

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
October 24, 2012
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep., MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep./United Way N.N.J.
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep. (arrived at 5:45 p.m.)
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep.
Michelle Roers, United Way of N.N.J. (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources (departed at 5:50 p.m.)

Also Attending:

Joel Aronson, Guest/Advisory Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans
Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Christine Rivera, DCF - DCP & P
Jack Patten, MSW WIB
Frank Pinto, MCDHS
Pat MocarSKI, MCDHS
Kathy Siegrist, Family Resource Center
Sabine VonAulock, M.C. Community Development
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)

- I. Call to Order** – The Oct. 24 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 September 26, 2012 Minutes** – Mr. Pappas made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Roers seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no opposition and two abstentions.

Mr. Oexle stated that there are currently two members on the nominating committee and it is required that there are three on the committee. Mr. Armstrong volunteered to serve on the committee. The Nominating Committee was convened. The slate of nominees will be presented at the next general meeting.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – Frank Pinto

Mr. Pinto stated that everyone should take a look at the County website. There is lots of great information on it. Please go to www.morrishumanservices.org.

There has been a lot of positive feedback on the website. Please let Mr. Pinto know if you have any feedback or ideas for changes that would improve it.

Last week the Disabilities Forum was held at 340 West Hanover Avenue in Morris Plains. There is information on the county website about this and other events. The focus of this event was on transportation for the disabled and responding to the many challenges of being a caregiver and included an overview of Alzheimer's disease. There is much concern about the difficulty folk's encounter finding a ride especially in an emergency situation. It is hard to get around in most of this county and transportation is a major concern.

Please let Ms. Carter know if you want to continue on the board for 2013 since it is time for reappointment for the New Year.

Ms. Carter added there are a couple members that were off that wish to rejoin the Board. The desire is to have a high ratio of volunteer members that are not associated with non profit agencies (Citizen Representatives).

There is concern over the Medicare Managed issues and Peer Grouping money. The county receives a lot of money for the nursing home through this funding. There is \$3.7 million from this funding that goes to Morris County. Over \$800,000 of this money goes back into local agencies that provide services to help seniors remain in the community. Some of these agencies are DAWN Center for Independent Living, The Arc, Employment Horizons, Visiting Nurse, etc. This money is also a major issue to the county since a large portion of it goes to Medicaid clients at the County Nursing Home. If there is a loss of Peer Grouping money the County Nursing Home will loose a lot of money for its Medicaid clients. It may be hard for County Nursing Homes to stay in business since they get a lot of their income from this funding. Potentially the Medicaid money is at risk. Not sure when this will or will not go into effect.

The Medicaid Waiver was approved and reviews are now pending.

IV. County of Morris Planning and Development – Sabine VonAulock

November is National Homelessness Awareness Month. A presentation was made by ten providers to the Freeholders at their working meeting. The providers gave overviews of what they do and whom they serve and the issues many folks in the community are facing. The presentations were very well received. There are plans to post the presentations on the Human Services Website at www.morrishumanservices.org. A list of events for the month was distributed. These events are sponsored by providers of services to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

There are three grant applications due in early January (Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships Program Grant). Amounts are unknown however there is the threat of sequestration, which

would result in 9% cuts in all domestic programs. This would be in addition to any other budget reductions for 2013.

V. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Luis Tamayo

On October 2 Commissioner Velez got a letter from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) confirming approval of the Medicaid Waiver. There were a few pieces that weren't approved yet but most pieces were approved.

The waiver was submitted to CMS in Sept. 2011. There were many stakeholder meetings before and after the submission to garner their input. It's a wide ranging and very innovative proposal – the goal of which is to advance positive reforms for the populations served by the Medicaid program – including seniors, people with disabilities, people with mental illness and addictions, and people with developmental disabilities. They are very focused on delivery system reforms, quality and health outcomes – not merely enrollment numbers. They are also focused on increasing the availability of home and community based services and supports – and decreasing the rates of institutionalization – in developmental centers, psychiatric hospitals and in nursing homes.

