

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
May 23, 2012
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep./Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee
Linda Csengeto, CEAS/COC Rep./OTA Rep.
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep./arrived at 6:00 p.m.
Kathy McKeithen, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep./Aging, Disabilities & Veterans Advisory Committee
Michelle Roers, United Way of N.N.J./arrived at 5:55 p.m.
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Elizabeth McGovern, DCF, DYFS
Jack Patten, MSW WIB
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS
Frank Pinto, MCDHS
Jenn Stivers, Community Hope
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS
Sabine VonAulock, MC Community Development

- I. Call to Order** – The May 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.
- III. Guest Presentation – Community Supportive Services for Veteran Families – Jenn Stivers, Community Hope**
There is a new Supportive Service for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program is a homeless prevention program designed to assist veteran families at-risk of homelessness to maintain their housing and to rapidly re-house veteran families who have recently become homeless in Sussex, Warren, Somerset, Morris and Passaic counties.

Community Hope has partnered with Catholic & Family Community Services, Hope House and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) to provide case management services to assist veterans and their families in securing housing and developing a housing stability plan which may include support services, financial assistance and accessing support services and benefits. Both Social Service

Assistance and Financial Assistance Services are offered. To qualify you must be a low-income single veteran or a veteran family who are:

- Currently residing in permanent housing and at risk of becoming homeless or;
- Currently homeless or recently exited permanent housing and are schedule or able to become a resident of permanent housing within 90 days. For example, a veteran living in a shelter, on the street or in a temporary house with an apartment identified or;
- Exited permanent housing in the previous 90 days to seek other housing this is responsive to their needs.

Currently Community Hope is serving six households in Morris County. They are trying to get more referrals. For more information and referrals call the Veterans Hotline at 1-855-483-8466 or visit their website at www.communityhope-nj.org.

IV. Approval of April 25 Minutes – Mr. Tamayo stated that he would like the minutes amended at the bottom of Page 2 in the first paragraph the last sentence should be removed. Motion was made to approve the minutes with the suggested amendment was made by Rebekka Zydell and seconded by Linda Csengeto. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition.

V. County of Morris Department of Human Services – Frank Pinto

This Friday at the County College of Morris there is a Celebration for Seniors in conclusion of various activities in May for Older Americans Month.

Today the Freeholders took action to approve a resolution in support of Senate Bill No. 1565 and Assembly Bill No. 2578 of the 2012 session currently under consideration by the 215 Legislature which authorizes Internet wagering at Atlantic City casinos under certain circumstances. The Adoption of this bill would initially increase casino revenues by \$200 million, generating \$20 million to the Casino Revenue Fund and could exceed \$1 billion in casino revenues and generate over \$100 million for the Casino Revenue Fund if New Jersey were to become a hub for internet gaming. Among those programs funded by the Casino Revenue Fund are Meals on Wheels, PASP, Respite Care, Para transit, and Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD). Morris Area Para transit System (MAPS) is the main organization in our county applying for those funds. In 2008 MAPS received \$1.5 million in casino revenue funds. This year MAPS funding was down to \$1 million and the county had to pitch in money to keep this program fully operational. If this legislation is approved, it will help the casinos bring in more revenue through the internet gaming.

Related to the HSAC and Affordable Housing, Ms. Mary Murphy, Executive Director, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), presented the regional plan being proposed. There is a HUD Grant for \$5 million that NJTPA received to do a regional plan throughout Northern New Jersey. They have agreed to sign on to that consortium and to be a part of the whole study.

There was question about a legislative subcommittee update. Ms. Carter stated that a position paper detailing the HSAC's recommendations on the pending legislation was sent out via email and at this time there is no action to take. Ms. Carter thanked the committee for their advance vote and for having the subcommittee move forward with this.

The number of non profits attending the Freeholder meetings is having a positive effect. It is good for all to hear how big an issue affordable housing is in Morris County.

Ms. Oexle stated that there is a lot of media about the State budget being cut about \$1 billion and wonders how this will impact Human Services funding. Mr. Pinto stated that he believes there will be cuts and it will effect our funding. Mr. Tamayo stated that the budget reflects a tax cut and lower projections. Mr. Pinto stated that between now and July 1 there is a lot of budget items going on.

VI. County of Morris Planning and Development, Division of Community Development – Discuss Senator Bucco's S1893 bill – Sabine Von Aulock

In regard to Affordable Housing there are flurries of bills that are at the state level. Early in April the Freeholders signed on to the Bucco bill which extended the time period for municipalities to spend their money.

This means recently the legislative subcommittee reviewed 3 bills and weighed in on them.

