

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
January 23, 2013  
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep., MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee  
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep./United Way N.N.J.  
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep.  
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Rep./Liaison CEAS/CoC (departed at 6:20 p.m.)  
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.  
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.  
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.  
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep.  
Michelle Roers, United Way of N.N.J. (arrived at 5:45 p.m.)  
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Shelia Carter, MCDHS  
Kaitlyn Heller, MCOTA Intern  
Susan Jones, DCF - DCP & P  
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS  
Sabine VonAulock, M.C. Community Development  
Wendy Zoccola, Division of Developmental Disabilities

- I. Call to Order** – The Jan. 23 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Welcome and Introductions** – Everyone was welcomed and introductions were made.

**Nominating Committee - Bob Armstrong**

The slate of nominations for 2013 were presented as Ms. Rebekka Zydel for Chair and Ms. Xiomara Guevara for Vice-Chair.

There were no other nominations from the floor. Ms. Merz made a motion to close the nominations. Ms. Brands seconded the motion. All were in favor of the slate of nominees without opposition or abstention.

- III. Approval of October Minutes** – Ms. Merz made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Oexle seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no opposition and one abstention.

**IV. County of Morris Department of Human Services – No Report**

**V. County of Morris Planning and Development – Sabine VonAulock**

The grant cycle has begun and applications are in. The Program Review Committee will be approached to review the Emergency Solutions Grant applicants and their proposals. This will be done prior to the next board meeting. All six applicants are repeats. Mr. Bashe asked if the committee could check on the process that was used to do this last year.

**VI. New Jersey Department of Human Services – No Report**

**Division of Developmental Disabilities – Wendy Zoccola**

As of January 1, children between the ages 0 – 21 transitioned from the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Children’s System of Care (CSOC). Current services remain in effect.

Families seeking assistance or requiring further information on services may go to <http://www.performcarenj.org> or call 24 hours a day 7 days a week 1-877-652-7624.

Morris County will be getting 20 plus group homes in the next few years. Sites are already identified. The agency proposes each home will house four people. Most of the people are from Developmental Centers.

**VII. New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Sue Jones**

Things have been pretty stable. The Division is serving 727 families and 1328 children. There are 188 children in placement. There is a new person on staff that was just hired. Another new person will soon be hired to help with the DDD children.

**VIII. Staff Report – Shelia Carter**

Orientation packets were in each member’s folder. Ms. Carter went over the various pieces in the orientation packet. Ms. Carter asked the board to consider moving the meeting from the fourth Wednesday to either the fourth Tuesday or fourth Thursday of the month.

Some discussion ensued and a motion was made by Debi Merz and seconded by Ken Oexle to move the board meeting to the fourth Tuesday of the month in the same location. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. The motion carried.

**IX. Subcommittee Reports –  
Planning Subcommittee Report – Childcare Update**

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served and they receive approximately 10 new applicants a week.

In December, Roxbury Day Care was unable to fill 3 Dedicated Vouchers. The Vouchers have been reallocated to Wee Babysit, the next eligible provider on the roster. They are currently not filled and the 30 day clock is ticking.

In January, 8 Dedicated Vouchers are reallocated to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). 6 of the 8 are from Kinder Care. Kinder Care had received 10 Dedicated Vouchers via reallocation and they were only able to utilize 4. 2 are from Little Learner. Little Learner had received Dedicated Vouchers via reallocation.

There were 367 Dedicated Vouchers in the county at the time of conversion. Currently there are 342 Dedicated Vouchers in the county. Twenty five Dedicated Vouchers have been converted into the Child Care Assistance Program.

Approximately 90% of families utilizing Dedicated Vouchers had their eligibility re-determined in the month of December.

There are 27 eligible child care programs on the roster. We are currently at number 10. We may want to consider issuing a second RFA.

#### **CEAS/COC – Linda Csengeto**

CEAS/COC met on Tuesday, January 8 and discussed:

Earned Income Tax Credit

- A wage supplement, in the form of a tax credit, for modest income working families and individuals.
- Members of committee were encouraged to remind consumers of service, who may be eligible to speak to a tax advisor about applying for the credit.
- Average refunds of \$1,533 may be used to pay debts, secure housing, assist with child care and other basic needs.
- A list of NORWESCAP IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs offering free tax help for taxpayers who qualify is available upon request. Sites are scattered throughout the county and offer free electronic filing. Site locations maybe also obtained by dialing 2-1-1.

The Point-In-Time count of Morris County sheltered and unsheltered homeless will take place on Wednesday, January 30, 2013.

- The Point-In-Time survey gathers demographic and other information about those who are homeless to be used to develop effective plans to address and end homelessness.
- Each County's Continuum of Care (CoC) coordinates their Point-In-Time count; however, the method by which data is collected is uniform throughout the state.
- The survey will be conducted in shelters and on the street.
- Each CoC identifies places where they are likely to find unsheltered homeless individuals or families.

