

Human Services Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 2011  
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep./Tri-County AIDS Advisory  
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep.  
Linda Csengeto, CEAS/COC/OTA  
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.  
Elizabeth Manley, Caring Partners  
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.  
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.  
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep.

Also Attending:

Shelia Carter, MCDHS  
Susan Jones, DCF/DYFS  
Elizabeth McGovern, DCF/DFYS  
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS  
Frank Pinto, MCDHS  
Luis Tamayo, DHS

- I. **Call to Order** – The November meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Ken Oexle, Chair.
- II. **Welcome and Introductions** – Everyone was welcomed and introductions were made.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made to approve the October 26, 2011 minutes was made by Linda Csengeto and seconded by Mary Jane Melo. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition.
- IV. **County of Morris Department of Human Services – Frank Pinto**  
The Department of Human Services (DHS) Fall Budget Forum for Fiscal Year 2013 will be held on December 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Hamilton Township, NJ. This is a great opportunity for stakeholders and public to provide oral and written testimony for the FY2013 state budget. Oral presentations are strictly limited to 3 minutes. For further information call (609) 292-3703 or email [Sandra.Graves@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:Sandra.Graves@dhs.state.nj.us).

November is Caregiver's month and a Resolution recognizing this was presented at the Freeholders meeting. Caregiver's month has traditionally been a time to recognize the importance of thanking, supporting and empowering family caregivers.

There will be a Countywide Prevention Forum Wednesday, November 16, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It will be held at the Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph, NJ. If you haven't already registered, please contact Steve Nebesni, Municipal Alliance Coordinator, at 973 285-6860. To date, 175 conference registrations have been received.

The following non profits were visited this month: The Mental Health Association of Morris County, Hope House and the United Way of Northern New Jersey. The following agencies will be visited next month: NORWESCAP and Homeless Solutions. Interfaith Food Pantry ribbon cutting ceremony is today.

The Morris County Senior Nutrition Program serves a half million meals a year. Sodexo won the bid for 2012 to provide food service for the Nutrition Program. This will begin January 3, 2012. Sodexo will slowly make some changes in the menus and services. They plan to have Chefs cook at the Nutrition Sites from time to time and provide other unique activities.

**V. County of Morris Planning and Development, Division of Community Development – Sabine VonAulock**

Agencies applying for the Community Block or Emergency Solutions Grant must have applications in by the first Friday in January, 2012. Additional information may be obtained at [ww.morrisplanning.org/divisions/community](http://ww.morrisplanning.org/divisions/community).

The Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) is in transition. Until HEARTH rules are finalized, the old ESG program is in effect. Afterwards, the new Emergency Solutions Grant, strongly mimicking the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, will take effect. The 2011 ESG award to Morris County was \$99,417; additional funding of \$55,922 has been announced but not finalized with HUD.

**VI. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Luis Tamayo**

A Press Release of November 14, 2011 announced the \$3.65 million award for seventeen addiction prevention organizations to develop regional, evidence-based addiction and substance use prevention strategies that target at-risk groups. The seventeen regional coalitions were selected to advance this programming will focus efforts on reducing the rate of abuse among youth and adults across the state.

N.J. Spotlight now has information available on the Medicaid Waiver on their website [NJSpotlight.com](http://NJSpotlight.com).

On Dec. 16 there will be a meeting on the Medicaid waiver. They are not sure yet when it will be approved. It has taken a long time and the planned savings will be affected.

At the Debriefing on Disaster Relief Morris County was highlighted as doing a great job during various recent times of disaster. Morris County was highlighted as a model to follow.

**VII. New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Elizabeth McGovern**  
Kara Wood is Director of Division of Youth & Family Services (DYFS) as of October 25, 2011. There are some other changes. Robert Sabreen is appointed as Deputy Commissioner and Christine Norbut-Mozes as Assistant Commissioner. Part of Ms. Norbut’Mozes position is overseeing the Office Performance Management and Accountability. The office has been reorganized and now has additional responsibilities. There is now an Institutional Abuse Investigating Unit which is responsible for investigating schools, institutions and foster homes. This office will also oversee office licensing.

The Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS) announced the appointment of Deputy Directory, Dr. E. Ehrenberg, licensed psychologist with 30 years in the field. The 2011 annual Aging Performance Report was issued and is available on the DCBHS website.

In October 2011 referrals were as follows:

- Morris East                    92
- Morris West                    134
- Total New Referrals    226

A Request for Funding Proposal (RFP) for over \$400,000 went out for therapy services. There was a bidder’s conference on October 27, 2011. There was a full house of interested service providers. Those providers interested had to submit their applications by November 30. The committee will then review the applications and give their recommendations to the Commissioner before Christmas. There have been many families linked to other counseling services. Some families are continuing to work with the same therapists. They are hoping that the new vendor will start up in March.

**VIII. Staff Report – Shelia Carter**

The Department has been working on funding contracts to get money into the community. Award letters to agencies receiving subgrants went out on November 10. The HUD Continuum of Care (COC) application for \$1,361,736 was submitted on October 28, 2011.

**IX. Subcommittee Reports –  
CEAS – Ms. Csengeto**

Project Homeless Connect will take place on December 8, 2011 at St. Peter’s Church. Numerous services will be provided including: agency referrals, haircuts, massages, flu shots, clothing, etc.

The annual Point-In-Time Count of Morris County sheltered and unsheltered homeless will take place January 25, 2012.

**Nominating Subcommittee – Mary Jane Melo**

Ken Oexle, Chair and Tom Pappas, Vice Chair were presented for the 2012 slate of officers. The actual vote will occur in January.

**X. Advisory Committee Reports**

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

YSAC will be meeting on Thursday.

**Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – David Hollowell**

David Hollowell’s report for the Workforce Investment Board was read by Pat Mocarski. The WIB is a member of the Northern New Jersey Health Professionals Pathways grant (NNJHPP). The grant is a capacity building initiative to strengthen and expand health care industry occupational training through workforce readiness and integrated basic skills preparation, workforce supportive services, and occupational skill development leading to certification and employment for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and other low income participants.

On December 5, the grant partners will host a Regional Business Summit for area healthcare providers. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit the providers’ guidance on the current healthcare labor market and related training programs. Interested healthcare providers may call Jack Patten at 973-829-8400 x232.

**Decreasing H1 B Dependence**

The WIB is also a partner in the Northern new Jersey Information Technology and Professional Scientific and Technical Services (“STEM”)<sup>1</sup> Career Development Project, which will deliver training to overcome skill shortages in the H-1B high growth occupations of information technology (IT) and STEM. H1 B visas allow American businesses to temporarily hire foreign workers in specialty occupations.

The training project will offer industry certifications and credentials in IT and STEM professions to support career development and advancement opportunities for incumbent workers of businesses in Northern New Jersey. The project goal is to increase IT and STEM skills of incumbent workers of businesses in Northern New Jersey in order to address skills deficiencies and reduce corporate dependence on foreign workers.

<sup>1</sup>The Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sector, as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, comprises establishments that specialize in performing professional, scientific, and technical activities for others. These activities require a high degree of expertise and training. The establishments in this sector specialize according to expertise and provide these services to clients in a variety of industries and, in some cases, to households. Activities performed include, but are not limited to the following: engineering, and specialized design services; computer services; consulting services; research services; and other professional, scientific, and technical services.

**Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board (MHSAAAB) – Charles LaRussa and Laurie Becker**

MHSAAAB met last week and Saint Clare's gave a presentation on changes and downsizing of their behavioral health services. The clients in group homes have been moved into supportive housing. Most clients are now living in apartments with their own leases. Group homes are not being utilized as often in order to get clients into more permanent housing.

The Saint Clare's CARES program (respite house) is discontinued. The State put out another Request for Funding Proposal (RFP) for a portion of the \$600,000 for similar services.

Ms. Becker stated that the MHSAAAB is making a written statement to send in prior to the Budget Forum. The MHSAAAB has one vacancy left for a new board member. If anyone is interested please contact Ms. Becker at (973) 285-6852

**Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Tom Pappas**

There will be a cost of living increase in Social Security in 2012. Therefore, PAAD and Senior Gold eligibility guidelines will change. The income guidelines for PAAD for a single person will be \$25,312 and for a couple it will be \$31,035. The income guidelines for Senior Gold for a single person will be \$35,312 and \$41,035 for a couple.

