

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
July 25, 2012
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep./Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep./UWNNJ
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep.
Linda Csengeto, CEAS/COC Rep./OTA Rep.
Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep.
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep./arrived at 5:50 p.m.
Kathy McKeithen, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources/arrived at 5:55 p.m.

Also Attending:

Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Dave Johnston, DCF - DCP & P
Jack Patten, MSW WIB
Frank Pinto, MCDHS/departed at 6:40 p.m.
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS/arrived at 5:50 p.m.
Sabine Von Aulock, MC Community Development
Wendy Zoccola, NJDHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities

- I. Call to Order** – The July 25 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.
- III. Approval of June 27, 2012 Minutes** – Mr. Bashe made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no opposition and two abstentions.
- IV. County of Morris Department of Human Services – Frank Pinto Update on MorrisView** –
On January 31 Morris View opened a subacute rehab service. The subacute rehab has a 15 room capacity. The purpose of opening this rehab service is to help increase revenue. The rehab unit is doing very well. The average census per day is 9.85 people. In May the overall census at Morris View was 262. The facility is licensed for 283 beds. They are not turning anyone away. There is tough competition. They are also currently considering leasing the third floor to help reduce the deficit.

Mr. Bashe asked if Sussex Nursing Home was auctioned off. Mr. Pinto stated that is not yet determined and they are uncertain if it will remain a nursing home. The

Freeholders will decide what to do. If they close this facility it may have a positive impact on us. All counties are watching to see what happens.

The N.J. Association of Counties is trying to form a working group to help each other. This is very important as it gets closer to managed care in 2013. They are working on effective procedural and business items.

Some Freeholders and Mr. Pinto had a tour of Greystone Park. They got to see first hand. It was Mr. Pinto's first time visiting Greystone.

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

As a result of many conversations with non profits, they are collaborating with Monarch to sponsor a forum for non profits that are struggling. They want to come up with tools to help struggling organizations become more efficient. There is no date yet. It will probably be a half day session. The first session will most likely be for area non profits. Mr. Pinto suggested posting this on the Morris County Website's event calendar. Ms. Carter will also email this information to everyone and forward details as they are forthcoming.

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

The budget has been settled and it is \$31.7 billion dollars. Association for Children New Jersey (ACNJ) advocated for and assisted in restoring \$4 million for children. Mr. Tamayo thanked the HSAC for playing a big role in regard to child care changes and having a voice.

Next week is the State HSAC meeting. Ms. Carter will be there. If there items any that anyone would like to bring up, please let Ms. Carter know. There is much concern over the cuts in emergency assistance money and what will happen. The Division of Family Development (DFD) is very rigid on guidelines and worried about how this will affect the counties and what to do.

There is good news regarding the approval of the Affordable Health Care Act. This pushes the state to deal with the exchange but they haven't yet begun. It is Federal monies and New Jersey has not begun the exchange process yet. Some states don't want to participate. It is complex and there are discussions occurring about these issues.

On July 1 efforts started to move the Division of Developmental Disability's child care piece to the Department of Children and Families. There are no signs of these changes taking place. As of yet there is not much to do. They will begin to take children identified as emergencies as of Jan. 1, 2013. Ms. Zoccola stated that there will be no changes for the children placed out of home in Morris County. The money has begun to shift but they are still case managing these children. Things are becoming more cumbersome with these changes and it is their responsibility to help to work things out.

Mr. Tamayo stated that as of July 21 DHS will be taking on Senior Services. They do not have to hire people since they are shifting things around.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – Wendy Zoccola

- DDD is waiting for approval for the Supports Program. Some staff is working on how the program will be rolled out and how the program will be administered.
- There has been a recent announcement from the state house bureau regarding plans for a five year plan for the closure of two state-run institutions for developmentally disabled. 2,600 employees and 700 residents of Woodbridge and Totowa Developmental Centers will be affected. A task force determined that the closing of Vineland Developmental Center in South Jersey would be too difficult because the community could not sustain the loss of jobs or provide the additional housing supports associated with the closing of a developmental center.
- DCF/DDD – DDD continues to work with DCF as services and supports for children with developmental disabilities transitions to DCF. The July 1 system change has been modified. DDD continues to monitor children who live in their homes and who live out of their home.
- Family Action Support Team (FAST) - next meeting is September 18 at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Morris County Library on Hanover Avenue. Meetings are November 27, January 22, 2013, March 26, 2013 and May 28, 2013.

