

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown
June 28, 2016
MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:02 p.m. by Mr. Kenneth Oexle. Chair.

Members Present:

Kenneth Oexle, Chair, Citizen Representative
Thomas Pepe, Vice Chair, Citizen Representative
Marie Brink, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, OTA Liaison
Joann McEniry, Morris, Sussex Warren HIV Advisory Liaison
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Mary Giorlando, NJDHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Luis Tamayo, New Jersey Department of Human Services
Wendy Zoccola, NJDHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Staff in Attendance:

Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS
Maria Rosario, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of May 24, 2016 Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Joanne McEniry and seconded by Tom Pepe. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions:

County of Morris Department of Human Services – No Report

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Luis Tamayo

The Human Services Directors meet quarterly. They are working closely with HSAC's. During the June 3 meeting these items were discussed:

- The Human Services Directors submitted a paper to the Commissioners on the role of HSAC's in reviewing State Requests for Proposals (RFP's).
- The Department of Human Services issued an RFP for Medicaid transportation. The services are currently being provided by LogistiCare.
- The budget was discussed. Not sure of the status of the \$53 million for emergency assistance for General Assistance (GA). Expect to know soon. The \$127 million to raise Behavioral Health provider rates is still in the budget.

- Some Mental Health providers will start the new arrangement for fee-for-service in January 2017. Others have decided to take the extra six months to phase into the transition by beginning in July 2017.
- The Department of Human Services released the draft renewal application for the Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver (CMW) for a 30 day stakeholder review and comment period. There have been hearings for communities to weigh in. There is a hearing tomorrow in Hamilton on DDD and another on June 30 for the Division on Aging at the Woodbridge Plaza. Comments in regard to the waiver may also be submitted in writing up to August 12. The CMW, approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Oct. 2012, expires in June 2017. Comments should be sent to: dmahs.cmwcommets@dhs.state.nj.us.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – Ms. Wendy Zoccola

Changes to Community Services Operations-

Effective June 1, 2016 alignment of internal staff reflect the Division's overall system reform and supports its movement to a statewide rather than regionally based functions. It is anticipated that this will promote effectiveness and consistency throughout all division Community Services offices.

Christine James, Assistant Division Director, will continue to oversee Division Community Services statewide.

Seth Bassion is the Community Care Waiver Case Management Director.

Mariana Pietrunti is the Supports Program-Ready Case Management and Provider Performance Director.

Advisory Councils for Families and Self-Advocates Will Support Stakeholder Participation-

The goal of the FAC is to facilitate a holistic representation of the families of individuals served by the Division, including all types of disabilities, and all geographic areas of the state.

The FAC is intended to be broader than just family support and will provide input to the Division in all areas, including the Supports Program, Community Care Waiver, and with regard to individuals living both in-home and out-of-home.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) – Mr. David Johnston (report emailed)

Collaboration with the Mobile Response is slated to launch August 1, 2016 whereby all new foster care home placements will be referred to Mobile Response to meet DCP&P caseworker at the foster home the day of placement. The premise is that front-loading these homes with supports will result in less placement episodes and more stability for children. In the Mercer County pilot it was quite successful. In addition to Morris, Sussex and Passaic Counties are included in this next expansion.

Morris East

Child Welfare Assessments – 22
Child Abuse Investigations – 74
Total for MELO – 96

Morris West

Child Welfare Assessments – 43
Child Abuse Investigations – 84
Total Reports – 127

County Totals

Child Welfare Assessments – 65
Child Abuse Investigations – 158
Total Reports – 223

Staff Reports – Ms. Shelia Carter

Comments on the HSAC regulations were forwarded to Mr. Tamayo. The local HSAC recommended that under representation all Department of Children & Families Youth Divisions be represented on HSAC's.

Mr. Tamayo stated that the state will look at all comments given.

Ms. Carter stated that the state HSAC will meet again in Sept. The next step is for the consolidated draft to be sent to the Human Services Directors. After that the draft will go to the Commissioners.

Subcommittee Reports-

Program Review – Mr. Ken Oexle, Chair

Closed Session – 2017 SSH Funding Recommendations

There was a motion made by Ms. Mary Jane Melo and seconded by Mr. Tom Pepe to close the meeting.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act and per the boards resolution language and the closed session began at 5:20 p.m. All those in conflict with any of the funding streams were asked to leave the meeting. Ms. Linda Csengeto left the room.