1. Reaffirmed the Freeholders resolution in support of the Bucco bill extending the time period for municipalities to commit to expend collected development fees and payments-in-lieu of constructing affordable units.
2. Residential Foreclosure Transformation Act they recommended the Freeholders take no further action at this time.
3. Sustainable Community Consortium they recommended Freeholders support of this action.

The Bucco proposal 1893 allowed forfeited funds to be returned to the County. Thanks to the Housing Alliance for putting so much energy into this. The Department of Community Affairs contacted the Freeholders and within 1 year the Freeholders and the housing agency must put together a plan. Upon COAH approval the money will be returned to the community and they will have 5 years to spend. After 5 years the money goes to NJ Affordable Housing Trust Fund. There is another bill not in the game for 1893 to transfer funds back to the county. This money will be primarily for construction of affordable housing. Funds will go to each county for construction of affordable housing. The money can be used anywhere in the county not necessarily the town it came from.

Ms. Roers stated that some municipalities have taken action and the amount outstanding has come down. The Advocacy has been helpful.

Ms. Von Aulock stated that she would like the committee to prepare a letter or recommendation to the Freeholders in support of this bill. It was suggested that Ms. Von Aulock draft this letter on behalf of the HSAC. Mr. Pappas made a motion to have Ms. Von Aulock prepare this letter and once drafted Mr. Pinto, Ms. Carter and Mr. Oexle will review and if needed modify and send to the Freeholders on behalf of the committee. Ms. Zydel seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. This letter must be done prior to June 13. Any comments or suggestions need to be emailed to Ms. Carter as soon as possible.

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

On May 4 was the State Human Services Advisory meeting. There was discussion about the transfer of Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) children to the Department of Children and Families. Personnel will be moved from DDD to the Department of Children and Families. There are a lot of details to work out. This is not a budgetary decision and has more to do with aligning what services should be where. July 1 is the first phase. The younger kids will be in placement; however, adults 18, 19, 20 will not yet be moved. They will be moved by Jan. 2013 at which time the process will be completed. There are a lot of unknowns. Emails were forwarded through Ms. Carter on frequently asked questions. These emails give detailed information on the folks being moved. If DYFS is involved with a child they will keep the child until the problem is resolved. Once the problem is resolved, the time the child will move to Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS). DDD will primarily have adult services for those over 21. Once the person is 16 DDD starts some involvement and once the child becomes an adult (21) they go to DDD.

Ms. Becker stated that it is a challenge getting DDD to be involved. They don't seem to be at the table. Perhaps Mr. Tamayo could give Ms. Becker contact information for person at DDD to try to get their involvement.

On May 3 Commissioner Velez was in front of the Senate at the Senate hearings.

The Commissioner was in Jersey City today at a forum and in Asbury Park at a Forum a few weeks ago. These forums were held to voice issues and ask questions on the new e- child care system. There will probably be more forums in various counties. A provider in Morris County wrote a letter to the Senator asking to have a forum here. Ms. Zydel stated that there will be a forum at the Public Safety Training Academy (PSTA) on May 30. Ms. Zydel stated that as of July 1 Division of Family Development (DFD) will be moving toward compliance and will be much stricter.

Social Service Block Grants (SSBG) contracts were also discussed. Providers got letters telling them if any of their contracts were moved due to recent changes. In the State there were 60 contracts moved, however, in Morris County there were only two were moved.

VIII. New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Ms. McGovern

The numbers for April are down.

Morris West	-	100 Child Abuse and Neglect
		<u>33</u> Child Welfare Assessments
		133 Total
Morris East	-	73 Child Abuse and Neglect
		<u>17</u> Child Welfare Assessments
		90 Total
		<u>223</u> Grand Total for Morris County for April

In March there was the highest number ever of referrals there were 7,372 for the State. In March our referrals were 289. The staff is struggling with these high numbers. The Director gave each area three worker positions to function as impact teams. These teams were sent to the offices struggling. These teams were only operational in April for Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties. The focus was mainly on Passaic County since they had the highest referrals.

There will be a quality review from June 4 – 8. There are six teams sent out with two people on each team. The team comes in the office to review cases and look at records. They also interview everyone including the court system the schools and the families. There are 12 families reviewed, 8 with children place outside the home and 4 with child in the biological home. This is an opportunity for the office to learn how they are doing. Last year the office did well scoring 92% which was very high. The score was the highest in the state and the office is hoping this year to do as well. They will soon have an exit interview. Once the office gets the results will make a program development plan for improvement for the upcoming year.

Division of Youth & Family Service (DYFS) is focused on teaching management to use data. They selected 100 staff members to be in this Fellowship which is an intense training program. They will be looking and learning about data. The first class of the Fellowship is ready to graduate. They will be presenting what they found. There are ten staff members involved in this.

