the New Jersey AIDS Walk will be held in Morristown and simultaneously there will be AIDS Walks at six other locations in New Jersey.

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

XII. Old Business – None

XIII. New Business –

Ms. Zydel stated that on March 30 there will be all day training at St. Elizabeth's College on Violence Prevention. This training by the American Psychological Association (APA) and is geared toward infant abuse and is entitled "Part I ACT Raising Safe Kids". The invitation to this training has been extended to agencies countywide. They are also working with parents and looking to parents to help stop child abuse and neglect. Registration is free and is limited. Please call Child & Family Resources to sign up or for further information at 973-398-0319.

Mr. Bashe stated that the ALICE Report is being updated by the United Way and should be available in March.

XIV. Public Comment – None

XV. Adjournment –

Tom Pappas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Kathy McKeithen.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Fetzer Mocarski
Program Development Aide