

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
November 17, 2015, 340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Township

Call to Order: The November 17, 2015 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Marcia Brands, Vice-Chair, at 5:05 p.m.

Members Present:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep., Liaison CoC Executive Committee
Marcia Brands, Vice Chair, Citizen Rep., Liaison Legislative Subcommittee
Kevin Collins, Liaison Child Care Resource and Referral
Linda Csengeto, Liaison OTA
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.
Xiomara Guevara, Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs
David Hollowell, Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep.

Also Attending:

Alp Dogus, NJDCF, Div. Family and Community Partnerships
Mary Giorlando, NJDHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Antonio Lopez, NJDCF, Div. Family and Community Partnerships
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS
Charmaine Thomas, Assistant Commissioner, NJDCF, Div. Family and Community Partnerships

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Brands, Vice-Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the Oct. 27 minutes was made by Ms. Mary Jane Melo and seconded by Mr. Ken Oexle. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention.

Presentation by Assistant Commissioner, Ms. Charmaine Thomas, Family Success Centers

Ms. Thomas and her staff were introduced. In an effort to save time, Marcia Brands asked board members to hold questions to the end of the meeting.

Mr. Lopez gave a slide show and presentation on Family Success Centers. He said there are 54 operational centers usually one center in each county. The Morris County Family Success Center is in Dover. Their mission is to help everyone in the community get together. They work to strengthen and direct families. They help people feel less alone and more like a family. The

centers are generally set up in homes to make the people feel comfortable. Community residents receive support, information and referral for assistance. The Morris Office has 3.5 staff members and relies heavily on work done by parent volunteers. The model strives to create an environment where you have neighbors helping neighbors. The design and delivery of services are guided by parents and through a Parent/Community Advisory Board.

In 2014 they served over 56,000 individuals. Those assisted were mostly families. They do not provide case management and are not a social service agency. They have classes at the centers such as ESL, nutrition, fun days, parties, Zumba, as well as various other activities requested by parent advisors. They work on helping build relationships and social connections.

The Morris County Center is located at 3 Bassett Highway in Dover. All services are free and they are open Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call for information about evening and weekend hours and other locations. Their number is 973-620-9711.

If anyone has questions or would like to speak further to Mr. Lopez he may be reached at 609-888-7401 or Antonio.lopez@dcf.state.nj.us.

At the end of the presentation Ms. Brands thanked Commissioner Thomas, Antonio Lopez and Alp Dogus for the presentation.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – No Report

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – Ms. Mary Giorlando

There is a small group of intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals and their families that are meeting to talk about changes that have occurred in the system. The State wants to get their input. They will get the information about these meetings out to the community. They are continuing with reforms and trying to learn what is and isn't working.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Protection and Permanency Mr. David Johnston – No Report

Staff Reports –

Ms. Becker

The 2016 award and declination letters are delayed. They will be going out this Friday.

Ms. Carter

At the HSAC state meeting Deputy Commissioner Johnson was there and gave an overview of the Intensive Case Management initiative being rolled out. They are looking at clients aged out of temporary housing programs. They want local selected providers to work with DFD with a focus on getting these people permanently housed.

Emily Baggett, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the Governor, talked about short and long term goals associated with New Jersey's Interagency Council on Homelessness. This cooperation and planning achievement serves to strengthen existing efforts by improving the coordination and

delivery of programs and services to those in need. The report may be found on the New Jersey Department of Human Services website at www.nj.gov/humanservices/news/hottopics/approved/homelessness.html.

An update on the modified regulations was reviewed. The draft will be forwarded to the Department Directors Association. The goal is that early next year an agreement will be reached and they will be put into effect.

Ms. Becker asked if the changes relate to the role of the HSAC. Ms. Carter doesn't think there is a lot of changes for us and believes they are seeking more of a local voice.

Mr. Tamayo stated that the Directors met with Commissioners and an issue has come up in regard to the HSAC and the RFP process. This process will change. Ms. Carter said that they discussed incorporating the role of the Department Directors in policy level thinking by way of the Commissioner's Executive Advisory Committee. They also discussed following the mental health model with respect to communication between State and local Departments.

Subcommittee Reports –

Planning Child Care – Voucher System Update – Mr. Kevin Collins

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. Child & Family Resources, Morris County's childcare resource and referral agency, is serving all eligible applicants and receive about 20 new applications a week. They are proud there is no wait list in New Jersey. They have served 86,000 families in New Jersey.