Fundamentally, this waiver is a comprehensive set of reforms that will define the Medicaid delivery system over a five-year demonstration period. The intent is to consolidate nine separate waivers that are managed across state government into one. The consolidation alone will provide administrative simplification and improve service delivery.

There are three very significant proposals in this application that have been the subject of much recent stakeholder discussion: innovations and reforms for children and adults with developmental disabilities, managing behavioral health services, and movement to managed long term care. Although they originally proposed aggressive implementation dates for these delivery system changes, they are mindful that CMS is still working through policy and budget decisions that will impact the waiver, and they expect to recalibrate implementation.

Further information on the Waiver can be found on the website at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/home/waiver.html> or by calling the Family Support Organization at 1 800-372-6510.

On November 2 the State HSAC meeting will be held. There are basically two items on the Agenda. The Commissioner will be there. Medicaid representatives will also be there to talk about changes in the system and answer questions. The Dec. 7 Directors meeting is also scheduled for discussion.

Ms. Hirtes stated that a lot of providers are concerned regarding the Medicaid changes. Providers are concerned that they will be losing some money in reimbursements especially for mental health services. Some further discussion ensued.

Division of Developmental Disabilities – No Report

VI. New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Child Protection and Permanency - Christine Rivera

Please note the new name of the Division is the Division of Child Protection and Permanency. No other report.

VII. Staff Report – Shelia Carter/Laurie Becker

2012 Missing and Exploited Children’s Funds Project – Ms. Carter

The Morris County Department of Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health & Youth Services manages a small pot of money targeting projects related to missing and exploited children. This year, the Division is considering an opportunity to partner with the Deidre O’Brien Center to produce multiple copies of a DVD on how to recognize child abuse and respond to it. The agency provides training to various schools/youth groups and would like to have a tool to leave behind for reference. The DVD would also be made available to the general public via the Morris County Department of Human Services website. A motion was made by Debi Merz to use the \$2,982 for the video project and seconded by Jeff Bashe. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. The motion was carried.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports –

Planning Subcommittee Report – Morris County Youth and Family At-Risk Needs Assessment – Cynthia Degazon

The subcommittee met and reviewed the Youth and Family At-Risk Needs Assessment. This was a collaborative initiative conducted by Morris County Department of Human Services and the New Jersey Department of Children & Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency and a wide range of community stakeholders who serve at-risk youth and families or those who have benefited from services.

The needs assessment was conducted through a focus group process and augmented with a written community survey. A local resource inventory was also developed to determine availability of services and resulting gaps. Additional data was considered from several County, State and National planning documents specific to youth and families.

Mr. Bashe asked what this survey will be used for. Ms. Becker stated that it is a good start. The needs assessment can be shared with the Youth Services Advisory Council and the Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board. They can take this survey information into consideration for their funding priorities and incorporate into the funding process. Ms. Roers stated that many hospitals have been doing community needs surveys and trying to figure out prevalent health issues in the area since there is a lot of overlap of services. There needs to be more collaboration in order to avoid overlap and to develop more integration of services. Further discussion ensued. The report will go to the State Department of Children and Families for their use.

Motion was made by Ms. Brands to approve the Needs Assessment Report and present it to the Freeholders for their approval in November. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. There was no opposition and no abstentions. The motion was carried.

Planning Subcommittee

Childcare Update – report by Rebekka Zydel

Child & Family Resources has been given the directive to serve all children on the waiting list and including eligible children that apply. At the end of last month there were 74 children on the list. The New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development is changing the way contracts are administered to make funding more fluid throughout the state to benefit the greatest number of children in need.

32 Dedicated Vouchers were reallocated; 11 vouchers have been reallocated to Morris County RFA Roster recipients. 10 vouchers were awarded to KinderCare Learning Center, Mount Arlington and 1 awarded to Salvation Army Day Care Center, Morristown.

Seven Childcare Center Dedicated Vouchers were converted to traditional vouchers for families to use at childcare facilities of their choosing.