IX. Staff Report – Ms. Carter

There is a HomeKeeper Program offered through the Housing Partnership that is a Foreclosure Intervention Center. Eligible homeowners may receive up to \$48,000 in direct mortgage payment assistance over two years. Mortgage payment assistance is available for those currently under or unemployed; and reinstatement assistance for those currently employed with arrearages due to the loss of employment related income. For further information call Housing Partnership Foreclosure Intervention Center at 973-659-1414.

There will be a presentation at the June meeting by the Morris County Family Success Center and in August there will be a presentation by NORWESCAP.

Ms. Zydel asked if the county was asked their advice on choosing the Family Success Center in Morris County. Ms. Becker stated that the Advisory Bodies weren't asked for input or to be a part of this process. Ms. Zydel stated perhaps we should submit a letter of concern. It doesn't seem that the agency they chose to be the Family Success Center got letters of support. Ms. Becker asked Ms. Zydel to give her some bullet points for Mr. Pinto to bring up in regard to this for the Directors meeting. Ms. Brands stated that she feels this is a good thing since there is now a new resource in the county. Ms. Becker agreed that it is a good idea to write a letter expressing concern over this. Mr. Pinto can bring this information to the Directors meeting and relay the value and importance of the local advisories being involved in this process.

Ms. Zydel stated that a Request for Funding Application (RFA) went out and there was a mandatory conference for bidders interested in applying to be the Family Success Center in Morris County. This agency attended the conference and filled out and submitted the application. The agency scored well and was given the award. Further discussion on this ensued. The committee expressed concern over the process and how it was developed. Perhaps Ms. Zydel and Ms. Becker can further discuss and give the committee an update at the next meeting.

The County is in the process of developing a new web site which will include lots of information. It will not replace 211 services but will be a directory and sharing of provider services. Information on the web site will be updated annually and will be put together by the providers.

The At-Risk Youth Assessment should be on the website in the end of the month. However, they ran into some technical glitches and got an extension. This Assessment should be completed by week end.

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

There was a short presentation on The Morris County Family Success Center which is located at 73 Bassett Highway, Dover, NJ, 973-620-9711. Family Success Centers are “one-stop” shops that provide wrap-around resources and supports for families before they find themselves in crisis. For further information call them. Some free services are offered and are listed on the flier distributed.

There was discussion on HEARTH regulations regarding a:

- Central Referral Chart - it was agreed that Ms. Carter will maintain an updated agency list to be used by the partners as a tool to appropriately refer the clients to other organizations.
- Universal Intake Form – it was agreed that instead of a lead agency, each organization will use the universal tool to screen for appropriate referrals. The intake form is to be redesigned in the future to meet all HEARTH/HUD recommendations.

Taissa Kelly, Monarch Housing, discussed CoC Scores for 2011 projects. Morris County scored a total of 74.75 out of 100. The National Average was 68. This represented a slight drop from last year.

CoC Housing Service Structure – 12.75 out of 14
Homeless Needs and Data Collection – 21.75 out of 26
Strategic planning – 12.25 out of 22
Performance – 22 out of 32
Housing services – 6 out of 6

Regarding the possible merger of CoC's, at this time, it was decided there will be no rush to merge with another CoC. Morris County will work on strengthening their CoC with a possible merge in the future.

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

The subcommittee met to reallocate 4 more available vouchers. They reviewed their original approach to awarding the vouchers. They amended the process to enable each program to be awarded up to 10% of their license capacity. Instead of reallocating by an age driven process reallocation will be by agencies rated the highest. The top rated agency was awarded 4 more vouchers. The subcommittee will review this process in 6 months.

Ms. Zydel distributed the Child & Family Resources MCHSAC Child Care Report. Ms. Zydel went over the information and the agencies that have unfilled vouchers at this time. There are currently 328 children and 251 families on the child care waiting list. The State provided additional funding to move the waiting list. There was a lot of advocacy done to help get more childcare funding. The hope is to move 138 families off the list now and about another 100 later.

XI. Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Investment Board – Jack Patten

The WIB is a member of the NJ Advanced Manufacturing Talent Network. The Network's goal is to supply skilled labor for New Jersey's key industries, which include manufacturers and training providers to increase the skills of manufacturing workers and to reduce their training time. As a result, Morris County Technical School (MCST) and County College of Morris (CCM) are using manufacturers' suggestions to develop a continuum of training for advanced manufacturing. Under the draft plan, students would take preparatory courses during their junior and senior years at MCST and then two additional years at CCM learning manufacturing skills. The program would conclude with an internship leading to full time employment. The plan seeks to reduce training time from six years of preparation to four and one-half years.

The NJ State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) have begun the process of certifying NJ WIBs. Certification requirements include performance, fiscal

management and board composition. Our WIB met with the SETC on April 3 and presented certification documentation. By September 30, the SETC will review all WIB documentation and inform WIBs of required “next steps.”

