

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 22, 2011**

- I. Call to Order** – The June meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Ken Oexle, HSAC Chair.
  
- II. Welcome and Introductions** – Everyone was welcomed and introductions were made.
  
- III. Approval of Minutes** – There was a motion to approve the May minutes with a correction to the United Way Child Care Management and Capacity Team report. The minutes should state that the Child Care Management Quality and Capacity Team of the United Way will be working with the Morris County Department of Human Services and the Child Care Resource & Referral Agency to take a global look at child care related issues. Together they will do a needs assessment. There was a motion to approve the minutes with noted correction. The motion was approved with no opposition and one abstention.
  
- IV. County of Morris Department of Human Services – Mary Jo Buchanan, Laurie Becker**  
Mary Jo Buchanan stated that the Governor has budgeted major savings from changes in the Medicaid program, including a Medicaid waiver with a managed care proviso. This change to a managed care environment has major implications for all areas of human services in the Counties, from working with children to seniors and various populations in need. Currently there are more questions than answers. A meeting will be held on June 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Academy. This meeting will be an information/conversation/discussion meeting on the potential changes in the Medicaid program. Everyone is invited. RSVP to Liz Kisatsky at (973) 285-6881.  
  
Laurie Becker stated that this Division is busy with the 2012 funding application process. All funding applications are due this Friday by 3:00 p.m. Next week all applications will be opened and documented. Then all the advisories will get involved in the review process. If anyone is interested in going on a site review for mental health, addictions or juvenile justice, please feel free to call Laurie to make arrangements with her. She can be reached at (973) 285-6852.
  
- V. County of Morris Planning and Development, Division of Community Development – No Report**
  
- VI. New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) – Luis Tamayo**  
There are several new appointments and much of the current news was circulated to you via e-clips. Deputy Commissioner for the State Department of Human Services, Kevin Martone, will be leaving his post mid-July. He will be going to a non-profit organization.

Lynn Kovich, M.Ed., was named Assistant Commissioner of the newly combined Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. She comes from the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Raquel Mazon Jeffers, the current Director of Addiction Services has been appointed to the position of Deputy Director for the new merged Division.

Valerie Larosiliere, who served as Acting Assistant Commissioner of Mental Health Services, will remain with the merged Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services as an Assistant Director.

Joseph Amoroso is named as the new Director for the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Friday there was a meeting of the State Human Services Advisory Council. There was much discussion on the budget and proposed Medicaid changes. On June 13 there was also a public meeting on these subjects. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) was there and they are encouraging folks to speak or to send in comments. Public input is helping shape the waiver. Numerous folks are putting together responses on the impact changes are going to have. There were many questions that are not answered. The Global Medicaid Waiver will probably not be approved until the October meeting. For further information on this go to: [www.cms.gov/medicaidstwaivprogdemopgi/mwdl/](http://www.cms.gov/medicaidstwaivprogdemopgi/mwdl/).

The Medicaid Assistance Customer Centers (MACC's) are reaching out to housing facilities, etc. to answer questions on changes that will be taking place. MACC's are part of the Medicaid Office. Mary Jo Buchanan suggested that the MACC's staff outreach to senior centers and nutrition sites to give presentations on Medicaid changes and to answer any questions. For further information on this please contact Luis Tamayo at (609) 633-6948. Luis will send further information. Information on the MACC's are also available at: [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/info/resources/macc/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/info/resources/macc/index.html).

Commissioner Velez expressed her sentiments on what the Global Waiver will do. The problem is the eligibility piece and this information as of yet is unknown. There are some people who will probably not be able to get Medicaid; however, this is not yet settled. There are some states that have done very well with the waivers.

The Commissioner testified for the seventh time on budget issues. The voucher issues also came up. Many states have this process in place already. This will be discussed further at a later date. There are a lot of Legislative matters pending; however, not much happens in the summer. Some issues may need to be resubmitted in January.

New Jersey statistics show that we are first in the country in expanding the efforts to reach more people with food stamp efforts know as the State Nutrition Action Plan (SNAP). Ms. Buchanan stated that the Office of Temporary Assistance is doing an excellent job. Morris County is the only county in the state that had all their applications processed. About 20 percent of people on Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) have been reached out to and their applications processed. In total there were 1100 applications processed. Out of the 1100 applications processed there were about 200 that became new clients. The next wave of applications should be arriving soon.

### **Division of Developmental Disabilities – No Report**

## **VII. N.J. Department of Children and Families (DCF)/Division of Youth & Family Services (DYFS) – Elizabeth McGovern**

1. The court appointed a monitor to monitor compliance with the Modified Settlement Agreement (MSA) in the lawsuit against the State of New Jersey, released the ninth monitoring report on June 13. This report covers the period from July 1 to December 31, 2010. The monitor indicates that there has been significant performance improvement since the reform began under the MSA almost 5 years ago.

“The state has met or surpassed expectations in several key areas”:

- Creation of Child Health Units in each Local Office (LO).
- Placement of children with relatives has increased.
- DCF exceeded their yearly recruitment target for resource homes.
- DCF has met and exceeded expectations in regard to training its workforce.
- 60% of LOs have completed training on the new case practice model (i.e. Family Engagement and Family Team Meetings).
- Improving permanency outcomes for children in care.
- Continue to reduce the number of children placed out of state.