Ms. Delaney commented on the 9,000 or so disabled adults aged from about 30-40 that are on the waiting list for housing. It is time for parents to plan for their adult children since the state won't be able to. The FAST meetings mentioned by Ms. Zoccola are a great way to learn about what others have done to plan for their adult children. It is also a great way to share and connect with others.

VII. New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) – David Johnston

The office has moved and their new address is Mack/Cali Corporate Center, 201 Littleton Road, Lower Level, Morris Plains, NJ 07950. Their new phone number is 973-829-3600 and fax is 973-655-3575.

Jeffrey Guenzel has been appointed Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Services at Department of Children and Families. In his new role, Jeff will provide oversight to the Division of Women, the Division of Family and Community Partnerships, the Division of Children's System of Care, and the Office of Education Schools.

Morris East - 60 Child Assessments
16 Child Welfare
76 Total Intakes

Morris West - 101 Child Assessments
27 Child Welfare
128 Total Intakes

The top three towns reporting are Mount Olive 24, Morristown 18 and Dover 17.

Every six months DCF appears before U.S. Court Judges to discuss the department's performance in meeting the benchmark standards set by the Modified Settlement Agreement (MSA) originally entered in 2006. DCF has already successfully met 15 of the more than 50 Phase II performance measures specified in the original MSA. As noted in the report, our department continues to make notable progress in other performance measures, as we continue to be in compliance with 28 of the 33 ongoing Phase I and Phase II requirements. The department is also showing a steady and continuing upward trend in performance in 14 additional measures over recent monitoring periods.

The office has implemented several strategies which are beginning to show successful outcomes. A family team meeting facilitator has now been identified in every local office, and as a result, they achieved 69% compliance statewide in the month of April for Initial Family Team Meetings and in May received 74% compliance. Additionally, 26 offices achieved 100% compliance in April and 24 offices achieved 100% compliance in May.

VIII. Staff Report – Shelia Carter

Ms. Carter thanked everyone for their help with the annual site monitorings. There are about eighteen agencies to be visited in July and August. By the end of this week ten agency visits will be completed. These monitorings give the board an opportunity to visit each agency see how well they are doing. This is a good opportunity to identify and discuss any concerns or modifications that may be needed. Currently there is one agency that will probably be requesting a modification next month. Great care must be taken that there are no members in attendance at any site visits that might have a conflict of interest. Copies of the Conflict of Interest Statement are available for board members to review.

There is a Notice of Intent out for HUD Homeless Funding. This Federal Grant application funds various homeless programs. Agencies have until August 3 to respond to the Notice of Intent. The HSAC Program Review Committee has a meeting scheduled for August 20 at 2:00 p.m. to review these notices. Those that are signed up for this subcommittee meeting are Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Brands, Ms. Delaney, Ms. McKeithen and Mr. LaRussa. At the HSAC meeting of August 22 there will be a vote on the subcommittee's recommendations.

2013 Funding Applications need to be reviewed. This year the funding review meetings will be held Wednesday, September 5 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, September 6 at 9:30 a.m. at 30 Schuyler Place, Morristown. The first day,

September 5, Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) and Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) applications are reviewed. This meeting should not last more than a couple hours. The second day is review of Grant-In-Aid (GIA) and this meeting may be a good portion of the day since there are more applications to review.

The At-Risk Youth & Family Needs Assessment surveys were completed. This survey was put on line and on the website. It was also distributed to parent caregivers, DCF staff and advocates to collect information on the services needed. There were also several focus groups that helped get surveys completed. The survey is a tool to identify services and priorities for the at-risk population and to collect information on services needed. Most these surveys were done on survey monkey gold. The summary of this needs assessment is being compiled. The final report is due to the state in November.

**IX. Subcommittee Reports –
CEAS/COS – No Report
Planning Subcommittee – Childcare Dedicated Voucher Reallocation –
Rebekka Zydell**

It was a year ago when DFD began its transition to Dedicated Voucher Request for Funding Application (RFA) process. It was originally a one year trial. They reviewed and drafted updated instructions. At the next State meeting on August 3 DFD will be releasing an updated Draft RFA Instruction. Some of the key changes include:

- The RFA must be conducted biannually.
- Quality indicators are to be included in the RFA process and/or criteria.
- When a provider cannot fill unutilized Dedicated Vouchers with 30 days, they are reallocated by the Child Care Resource & Referral Agency.
- Under no circumstances should slots remain unfilled for more than 45 days, unless there is good cause.
- Any slots exceeding 45 days of not being utilized will be converted into traditional vouchers.
- The proposed changes are to be implemented with any new RFA process.