RETURN TO MEETING

On motion of Ms. Mary Jane Melo seconded by Mr. Tom Pepe the meeting was reopened at 5:35 p.m. Ms. Csengeto came back into the room.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Pepe stated that the funding subcommittee met, reviewed and discussed all Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) funding applications. The total amount available for SSH for 2017 is \$225,881 (reduced from prior year amount of \$233,000). There were

four applications received. All applications were considered. After review and discussion the subcommittee recommended the HSAC approve funding three of the four SSH applicants as discussed in closed session in the amount of \$225,881.

On motion of Ms. Michelle Roers and seconded by Ms. Joann Bjornson, the 2017 SSH funding recommendations to three of the four applicants was approved in the total amount of \$225,881. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion was carried.

Letter of Advocacy – Mr. Oexle

The letter addressed to Commissioner Connelly, DHS, supporting the MHASAB's position that the fee-for-service plan is flawed and could result in reduced or closed programming. After hearing from primary mental health providers and receiving budget projections, it is apparent that the new Medicaid rates are too low or non-existent for some services and will not allow agencies to sustain current levels of quality service for our most at-risk individuals.

The board is looking to state colleagues in the NJ Department of Human Services, to ensure that the transition to fee-for-service will be successful and that systems are in place to continue to provide a safety net of funding so that individuals and families do not lose access to vital services.

Motion made by Ms. Michelle Roers and seconded by Mr. Tom Pepe to send this letter of advocacy on the board's behalf. Motion was approved with no abstentions and no opposition.

Advisory Committee Reports:

Workforce Development Board (WIB) – Mr. David Hollowell (written report submitted)

Ms. Jane A. Armstrong, the Morris, Sussex, Warren Workforce Development Board Senior Planner, has been appointed to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD) Credentials Review Board. The group is tasked with establishing an industry-valued post-secondary credential list based on labor market data. The State will use this list to guide training investments to increase the number of individuals in New Jersey who have earned an industry-valued post-secondary credential or degree. The list will be reviewed by stakeholders prior to its July 2016 release by the NJLWD.

The inaugural NJ Financial Services Targeted Industry Partnership (TIP) meeting was held on June 22, 2016 at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Workforce Development Board Directors, employers, educators, community agencies and the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development met to develop a plan to address the regional workforce needs of the financial sector. This sector is of economic importance in Morris County. In May of 2016 alone there were 1,212 financial sector job openings in Morris County and the county ranks among the top 100 counties in the nation for financial sector employment. <http://www.financialservicesnj.org/>

Morris, Sussex, Warren, HIV Advisory – Ms. Joann McEniry

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/Advisory Committee met last on Tuesday, June 21, 2016.

Members received a presentation from a guest speaker: Sharon Yoo, Esq., Staff Attorney, Legal Services of Northwest Jersey.

The committee discussed the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan for the Planning Council, the planning body for Ryan White funding in our region.

The committee will hold a lunch and learn on July 29 at 12:00 p.m. at 435 South Street Morristown, NJ. It will focus on the topic of nutrition for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The meeting location rotates between New Jersey AIDS Services, Zufall Health and Hope House.

The next meeting of the Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/Advisory Committee is scheduled for July 19 at Zufall Health Center in Dover.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) – Ms. Becker

- The MC Chosen Board of Freeholders and the MC Department of Human Services hosted the 22nd Annual Forum for Consumers and Families entitled “Many Faces of Recovery: Stigma Revisited” on Tuesday, June 14, at the Haggerty Center, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, in Morristown. Invited to the program were Individuals and their families who have been involved with or wanted to learn more about Morris County’s publicly-funded human services. Morris County Freeholder Hank Lyon proudly announced the “Stigma Free Communities Initiative”. There was a special recognition for Terri Belske. This recognition award for a “Mental Health Consumer Advocate” was given to Terri’s family in her honor and memory for many years of dedication to consumer advocacy. This award will be given to honor a dedicated consumer advocate each year.

The Forum provides a means for the Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board to seek public comment on services and unmet needs in order to strengthen the county’s services. Agency and government officials were on hand to address the public’s questions and comments. There were an excellent turnout with over 150 in attendance. All especially enjoyed the inspiring personal recovery stories that were told. Further information on the Forum or the “Stigma Free Initiative” may be obtained by calling the Morris County Mental Health Administrator, Laurie Becker, at 973-285-6852.

- The Opiate Task Force met in April and the meeting was well attended. The big topic of discussion was trying to get recovery coaches in the emergency room. They met with the Prosecutor’s Office and have come up with a plan to proceed. The target date is Sept. 1 for going ahead to see what they can do. There won’t be any

money from the state for recovery coaches. The committee wants to work on a presentation to give the hospital. On May 24 they will meet with Morristown Medical to discuss. CARES has the curriculum and they will train and certify the peer specialist for the recovery coach position.