Areas still needing improvement:

- Case planning.
- Family team meetings.
- Caseworker visits with children.
- Caseworker visits with parents.

The full report can be found on the [cssp.org](http://cssp.org) website.

2. Morris Quality Review was completed on April 29, 2011. Although we have not received the full written report, the verbal feedback obtained at the exit meeting was very positive. There were 12 cases intensively reviewed and the participants in the cases personally interviewed by teams of reviewers from outside the local operations. Some trends that were found: 8 out of 12 cases involved domestic violence and substance abuse. 10 out 12 cases involved significant mental health issues. The reviewers found that safety and stability were at 100%. There is a need to improve in the formation and functioning of Family Teams. Some other system challenges included: lack of mental health services (i.e. waiting lists for

therapy); limited service providers for non-English speaking families; delays in permanency with the courts.

3. Referrals have been high in May and the same is occurring in June. In May 2011 the referrals to the DYFS offices in Morris County were as follows:

Morris West LO	-	124
Morris East LO	-	101
Total		225

4. Betty Berzin, Manager of the Morris East LO received a promotion to Assistant Director for Adoption Operations in Trenton effective July 2, 2011.

### **VIII. Staff Report – Shelia Carter**

At the State HSAC meeting Barbara Rusen, Chief of Staff, Department of Children and Families, talked about budget issues. There is a decrease in the Division of Youth & Family Services (DYFS) budget and an increase in the Child Behavioral Health Services budget.

There was also a presentation on Family Success Centers. Funds for these centers come through the Department of Children and Families. Morris is expected to be part of the last round of applicants to submit a proposal to the State to get a center started in this county. Liz Manley explained that Family Success Centers act as “one-stop” shops that provide wrap-around resources and supports to families before they find themselves in crisis.

In each member’s folder is a copy of Commissioner Velez’s letter regarding developing a local plan related to the conversion of contracted community based centers. The letter asked the HSAC, Child Resource and Referral Agency and the Division of Family Development’s representative to develop a dedicated voucher roster. This roster will be used to fill vacancies child care centers cannot fill after 60 days. Ms. Carter stated that Rebekka Zydel was a key resource related to this whole process. It will be necessary to convene the Planning Subcommittee to work toward developing this plan.

Rebekka Zydel stated that the State is on board with many of our recommendations regarding the dedicated voucher process. Ms. Zydel gave an overview of the proposed dedicated voucher model.

The first center will be converting on July 1 and the remaining centers will be converting in January. There may be some vouchers that need to be reallocated since probably only about half of the slots currently meet eligibility criteria. This whole new process needs to be in place by August 2011. The Planning Committee needs to put this whole thing together for the HSAC’s approval by the July meeting. Parsippany Child Care Center is the first center converting in Morris County.

**IX. Advisory Committee Reports –**

**Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) – Liz Manley**

At the Aging In Meeting Dr. Steve Haran gave a presentation regarding sexual offending and sexual acting behaviors. As a result the next steps below were developed specific to assessing the need for low-cost community based treatment of juvenile sex offenders in Morris County.

Rachelle Farese will be facilitating the creation of a YSAC ad hoc subcommittee to develop (1) an inventory of current services and (2) conduct a needs assessment re: community treatment for Morris youth offenders. This group also will discuss bringing Dr. Haran to the Education Partnership when schedules allow, involving school representatives in the discussion. If a service gap is identified, the goal could be to realign current resources to fill the gap, include this service area in appropriate funding priorities documents and to advocate for services via our advisory groups.

The next YSAC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. at 340 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown, Ground Floor Conference Room.

**Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – No Report**

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

June was a very busy month. The Consumer and Family Forum was held on June 2 and drew approximately 140 attendees. Laurie Becker and the Forum Planning Committee will have a summary report available by the end of July, citing public comments.

The MHSAAB met on June 9 to review and make recommendations on Saint Clare's Screening Center waiver request. After much discussion, the MHSAAB made the difficult decision to approve the waiver to allow emergency room MD's, in place of psychiatrists, to sign the clinical certificate for involuntary hospital commitment during the hours when a psychiatrist was not on site. The primary rationale for approval was the knowledge that there are intensive psychiatric assessments provided throughout the screening process via credentialed screeners, mental health practitioners, hospital psychiatrists and screening center psychiatrists via phone. The MHSAAB is waiting to hear the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) decision on the waiver request.

MHSAAB provided a letter of support for Mental Health Association of Morris County's (MHAMC) proposal to expand its current Residential Intensive Treatment Program (RIST) by 12 for a total of 54 individuals. MHAMC is the only RIST provider that services Morris residents.

MHSAAB reviewed and approved, with recommendations, the 2012 DMHAS contract renewals for Saint Clare's, Hope House, NewBridge and Community Hope.

MHSAAB members will be involved in providing local input to New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) regarding the proposed Medicaid Waiver plan.

Members will start participating in 2011 Grant-In-Aid site visits next week.