CEAS/CoC – Linda Csengeto

There was a discussion on the lack of affordable apartments, i.e. ones that meet the Fair Market Rent. Community Hope is searching for a three-bedroom unit at \$1,500/month including utilities.

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) will be held on December 6, 2012 at St. Peter's Church in Morristown. They are asking people who have resource tables to stay for the entire event from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Set up will begin at 8:30 a.m. with opening ceremonies at 9:00 a.m.

There was a discussion on S.O.A.R. (Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Outreach, Access and Recovery Program), which is SAMHSA's (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association) SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery Technical Assistance Center. This national project is designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the [Social Security Administration \(SSA\)](#) for eligible adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. This puts all vital information and medical reports together before the interview to speed the process and have applications approved quickly. MHAMC (Mental Health Association of Morris County) staff is currently being trained.

IX. Advisory Committee Report

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Jack Patten

On October 2, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development issued a Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO) for Adult Literacy Services. However the

NGO states that WIBs are not eligible applicants, funds cannot be used for Learning Links and that WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Title II Adult Education providers cannot apply and subgrant funds to WIBs. The state feels the Learning Links should be placed elsewhere. The state held a bidders contest and there were very few applicants. The state hopes a faith based organization will pick this up. Although this office had one of the best office performances in the state, the WIB will be out of the literacy business for now. With all the funding opportunities exhausted, the Learning Links will close by mid-November.

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

An over-the-counter home HIV test, OraQuick, is now available at pharmacies for about \$40.00. It is an oral swab test and does not involve a blood stick. Hopefully this test will address privacy and stigma concerns which can be a barrier to HIV testing. The purpose of the home test is to eventually bring an increased number of undiagnosed infected individuals into care and treatment. The home HIV test was discussed at the Newark HIV Health Services Planning Council and several concerns were raised:

- Keeping the integrity of the testing kit up to standard, i.e. temperature of the testing kit during transportation to the pharmacies as the kits can be compromised if they get too hot;
- Expiration dates honored on the shelves as expired kits can lead to false results. There were also concerns raised about false results due to people not following directions properly and concerns that those who test positive may not have access to counseling. The challenge is a way to identify those who test positive and link them to care.

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee did not meet since the last meeting and will meet on November 27 at 11:00 a.m. at New Jersey AIDS Services in Morris Plains.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Charles LaRussa

At the October 11 Advisory meeting, the Municipal Alliance funding recommendations were reviewed and approved by the board. Valerie Larosiliere, Assistant Director, Office of Treatment and Recovery Support, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) spoke and gave an overview of what her department does.

DMHAS provides oversight, expertise and support over predominantly community-based, specialty services that are focused on supporting an individual's community tenure through the provision of treatment and recovery supports such as Acute Care Services, Housing and Residential Services, Information and Referral, Intoxicated Driving Program, Justice Involved Services, Multicultural Services, Programs for Assertive Community Treatment, Supported Education and Supported Employment, Services to Families, Veteran's Services and Workforce Development. It was an informative presentation.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans (ACADV) – Tom Pappas

The Medicare open enrollment period is from October 15 until December 7. Each year Medicare Part D changes so it is very important for individuals to check their prescriptions at www.medicare.gov to see your options.

The annual conference for Caregivers of Alzheimer's Dementia patients was held at the Public Safety Training Academy on October 20.

MAPS (Morris Area Paratransit System) submitted two applications to New Jersey Transit, the Non-Urbanized 5311 Program Application on June 15 and the Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Program Application on June 25.

Funding recommendations for Peer Grouping and Older Americans Act were approved by the ACADV.

United Way of Northern New Jersey, Success by Six – Michelle Roers

They have been working with Child & Family Resources and the County on the Needs Assessment.

YSAC – No Report

X. Old Business – None

XI. New Business – None

XII. Public Comment – None

XIII. Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on November 13.

Respectfully Submitted,

|

Patricia MocarSKI
Program Development Aide