- Additionally, the survey will take place at central locations where services and information are available to homeless households and individuals.

#### Plan to End Homelessness

The committee reviewed and discussed strategies for discharge planning, services and prevention of homelessness toward the development of the county homeless plan.

Project Homeless Connect was held on December 6, 2012 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Morristown. It seemed there were people less in attendance this year possibly due to the bad weather.

Ms. Roers stated that Operation Stand Down supporting homeless veterans and their families was held at the Morristown Armory on January 18 and 19. There were about 100 in attendance and homeless veterans were provided meals, clothing and access to medical and mental health services, shelter and other community resources.

Ms. Csengeto stated that the next meeting will be held at 340 W. Hanover, at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, 2013.

## **X. Advisory Committee Reports**

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

On January 18, Olga Burns retired as Director of Morris, Sussex, Warren Employment Training Services (ETS) after a distinguished 32 year career. Assistant Director Donna Buchanan will serve as Director until a permanent appointment is made.

The NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development is convening a task force on the NJ Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). The ETPL lists occupational training providers who meet NJ licensing and performance requirements. The list is badly outdated and training providers do not consistently report data. An accurate, current list is critical to customer choice of training providers. MSW WIB Director Jack Patten is a member of the task force.

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

The Morris, Sussex, Warren, HIV Advisory met yesterday at Hope House. On the agenda was the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (known as ERIC) which is a group initiated by the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (NEMA) HIV Health Services Planning Council created to address the needs of those living with HIV/AIDS in Morris, Sussex and Warren counties. The emphasis of the ERIC is to bring together those involved in prevention and treatment of HIV as well as to expand the involvement of those who work with high risk populations for contracting HIV. A roundtable event will be held in the spring to introduce HIV services currently provided to an expanded group of medical and community-based providers such as infectious disease providers, Planned Parenthood, those who work with the incarcerated, people in need of HIV testing, people in shelters, gay youth, etc. The ERIC seeks to include a

Broader group to participate in strategic planning to identify those who are infected and don't know it and to link the newly diagnosed to care.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 11:00 a.m. location to be determined.

### **Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Laurie Becker**

The first board meeting was January 10. There were two topics discussed.

- The Ten Year to End Homelessness Plan – Ms. Becker is charged with overseeing the draft of the discharge planning component piece for the Plan. The MHSAAAB worked on the draft of the discharge plan and submitted it to Monarch Consulting. They are looking at better coordination of discharge planning from individual psychiatric hospitals, jails and people returning from the military. This project is based around discharge planning for the folks being discharged from mental health and addictions treatment. This is a challenge for hospitals when serving individuals with intensive addictions and or mental illness. These folks need help being linked to services when they are ready for discharge into the community. This is something the board wants to recommend to the state as well as the need to help these folks find housing.

Ms. Becker stated that we all need to be better educated and knowledgeable of the resources available. There is a need for more community education. Ultimately the MHSAAAB will review this document before it goes to the Freeholders for final approval. The next MHSAAAB meeting is February 14 and all are welcome.

Ms. Carter stated that there is a lot going on at this time with the CoC application. This is a competitive application bringing over \$1 million in funding for services into the community. Monarch's support is critical in helping us with this application. We have maintained and increased funding with their assistance. This money is used for emergency, transitional and permanent housing vouchers and child care. Ms. Carter stated that the Annual Homeless Assessment report is also being worked on by the CEAS/CoC subcommittee.

### **Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans (ACADV) – No Report**

#### **United Way of Northern New Jersey, Success by Six – Jeff Bashe**

Success by Six is a collaborative effort to improve childcare education. Mr. Bashe would like to give a presentation on this. There are many childcare centers struggling and they have worked with several centers trying to help them. The YMCA has stepped up and helped various childcare centers and has some wonderful partnerships. Michelle Roers stated that Jeff Bashe has been a great help in all of this.

**Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) – Ms. Becker**

YSAC met on January 17. Julie Harpell-Elam, JBWS, is the new Chair for 2013. The county is working on an electronic monitoring program as an alternative to detention. They are hoping to roll out the program soon.

The YSAC is charged, this year, with developing a community event related to missing and exploited children. They may decide to do something around violence prevention. Last year a DVD was developed to assist the community in knowing how to identify and report child abuse. The DVD may be viewed on the Morris County Department of Human Services website at [www.morrihumanservices.org](http://www.morrihumanservices.org)

**XI. Old Business**

Ms. Becker stated that 2013 GIA subgrants will go out to providers on January 31, 2013.

Ms. Becker would also like to remind folks that it is especially important at this time to educate the Freeholders since there are some new Freeholders in office. It would be a good idea to invite Hank Lyon to attend one of our meetings. He kicked off the Municipal Alliance event and is the new Human Services Liaison.

**XII. New Business – None**

**XIII. Adjournment –**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, February 26.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski  
Program Development Aide