

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
June 27, 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.
Xiomara Guevara, Hispanic Affairs
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.
Liz Manley, Caring Partners/YSAC Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Michelle Roers, United Way of N.N.J./arrived at 5:55 p.m.
David Walker, Morristown Neighborhood House
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Suzanne Alvino, DCF - DYFS Morris
Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Carlos Caprioli, Morris County Family Success Center
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Jack Patten, MSW WIB
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS/arrived at 5:40 p.m.
Wendy Zoccola, NJDHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities

- I. **Call to Order** – The June 27 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. **Guest Presentation – Carlos Caprioli of the Family Success Center**
Under the Division of Children and Families, the Division of Family and Community Partnerships (DFCP), funds a statewide network of Family Success Centers as “one-stop” shops that provide wrap-around resources and supports for families before they find themselves in crisis. Family Success Centers offer primary and secondary child abuse prevention services to families to bring together concerned community residents, leaders, and community agencies to address the problems that threaten the safety and stability of families and the community.

In Morris County the Family Success Center has recently opened at 73 Bassett Highway in Dover, NJ. The parent organization that applied for and received the award for the Morris County Family Success Center is under the umbrella of the Northern N.J.

Maternal Child Health Consortium. Services of the Morris County Center Family Success Center include:

- Information about health services for women, children and family members.
- Referrals to public and private social services.
- Information about safe and affordable housing.
- Assistance with job searches and preparation for employment interviews.
- Assistance with interpretation and completion of forms.
- Family activities for parents and children of all ages.

There is no cost to access any of these services. Further discussion ensued about their advisory board makeup and their mission. The Center is working and developing a mission statement and goals; however, their primary mission is to provide resources and support for families in Morris County. Fliers were passed around for upcoming events. For further information call the Center at 973 620-9711.

IV. Approval of May 23, 2012 Minutes – Ms. Zydel made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with one abstention and no opposition.

V. County of Morris Department of Human Services – No Report

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

The Human Services Directors were supposed to meet with the Commissioner on June 1; however she was absent and Ms. Arye chaired the meeting. Since Senior Services is being move to DHS, there was a lot of discussion on long term care and rate changes in nursing homes. There are four working groups that are putting together changes. These working groups mostly consist of providers. These rate changes will only affect the state and county homes and not the private nursing homes. There was some discussion about regulations and the ratio of Medicaid clients that state and county funded nursing homes must accept. Mr. Tamayo believes that the state and county nursing homes must accept 45% Medicaid clients. Some states do not have these same regulations. There is concern that some nursing homes may not be able to afford to stay open. They are trying to move more folks into the community. Ms. Becker stated that with Morris View's recent opening of their sub acute center this has helped Morris View make more money. Ms. Becker believes it is the Freeholder's decision as to whether or not to keep Morris View open.

The Commissioner met with Senators from Essex, Monmouth and Bergen Counties. The issue discussed was the changes to childcare eligibility.

There was a regional meeting in regard to recent childcare changes at Public Safety & Training Academy (PSTA). They were trying to get feedback from providers on issues and problems encountered due to the new regulations. Ms. Zydel stated that the feedback from Providers from this regional meeting was positive. The providers were appreciative of having their position heard. They believe that DFD is being responsive and is making some changes after given suggestions.

There are a lot of problems with the efforts to show proof of income with the undocumented population who have children born in this country and are eligible for child care subsidies. The Commissioner says that letters from Employers can be accepted as proof; however, this is also very difficult. Some undocumented folks get an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). They want this ITIN since they want to pay taxes and do something here legally. If they have this ITIN they can get tax refunds and access services for their children. There was further discussion about the difficulties folks encounter and the various interpretations and misconceptions of rules and regulations.

The Medicaid Waiver is still not approved. Tomorrow there will be a decision on long term health care.

VII. New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Susan Alvino

There were about 100 staff members that the Division of Youth & Family Service (DYFS) placed in a Fellowship training program teaching them to use data. The first Fellowship class graduated. There were ten local staff members that graduated from the class.

Referrals are up. There is a slow and steady increase. There were about 152 referrals this month at Morris West. The office had their annual quality review and it is complete. The office got positive feedback. The office's performance is judged on safety, well being and permanency. This office will be making some changes. They will be doing some teaming. Teaming involves getting teams to function on their own and families to function on their own. The office is also working on transition plans for families.

VIII. Staff Report – Laurie Becker, Shelia Carter – NewBridge – Hope for High School Drop Outs

Video was shown on NewBridge's Hope for High School Drop out Program. NewBridge provides training and job leads for dropouts. Some 85% of students completing their program continue to college or vocational school. In the video Mr. Parker stated that there are about 31 million students that drop out of high school in the United States. Without a high school diploma many of these drop outs will make only \$9,400 a year. NewBridge has launched a program for these drop outs and recently had a class of 50 that graduated and received their diploma through this program. NewBridge believes that by investing in people and helping them to gain self confidence they will pay it back to society. NewBridge aims "to bring balance to people's lives through mental health, substance abuse, housing, senior and youth services," as Mr. Parker stated prior to the Morristowngreen.com. For further information on NewBridge's services call them at 973 839-2520.