The next MHSAAB meeting will be July 14 at 5:15 p.m. at the Department of Human Services, 30 Schuyler Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Morristown.

**Council on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans – Shelia Carter for Tom Pappas**  
Nancy Day has been appointed as acting Assistant Commissioner for the Division on Aging and Community Services.

Ophelia Cruse is the new Director of the Morris County Nutrition Project.

Victorine Fung is the new Administrator Supervisor of Social Work.

Community Hope is currently accepting referrals from homeless veterans to the Hope for Veterans Program.

The U.S. Census was conducted in 2010. The number of seniors living in Morris County, ages 60 and older, has increased by 30 percent in the last 10 years from 76,000 to 96,000. Seniors represent 17% of the population in Morris County. For further information visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

There is a push to have eligible seniors sign up for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which is the food stamp program. There are a lot of misconceptions with the seniors regarding the food stamp program.

The Advisory Council Together (ACT) for NJ is concerned that the N.J. Medicaid Comprehensive Waiver Program will change programs like N.J. Global Options (GO). That group feels that the N.J. Medicaid Comprehensive Waiver Program is a “one size fits all – medical model” of Long Term Care Services and will be managed by Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) which are for-profit medical insurance companies. This redirection of Medicaid programs will affect seniors, people with disabilities and those with mental health and substance abuse issues.

**Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Committee – Robert Armstrong**

Several people have commented that they have heard reports that there is a cure to AIDS. Here’s the scoop. Last month it was reported that a 45 year old man named Timothy Brown, who tested positive for HIV in 1995, now has no trace of HIV. Mr. Brown, who was also being treated for leukemia, underwent a bone marrow, stem cell transplant from a donor who was immune to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus which is rare. Mr. Brown’s doctor believes that the virus has been purged from his body which is definitely good news! While Mr. Brown is no longer HIV positive, this does not constitute a cure for AIDS.

Adding to the hope that there is now a cure to AIDS is a June 4 article in the Economist titled “The End of AIDS?” The short answer to this question is: the chance of a widespread cure to AIDS is still a long ways off.

The following are some excerpts from the article:

- “Even more hopeful is a recent study which suggests that the drugs used to treat AIDS may stop its transmission.”
- “The new hope centers on the idea of combining treatment with prevention.”
- “But a cure still seems a long ways off. Prevention is, for the moment, the better bet.”
- “The HIV medications are not a cure. Stop taking them, and the virus bounces back. But it is a huge step from ten years ago.”

The Tri-County HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee has not met since the last meeting. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 28 at 11:00 a.m. at Hope House in Dover.

### **The United Way Child Care Management and Capacity Team – No Report**

#### **X. Old Business – None**

#### **XI. New Business –**

Ms. Zydel stated that with the conversions of the Center Based Contracted (CBC) Program by the State there will be training in July at the Public Safety Training Academy.

In August licensed providers will be trained bilingually in their office. There are about 50% of registered providers that are Spanish speaking.

Ms. Becker stated that according to Planning and Development website in Dover the Spanish speaking population is very high at about 69%. In Morristown the Spanish speaking population is about 35%. Since there are more Spanish speaking people living in this area there is a need for more bilingual providers.

Ms. Delaney mentioned that on Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris County Library there will be a meeting with Joseph Amoroso, Director of the Division of Disability Services (DDS). The main topic of discussion will be housing for the disabled.

#### **XII. Public Comment – None**

**XIII. Adjournment –**  
The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski  
Program Development Aide

ATTENDANCE  
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL – June 22, 2011

Members Present:

Armstrong, Robert  
Bashe, Jeffrey  
Csengeto, Linda  
Delaney, Nancy  
LaRussa, Charles  
Laureys, Cecilia  
Manley, Elizabeth  
Melo, Mary Jane  
Oexle, Kenneth  
Roers, Michelle  
Tietjen, Susan  
Zydel, Rebekka

Affiliation:

Citizen Representative  
Citizen Representative  
CEAS/COC Representative/OTA  
Citizen Representative  
Mental Health Association  
Citizen Representative  
Caring Partners  
Citizen Representative/MHSAAB  
Citizen Representative  
United Way of Northern NJ  
Citizen Representative/MHSAAB  
Child & Family Resources

Members Absent:

Brands, Marcia  
Guevara, Xiomara  
Hollowell, David  
McKeithen, Kathy  
Merz, Debi  
Miller, Debby  
Pappas, Thomas  
Walker, David  
Wilson, Ruth

Affiliation:

Citizen Representative  
Hispanic Affairs  
Citizen Representative  
Citizen Representative  
Citizen Representative  
United Cerebral Palsy  
Citizen Representative  
Morristown Neighborhood House  
Commerce Bank

State DCF – Present

McGovern, Elizabeth

Affiliation:

DYFS/DCF

State DHS – Present

Tamayo, Luis

Affiliation:

State Department of Human Services

MCDHS - Present:

Becker, Laurie  
Buchanan, Mary Jo  
Carter, Shelia  
Fetzer-Mocarski, Patricia

Affiliation:

MC Department of Human Services  
MC Department of Human Services  
MC Department of Human Services  
MC Department of Human Services