Advisory Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans (ACADV) – Ms. Maria Rosario

- Sophy Jose, Fiscal Accountant is the newest member of the staff.
- ACADV will hold a Public Hearing on June 17, 2016 at the Roxbury Nutrition Site in Succasunna, to discuss the spending plan for the 2016 Area Plan Grant.
- ACADV will conduct their 2016 Monitorings from June through July 1. Visits will be made to providers that receive grant money from Morris County to be sure they are in compliance fiscally and administratively. This year Cornerstone Family Programs is offering different programs to seniors of Morris County.
- Cornerstone has made some changes in the following programs they offer: Adult Day Care, Memory Lane, Morris View Center Social Network, Caregiver Outreach and Caregiver Initiative.
- ACADV reported that they are advocating to save the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee recently approved a 2016 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 at <http://action.medicarerights.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action>

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Report Submitted by Jessica Mondino

Action Items –

- No action items.

Presentations –

- No presentations.

General Announcements –

- Jennifer Carpinteri made an announcement about some general Human Services updates.
 - Discussion around changes to fee-for-service and impact on youth services.
 - Morris County has reorganized their direct services, all are now located in the OTA building, and the new division has been created which covers Veterans services, Office of Temporary Assistance, Aging, Disability and Community Programming.

- Have outsourced some of the community Medicaid to Xerox, they are now doing the community Medicaid application. There is an online form.
- The next phase is to bring services out to the community with two potential outstations, Dover and Parsippany.
- Dave Johnston identified the need for after school care for teens. This need was identified in the Youth Surveys as a gap and will be looked at by the Planning Committee.

Youth Homelessness – No Report

Partnership Announcements – CoC – Shelia Carter

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Intent to apply for both new and renewal projects for homeless services was due on June 17. Several applications were received. The CoC Executive Performance Review Committee will be hearing the 2016 Notice of Intent Project presentations on July 22. After presentations have been heard the committee will rank the agencies and make their funding recommendations.

Child & Family Resources – Rebecca Sherrod Child Care Report

- There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. Currently serving all eligible applicants and receiving approximately 30 new applications a week. The number of applications received weekly does increase in the summer. (May –August)
- They currently do not have any openings at any dedicated voucher centers.
- The following centers are centers that have Dedicated Voucher Spots throughout Morris County:

Dover Child Care – 50 North Morris Street, Dover NJ 973-366-0277

Early Years – 52 Cooper Road, Denville NJ 973-328-4011

El Primer Paso – 29 Segur Street, Dover NJ 973-361-0880

Flanders Valley Country Day – 6 Bartley Chester Rd, Flanders NJ 973-252-9696

F.M. Kirby Center – 54 East Street, Madison NJ 973-377-4945

Jefferson Child Care– Nolan’s Point Road, Lake Hopatcong NJ 973-663-2704

Kindercare Learning Center – 181 Howard Blvd Suite N, Mt. Arlington, NJ
973-601- 9440

Little Learner Academy – 30 Old Budd Lake Road, Budd Lake NJ 973-691-9430

Little Leaner Academy – 89 Route 46 East, Denville, NJ 973-625-2800

Little Learner Academy – 25 Green Pond Road, Suite 2, Rockaway NJ 973-983-0600

Mt. Olive Child Care – 150 Wolfe Road, Budd Lake NJ 973-426-1525

Neighborhood House – 12 Flagler Street, Morristown NJ 973-538-1229

Parsippany Child Day Care – 300 Baldwin Road, Parsippany NJ 973-334-7286

Roxbury Day Care – 25 Righter Road, Succasunna NJ 973-584-3030

Salvation Army – 95 Spring Street, Morristown NJ 973-539-0543

The Magic Garden – 113 Fern Avenue, Wharton NJ 973-361-4167

Collinsville Child Care Center in Morristown, NJ is closing. All families at this center that were using dedicated vouchers are being moved to another Dedicated Voucher Center of their choice. All families are being served and no one is left without child care for their child.

These centers hold 350 dedicated voucher spots cumulatively.

Old Business –

Michelle Roers gave an update on some child care issues in the Dover community. Some discussion ensued. She reported the possibility of some of the child care centers forming partnerships with other facilities.

Dover Child Care is looking for help to refurbish their centers. Anyone interested in helping please get in touch with Michelle Roers.

New Business – None

Public Comment – None

Adjournment –

Motion was made by Tom Pepe and seconded by Linda Csengeto to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Patricia Mocarski,
Program Development Aide**