They currently have one unutilized dedicated voucher at Neighborhood House and two at Mt. Olive CCC. The 30 day clock is still in effect.

Some discussion ensued about certifications for child care centers and staff. A lot of child care workers now have to pay for their own certifications since there isn't money to pay for that anymore.

Nominating Committee – Charles LaRussa/Mary Jane Melo

Ms. Melo presented Ken Oexle for Chair for 2016 and Tom Pepe for Vice Chair. The vote will take place at the January board meeting.

Youth Homelessness – No Report

Advisory Committee Reports –

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Mr. David Hollowell Name Change

As per the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act of 2014, effective immediately, the entities formerly known as Workforce Investment Boards are renamed Workforce Development Boards. However, in anticipation of possible branding initiatives by the United States Department of Labor and / or the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Morris, Sussex, Warren Workforce Development Board will delay changing stationery and marketing material until federal and state branding intentions are clear.

Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funding

The NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development recently provided the Workforce Development Board with \$299,063 in Workforce Development Partnership Program (WDPP) funds to be expended by June 2016. WDPP requires that 75% of funding be spent on direct training, 15% on counseling and 10% on administration. The WDPP program permits more flexible contracting than WIOA and provides a valuable supplement to WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funds.

Mr. Oexle asked if the WIB can help pay for training for workers to get certified for the child care centers? Mr. Hollowell will look into it.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – No Report

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Charles LaRussa

- Ms. Jennifer Malec, Mental Health Association of Morris County, presented on the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program (also known as Involuntary Outpatient Commitment). AOT refers to mental health laws that allow for mandated, community-based, mental health treatment for individuals with mental illness who, as a result of their mental illness, meet a legal standard for outpatient commitment. Ms. Malec explained the criteria for this program and how a person can get into the program. There are four clients in Morris County in this program.
- The Countywide Prevention Forum was on November 4 at the Morris Museum featuring bestselling author David Sheff, whose son is in recovery from addiction. The forum was very well attended and Mr. Sheff gave an excellent and informative presentation.
- The John Brooks Recovery Center in Atlantic City announced this week it would close its long term residential addiction recovery in the spring unless it can find money to keep it open in a new facility. The agency will continue to provide outpatient services. The planned closure is in great part due to the State not increasing the service rates of reimbursement as had been expected in July 2015. Allowing the long-term residential facility to close will force individuals with addiction disorders seeking treatment to wait even longer for help. Morris County regularly refers individuals to this agency from its Drug Court. The MHSAB will send a letter of advocacy to the Governor and Commissioner of the NJ Department of Human Services in support of the need for and the continuation of the Long Term Recovery Center.

The next MHSAB meeting will be on Jan. 14 at 5:15 p.m. at 30 Schuyler Place, Morristown. All are welcome.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – No Report

Youth Services Advisory Council – No Report

Partnership Announcements –

Ms. Becker stated that the CoC Executive Committee will be meeting Thursday. There is still a lot of work to be done. They are going into their third year.

Old Business – None**New Business –**

Mr. Tamayo said that his role has changed and he will now be on the program side. He will do more community work and try to attend more of the board meetings. They are still doing work with Sandy. There were a lot of programs and some folks still need help. Most the programs were supposed to end in Sept. 2015. They have negotiated with the Federal government and extended thirteen of the programs. Some of the programs they are extending are rental assistance, the lifts program, mental health, legal programs, etc. There was a lot of auditing and oversight with Sandy issues. There was almost \$226 million spent and a lot of things were done right. Fortunately Morris County was not that impacted by Sandy.

Mr. Tamayo stated that this year is the first year that budget hearings will not be held. The hearings gave folks a chance to voice their concerns. Since there is less staff it is harder to do this type of hearing. They are still asking for comments about the top issues financially and programmatically. Written responses are being taken and are due in writing by November 20. Ms. Carter asked if Mr. Tamayo to send the board the link to the website for this. Mr. Tamayo said the budget process goes until June so even if responses are a little late they should still be reviewed. Ms. Brands stated she is disappointed that there won't be public hearings. She feels this is important. Mr. Tamayo suggested mentioning this in the comments.

Adjournment –

Mr. Tom Pappas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Ken Oexle seconded the motion. All were in favor and meeting was adjourned with no abstentions and no opposition.