Open enrollment for Medicare D to change your prescription plan is only until December 7.

The Board of Chose Freeholders has designated the month of November Caregiver Awareness Month.

Since 2000 to 2010 there has been a 27 percent increase in people over the age of 60 living in Morris County. There has also been a 55 percent increase of people 85 living in the County.

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

The Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (NEMA) HIV Health Services Planning Council, which includes Morris County in its region of service, met on October 19 in Newark.

The Planning Committee approved the FY'2012 Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Report for the Ryan White Part program. Many funding changes this year reflect Health Resources and Service Administration's (HRSA) changes in requirements for Medical Case Management and Case Management, Non-medical.

New Mental Health and Substance Treatment Standards were approved.

The 2011 Needs Assessment was approved. The three categories examined for review included: Clients Lost to Services, Youth (individuals aged 18-29), and Mental Health Services.

The Needs Assessment recommended increased funding for mental health services – especially psychiatric services – and bilingual psychiatric services. Lack of access to psychiatric care remains a problem. Dr. Robert Johnson, Chair of the Planning Council and Dean of New Jersey Medical School, emphasized the important correlation between mental health services and compliance with HIV treatment and that improving mental health treatment is in line with the goals of the Ryan White program and yields better results. Last year, 84% of HIV clients surveyed indicated that they had dealt with some sort of substance abuse and/or mental health issue.

Surveys of youth with HIV revealed an emphasis on lack of understanding of the healthcare system and how to navigate it.

The Newark EMA received a 2.5% reduction in funding this year. The grant application to HRSA for FY 2012 was submitted in October.

There was discussion of pre-exposure prophylaxis, i.e. making anti-retroviral medications available to HIV negative people who have been recently exposed to HIV, or expect to be exposed to HIV in the near future.

Occupational exposure, i.e. exposure at work, is currently funded. Non-occupational exposure i.e. sexual activity with an HIV positive individual is not always covered. Dr. Robert Johnson stated that individuals who are at high risk of contracting HIV can benefit from taking anti-retroviral treatment, and that prophylaxis is the most powerful tool available for prevention in high risk populations. The highest risk group is African American and Latin American men who have sex with men. Dr. Johnson explained that there is a big controversy about whether funds for prevention should be shifted over to provide pre-exposure prophylaxis to these at-risk groups.

The Morris-Sussex-Warren AIDS Advisory Committee has not met since the last HSAC meeting and will meet on November 22 at 11:00 a.m. at Hope House in Dover.

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

#### **XI. Old Business – None**

#### **XII. New Business –**

Ms. Carter asked the committee if they wanted to continue meeting at 340 West Hanover Avenue or return meetings to Morristown in 2012. Discussion ensued. It seems that about half the committee members live closer to this location and the

other half live closer to Morristown. Mr. Pinto said that this meeting room is actually more spacious and a better room for meetings. The decision was made that the committee will continue to have meetings at 340 West Hanover Avenue for 2012.

Ms. Becker stated that on Dec. 7 the Cross Systems Review Meeting will be held at 340 West Hanover Avenue. Raquel Mazon Jeffers, Director of the Division of Addiction Services, will be giving an update on the Medicaid Waiver. She is interested in the Cross Systems Meeting and learning about what they do. Ms. Mazon Jeffers is also available to give presentations to other groups on the Medicaid Waiver. All are welcome to come to the Dec. 7 meeting to hear the presentation. The meeting starts at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Tamayo stated that perhaps the Associated Childcare New Jersey (ACNJ) would give a presentation at one of the HSAC meetings on the issues surrounding school breakfasts. This program has been quite successful. Ms. Carter will work with Mr. Tamayo to set up a presentation.

Ms. VonAulock stated that Our Place will be hosting an open house on Monday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Our Place is location in the basement of the First Baptist Church on Washington Street in Morristown. The open house is a great opportunity to meet and greet the folks there.

**XIII. Public Comment – None**

**XIV. Adjournment –**

Robert Armstrong made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Charles LaRussa.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski  
Program Development Aide