Ms. Carter gave an update on the At-Risk Youth & Needs Assessment. The Department of Children & Families (DCF) charged the HSAC with putting together a report to help guide their priorities for at-risk youth and families for in and out of home

placement. About a month ago the survey was put on line and on the website. It was also distributed to parent caregivers, DCF staff and advocates to collect information on services needed. The survey is a tool to help identify service needs and barriers from different perspectives. There is a need to identify the services and priorities for the at-risk population and collect information on basic services needs in regard to substance abuse, mental health, transitional housing, youth care and domestic violence. So far there have been about 90 surveys collected. They are looking at how to improve the parent/caregiver responses since the return on the survey in this area is low.

There were also several focus groups that helped get surveys completed. These focus groups held were Aging-In, Aging-Out Task Force; Youth Services Advisory Committee and the Systems Review Committee. There is one more week to go and the hope is to get more responses, especially from DYFS, this is challenging.

Ms. Brands suggested getting out more paper copies since many folks aren't comfortable with computers. If paper copies are sent out more surveys may be returned. She also suggested offering some type of reward or incentive for completing the survey.

Ms. Alvino stated that she thinks the time frame for response wasn't long enough. Perhaps next year this survey can go out earlier and a mass mailing can be done with a paper copy of the survey and a letter of explanation. It was asked if it would be possible to extend the deadline. Ms. Carter said it might be possible to extend the deadline. Ms. Becker stated that perhaps the Family Success Center could help get some surveys completed. Mr. Caprioli stated that there were 30 families served by the center in May and they could reach out to the families that come into the center. Ms. Csengeto asked if DYFS could send out a hard copy of the survey and letter in the mail to clients. Mr. Oexle stated that many people do not want to fill out on-line surveys since they are often difficult to fill out. Further discussion ensued about this. Ms. Becker suggested getting an update at the next meeting and to let Ms. Carter know if anyone would like paper copies of the survey. The deadline is June 30. Ms. Carter will let the group know if the deadline is extended.

Ms. Carter sent an email around in an effort to get more advocacy for increased funding for the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act is the primary piece of legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in public schools. The CoC application for homeless funding gets a lot of money from this. The McKinney-Vento Act provides over \$1 million in funding for housing and services. There is concern that there may not be enough money to fund the renewals. Please forward this email and this information using the link Ms. Carter send out and help this cause. It is important that people are informed and that there is a strong voice advocating for this funding.

Ms. Becker and Ms. Carter scheduled a HUD CoC meeting to put together the 10 year to End Homelessness Plan. The CoC Governness Committee is working on this and met and is putting together a plan. Monarch is helping write the plan and it will be

submitted to the Advisory Board and then to the Freeholders for approval. There will be an opportunity for feedback. At the August 22 board meeting the draft outline will be submitted for consideration. Ms. Roers stated that any suggestions made at the August board meeting may be included in the plan. September is Monarch's deadline to have this complete. Mr. Bashe suggested the Planning Committee meet go over the plan prior to the August board meeting so they can make a recommendation to the board.

Ms. Carter stated the need to get the Notice of Intent out. Ms. Carter suggested possibly scheduling a subcommittee meeting in August for this. Once the notice is out then agencies can come in and make presentations. The subcommittee can decide which projects they think should be a part of the Morris County CoC.

**IX. Subcommittee Reports –
CEAS/COC – Linda Csengeto**

The CoC application will be submitted in the fall of this year. New regulations under the HEARTH Act, will, hopefully, be out by then to write the new CoC application.

There was discussion on Senate Bill 1889 – it was determined that this bill has no impact on shelters in Morris County because they service people beyond 72 hours.

Program Review – Homeless Solutions Modification Request – Ms. Marcia Brands

Homeless Solutions has requested a change in their level of service and rate. There is no change in the funding amount. The subcommittee recommends approving the modification request. Mr. Bashe made a motion to grant the Modification Request to Homeless Solutions. Rebekka Zydell seconded the motion. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions or opposition.

Legislative Subcommittee – Senate Bill 1889 – Rebekka Zydell

In consideration of CEAS's review of Senate Bill 1889 and their articulated position that this is already common practice in Morris County Shelters. This bill would prohibit emergency shelters for the homeless from refusing to provide services for a minimum time frame unless the shelters are at maximum capacity. The Legislative Subcommittee recommends that the Human Services Advisory Council endorse this bill under the position that it is both morally and ethically humane not to restrict eligible citizens from available shelter accommodations. Motion was made by Ms. Brands for the HSAC to endorse this bill. Mr. Bashe seconded the motion. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions or opposition.

**Planning Subcommittee – Childcare Dedicated Voucher Reallocation –
Rebekka Zydell**

Ms. Zydell distributed the Child & Family Resources MCHSAC Child Care Report and went over the agencies that have unfilled vouchers at this time and the agencies that would be next in line for the unfilled vouchers.