Ms. Carter stated that she is still getting calls about agencies that are seeking vouchers. Ms. Zydell stated that they hope to start the new process October 1.

Further discussion about this ensued. This month there are no dedicated vouchers to be reallocated. The waiting list is down. There are currently 121 children on the waiting list. These are all new applicants. Last month there were 253 on the wait list. They were able to get more money so they will be able to get more children off the list.

**X. Advisory Committee Reports –
Youth Services Advisory Committee – No Report
Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Jack Patten**

The WIB, through MSW Employment and Training Services, operates Learning Links in Dover, Franklin and Phillipsburg. The Learning Links provide instruction in adult basic education, ESL, GED preparation and basic computer skills. The Links cost \$210K to operate annually. In late June the WIB received a Notice of Obligation for

the year beginning July 1 in the amount of \$76K. We immediately entered discussions with NJLWD for additional funding. In August, LWD will issue a Notice of Grant Opportunity for adult literacy funds, but WIBs will not be eligible applicants. Without additional funding, the Links will operate through November 2012.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board (MHSAAAB) – Charles LaRussa

Mr. LaRussa attended the annual Consumer and Family Forum on June 12, 2012. There were approximately 160 in attendance. This was a great turnout and higher attendance than usual. The Co-Occurring Disorders Task Force annual conference on Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Skills for Serving Challenging Clients was held on Friday, June 22. This was a very interesting day and was also well attended.

Some discussion ensued about the Medicaid Waiver and feelings in general are that this waiver is very confusing.

Council on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans – Tom Pappas

In May, the Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans was designated as an ADRC, Aging and Disability Resource Connection.

Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP) has moved to the Cash and Counseling Model as of July 1, 2012.

Staff attended the NJ4A's Consortium of Advisory Councils on April 26. The top issues for advocacy were the re-authorization of the Older American's Act and protecting the Older Americans Act from budget sequestration.

Morris, Sussex, Warren (MSW) HIV Advisory Committee – Bob Armstrong

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee met yesterday (July 24, 2012) at 11:00 a.m. in the offices of New Jersey AIDS Services (NJAS) on the Greystone campus. The committee discussed priority setting and percent allocation for the fiscal year 2013 Ryan White Part A funding for the Morris-Sussex-Warren (MSW) region. This grant, administered through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the City of Newark, is the payer of last resort for HIV/AIDS services. The final spending for MSW for FY 2011 was \$936,373.99. The committee will meet again on August 7, 11:00 a.m., at NJAS.

The 19 International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC, is now in session. Many prominent Americans are speaking to bring more attention to HIV/AIDS. Speakers include: President Bill Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, Former U.S. First Lady Laura Bush, Philanthropist Bill Gates, Humanitarian Elton John and Actress Whoopi Goldberg. The theme is "Turning the Tide Together." A major thrust of the conference is about strategies to curtail the epidemic. The AIDS quilt is being featured in Washington, DC.

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

XI. Old Business – None

XII. New Business –

Ms. Zydel stated that there are many people and families that are struggling and need assistance. The United Way’s ALICE Study (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, yet Employed) shows that there is a large population that makes just a little too much to get any type of assistance. There are many families that leave their children home unattended since they can’t afford childcare and don’t qualify for any assistance.

Recently there was a mother that came into the office seeking assistance. She did not qualify for assistance and was unable to afford childcare. She did not want to leave her child home alone. Ms. Zydel believes there should be some type of safety net in place for folks with extenuating circumstances. Perhaps there could be a pot of money to be kept as a safety net for special situations. Mr. Johnston stated that if DYFS gets a call that a child is left home alone, they can usually get childcare paid for once there has been a report made.

Ms. Carter stated that American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding did help more people to get assistance; however, this money is now all gone. Ms. Carter said that money offered through Grant-in-Aid is flexible. Some of this money helps families get childcare that would otherwise be ineligible. Families need to be aware that some agencies can also help them get assistance.

XIII. Public Comment – None

XIV. Adjournment –

There was a motion made by Linda Csengeto to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Robert Armstrong. There was no opposition and no abstentions. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia MocarSKI
Program Development Aide