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

It would be great if more members could attend some Freeholder meetings. It’s important for the Freeholder’s to hear the community voice.

The Consumer and Family Forum will be held on June 12. This year the theme is “The Many Faces of Recovery – Standing Up to Stigma.” It will be held at Saint Francis Conference Center in Denville from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Hope to see everyone there.

The Co-Occurring Conference is being held on June 22. This year is “Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Skills for Serving Challenging Clients.” It will be held at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy in Parsippany from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Continuing Education Credits are available for this conference. Pre-registration is required and the fee is \$25. To register you may call 973-334-3496 x107.

Please save the date for September 13 for a seminar entitled “Bullying: Breaking the Trend.” This will be held at the PSTA from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Further information will follow.

Ms. Becker stated that she and Ms. Jacobson will be giving regular updates on expenditures of subgranted providers. Since the advisory board is now also watching the providers spending there is an added level of accountability. Ms. Carter may move in that direction with her subgrants as well.

Ms. Carter stated that her monitorings will be starting in July and August. At the next meeting sign up sheets will be sent around. This is a high priority item and the hope is that members will sign up to attend the monitorings.

Council on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans Report –Tom Pappas

There have been changes with the different departments at the state level. They are as follows:

The Department of Health and Senior Services is now the Department of Health; Senior Services is now with the Department of Human Services.

- Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) population will be under the following groups:
- DDD under 18 years of age – Department of Children and Family
- DDD over 21 years of age – Human Services
- DDD 18- 21 years of age – not sure where they will be assigned because benefits continuing from youth, but they are legally adults.

The State continues moving all Medicaid Long Term Care to a Managed Care arena. There are four workgroups working on finances, access to service, quality monitoring,

and the actual transition. The expected approval will be in July and the actual move will be January 1, 2013, with a gradual rollout.

A resolution honoring Morris Area Para transit system (MAPS) was presented at the April 11 Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting held at Morris View Healthcare Center.

The Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans distributed a needs assessment survey to the community. The department received back around 2,000 surveys. The surveys revealed that the top five needs are:

1. Affordable Prescription Coverage
2. Transportation
3. Home Health Aides
4. Housekeeping
5. Meals on Wheels

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

New Jersey AIDS Services (headquartered in Morris Plains) organized New Jersey AIDS Walk Morristown on Sunday, May 6, and reported they had over 400 registered walkers who raised more than \$50,000. Together with six other locations, more than \$250,000 was raised statewide. Speakers in the Morristown Green included Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, Morristown Mayor Timothy Dougherty and Morristown Council President Michelle Harris.

The Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (NEMA) HIV Health Services Planning Council serving Morris, Sussex, Warren, Union and Essex Counties, has completed a Comprehensive Health Plan for 2012-2014. Included in the document's epidemiological study are these statistics:

1. 759 people are living with HIV in Morris County. 55% of them have AIDS.
2. Morris-Sussex-Warren has 8% of the total HIV/AIDS population in the 5 county regions. About three quarters of the people living with HIV/AIDS live in Essex County, mostly in Newark.
3. Over the last four years the HIV/AIDS population NEMA wide has remained essentially the same.
4. In Morris county 67% of people living with HIV/AIDS are 45 years or older. This older epidemic reflects increasing diagnoses later in life, and individuals living longer with the HIV disease due to the life sustaining medications that are "aging into" these older age categories following a diagnosis at an earlier age.
5. In the Newark EMA, heterosexual transmission is the leading exposure to HIV, men having sex with men (MSM) is the second leading exposure category; with injection drug use (IDU) as third. In Morris County, MSM is first, heterosexual transmission is second and IDU is third.
6. Among youth age 13 to 24 and individuals age 25 to 34 the percent distribution of new diagnosis of HIV and AIDS is very high in comparison to the percent that are living with HIV or AIDS.
7. HIV disease has been the third cause of death in Newark since 1999. The rate is twice as high as New Jersey and three times that of the United States.

8. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 21% of the people infected with HIV in the Newark EMA are unaware that they are infected.

There is an increasing emphasis on treatment of HIV as prevention. People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) who are in treatment with an undetectable viral load (amount of virus in their bloodstream) are 96% less likely to transmit the virus to others than PLWHA who are not in treatment. Hence, the Comprehensive Health Plan emphasizes the importance of early intervention service (EIS) and bringing the unaware population (21%) into treatment. Education is referred to as both a prevention and treatment strategy.

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

XII. Old Business – None

XIII. New Business – None

XIV. Public Comment – None

XV. Adjournment –

There was a motion made by Ms. Zydel and seconded by Ms. Roers to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Fetzer MocarSKI
Program Development Aide