There are 253 families currently on the waiting list. The hope is to get 60 off by the end of the month. In October there were 380 on the list. By the end of the month all those original 380 on the list that were offered assistance. They anticipate being able to serve new people yet this dedicated voucher process is challenging.

X. Advisory Committee Reports –

Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) - Liz Manley

There was a letter from the HSAC in Bergen regarding the Family Support Organization. They were asked for support regarding these funds. There was an RFP for Unification of Care Management and Case Management under one roof. It is anticipated that the Family Support Organization will get more money but not sure if the funding will come. Unification will happen across the state. The Family Support Organization must receive funding at the same time so families can get support right away. Ms. Manley will write an overview and forward to the committee for discussion at the next meeting.

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Jack Patten

The WIB is joining County College of Morris (CCM) as partners in a grant to reduce Morris County business dependency on H1B visa workers. These are workers that are given a Visa to fill a job that can't be filled by an American. These foreign workers are typically employed in high end information technology (IT) occupations such as computer programmers, computer engineers and computer systems analysts. In September, CCM will offer a one week "pre-programming" course that will prepare successful completers for admissions into advanced computer courses. A third partner, Set Focus, a Parsippany training school, will offer advanced computer training, targeting nearly fifty unfilled programming jobs that historically have been filled by H1B workers. After five months of advanced computer training these students can qualify to get this high end IT position.

The WIB is working with the NJ Manufacturing Extension Program to identify Morris County manufacturers that produce sustainable products using environmentally sustainable processes and materials. Such manufacturers are often unaware of the variety of training incentives for which they qualify. These incentives include subsidized on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, customized training and e/learning for skill upgrades. NJMEP has an extensive network of manufacturers and their suppliers who may qualify for these programs and by partnering with NJMEP, the WIB hopes to access this network.

**Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board (MHSAAB) – Charles LaRussa/
Laurie Becker**

Ms. Becker stated that there was no June meeting since in June the Consumer & Family Forum was held. Mr. LaRussa said the forum was very well attended and a wonderful evening. There were two consumer speakers that told their stories about stigma and how it affected their lives. The Co-Occurring Conference was also held in June. It was a very interesting conference with several excellent presenters.

Mr. LaRussa attended the last Freeholder's meeting and finds these meetings very interesting. He would like to encourage members to attend.

Ms. Becker stated that three more members were approved by the Freeholders and appointed to the MHSAAAB. The next meeting of the MHSAAAB will be on July 12 at 30 Schuyler Place. All are welcome to attend.

Council on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans – No Report

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

The Morris-Sussex-Warren County AIDS Advisory Committee did not meet since our last meeting and will meet on July 3, location to be announced.

Upcoming is AIDS 2012, the International AIDS Conference being held in Washington, DC, July 22-27, which is being held in the United States for the first time since the overturning of the ban for HIV+ people to visit our country. AIDS 2012 seeks to promote scientific excellence and inquiry, encourage individual and collective action and foster international dialogue and debate. Sessions will focus on the latest issues in HIV science, policy and practice and will share key research findings, lessons learned, best practices, as well as identify gaps in knowledge. World experts will speak including President Bill Clinton and Elton John.

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

County-wide child care needs assessment analysis being planned:

United Way, the Morris County Department of Human Services and Child & Family Resources are working together to develop a tool that can help us to better understand where there are supply/demand imbalances in child care services throughout the County. This will involve gathering data on currently available child care providers and comparing it with data on the current and projected need for child care services among low and middle-income families. We will be using mapping tools with the help of the Morris County Planning Department. This study should help the County, United Way and other organizations to more effectively direct available government and donated resources to those agencies and areas most in need of financial support. We hope to have an initial assessment and recommendations by the end of 2012.

HSAC should consider creating a child care sub-committee:

Because early childhood education is such a critical factor in developing a self-sufficient and productive citizenry and a viable force for our commercial enterprises, and because so many of our non-profit child care centers are facing financial and management challenges, and because so many low and middle income families are increasingly unable to afford to take advantage of the quality services available at our childcare centers, we should consider creating a HSAC Child Care Sub-Committee to provide more focus on this service area. Many HSACs have such a group, and Mr. Bashe believes that early childhood education is not adequately addressed by any current Morris County committee or subcommittee. Such a committee would be a

useful partner for Child & Family Resources and United Way Success by 6 in addressing early childhood education and child care needs in Morris County.

XI. Old Business –

Ms. Roers stated that the committee’s advocacy efforts and letter reminding municipalities to commit their Housing Trust Fund monies was quite helpful. There was \$22 million on the table and now thanks to advocacy efforts more municipalities have committed their housing trust funds and there is only \$18 million left on the table. Ms. Roers thanked the committee for their support.

United Way has received two grants last month to help subsidize non-profit childcare centers to replace cribs. One grant was for \$7,500 and the other grant was for \$16,000. These centers were mandated to replace their cribs. The United Way got this money to collaborate with childcare centers and help purchase new cribs for them.

XII. New Business – None

XIII. Public Comment – None

XIV. Adjournment –

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Fetzer Mocarski
Program Development Aide