

Human Services Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2011
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep./Tri-County AIDS Advisory
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep./UWNJ Success by Six
Linda Csengeto, CEAS/COC/OTA
Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep.
David Hollowell, Citizen Rep./Workforce Invest. Board
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep./NewBridge Services
Kathy McKeithen, Citizen Rep.
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Debby Miller, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep.
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern NJ
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
David Johnston, DYFS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS
Frank Pinto, MCDHS
Luis Tamayo, State DHS
Sabine VonAulock, MC Community Development
Wendy Zoccola, DDD/Div. of Development Disabilities

- I. Call to Order** – The October meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) was called to order at 5:30 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 September 21, 2011 minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Mary Jane Melo and seconded by Tom Pappas. All were in favor with two abstentions by Charles LaRussa and Rebekka Zydel. There was no opposition.
- IV. County of Morris Department of Human Services – Frank Pinto**
Mr. Pinto stated that members of the Council are annual appointments that require reappointment to their positions. Please let Shelia know whether or not you are interested in remaining on the Council.

Due to constant requests from nonprofits to share information within our community and get the word out about public events, a Department goal for 2012 will be to revamp

the County of Morris Department of Human Services website to make it more user friendly. A calendar will be embedded where nonprofits, with Departmental approval, can display their information. The Department website will become a central point where all the nonprofits and public at large can find information about what everyone is doing and services provided. The main page will also contain information for all Human Services Advisory Boards.

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

Ms. Becker and Ms. VonAulock made a presentation at the Freeholders meeting this morning on the collaboration between the two Departments. Ms. VonAulock passed out a chart displaying the programs and services the Departments worked on together.

Human Services and Community Development often consult each other since, at times, they both fund the same agencies. However, there are different time frames for annual allocations. Laurie thanked Sabine for creating the chart and explained how the two Departments work closely to ensure the funding compliments each other. The list provided isn't all inclusive but does show a lot of the work done together.

VI. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Luis Tamayo

The Global Waiver was submitted on September 9. There are two provisions of the waiver there were problematic.

- The eligibility level for a family of three was \$5,000.
- The co-pay for emergency room treatment was \$25.

Both of these are now off the waiver. Due to the commitment of many people the community's voice is being heard.

The State has had many requests to come out and explain the Global Waiver process. They are going to combine the Director's and State Human Services Advisory meetings into one. This combined meeting will be held on December 16. At this meeting Valerie Harr will be discussing the new waiver process. There are also specialized meetings throughout the state to explain this process. It would be good for folks to reach out to the Medicaid Office directly and ask for presentations. The waiver is not actually approved yet. However, there is urgency to get this waiver approved since it will present \$300 million in savings. Time is eating at this savings.

There will be a State Department of Human Services Budget Forum held on December 9 at the Division of Development Disabilities Central Office located at Gateway 195, 5 Commerce Way, Suite 100, Hamilton Township, NJ. The time of this forum is from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Public voice at this forum helps to shape the State Department of Human Service upcoming budget.

The closing of Vineland and Hagedorn is off the table. The last update was that there is a bill making its way to the Governor's office trying to void the closure of both facilities. If neither of these facilities close, there will still be another center that will

have to be closed. Ms. Delaney stated that the money saved by closing one of these developmental centers could be used to help over 8,000 folks that are waiting for placement.

VII. New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Dave Johnston

Acting Director Kara Wood has been appointed as the new Director. Sue Jones was appointed September 12 as the new Manager of the Morris East office. She will be attending the next Advisory meeting.

In September 2011 referrals were as follows:

- Morris East - 80
- Morris West - 134
- Total New Referrals 214

Although this is low for September, October may be higher.

Saint Clare's stated they don't intend to renew the contract regarding psychiatric services. A Request for Funding Proposal was published. There will be a Bidder's Conference tomorrow at 12:00 p.m. Proposals were due at the end of November. The committee will then review the proposals in December and make a decision in January. It is a challenge to look at 140 individuals currently being served to see what they need. They want to make a smooth transition. They stopped new referrals as of last Friday. It seems that many hospitals are getting out of the behavioral health field. It is believed the reason for this is due to the high overhead that is incurred.

Michelle Roers stated that Saint Clare's had a community meeting. They are still working on what they will do and possible partnerships that may be formed with other hospitals. They are looking at how to sustain themselves.

VIII. Staff Report – Shelia Carter

The County has a new software system called McContacts used only by County employees. The system can be used for emailing, label making and event planning.

Award and Declination letters for 2012 are being prepared and will be going out on November 10, 2011.

Shelia will be attending the State Global Waiver meeting on December 16. The HSAC may want to present ideas at the Fall Budget Forum on December 6. Written testimony may also be presented to Sandra.Graves@dhs.state.nj.us.

The next HSAC Advisory meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15. This is a week earlier than usual due to the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no December meeting unless necessary.

**IX. Subcommittee Reports –
CEAS – No Report**

Program Review – Emergency Solutions Grant - Jeff Bashe

The Emergency Solutions Grant was presented to the Freeholder’s for their approval at the October 12 meeting. The recommendation was for \$99,000 for 2011, contingent upon the HEARTH Act being funded.

Planning Subcommittee – Childcare Dedicated Voucher Update – Rebekka Zydel

Revisions were made and the proposed Dedicated Voucher Plan was submitted to the Division of Family Development (DFD). Ms. Becker questioned where other counties are in this process. Ms. Zydel stated that she believes most counties are at the same point in the process. Rebekka doesn’t think any counties have yet submitted the Request for Funding Application (RFA) yet. The first conversions (2,500) were in July, second conversions (3,000) in October, and third conversions (4,000) will be in January. There are about 1,000 slots that are not able to be filled. It may be some families are not eligible any longer and there may also be some disconnects.

Parsippany Child Care Center has already converted to the Dedicated Voucher System and they are full. Rebekka Zydel reported there are 278 families on the Child Care Resource & Referral Agency waiting list.

Ms. Zydel stated that they will need a vote by the committee for the County of Morris RFA to go out in November. A motion was made by Tom Pappas and seconded by Jeff Bashe. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention by Charles LaRussa.

Ms. Zydel stated that on Monday the Division of Family Development (DFD) postponed e-Child Care (ECC) statewide implementation. They will hold regional training for providers on how to use the system. Mr. Tamayo thanked Rebekka and the community for doing such a fine job on the Childcare Dedicated Voucher process.

X. Advisory Committee Reports –

XI. Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) – Liz Manley

- There was a presentation by New Pathways on the Student Outreach Athletic Recovery (SOAR) Program.
- The committee reviewed a subgrant modification by Creative Heartworks.
- The 2012-2014 County Comprehensive Youth Services Plan and 2012 Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Funding Application was submitted.
- The Planning Subcommittee reviewed the County Interagency Coordinating Council. Jessica Trombetta from the Office of Adolescent Services presented information about the office. The office has created a strategic plan that includes housing, education and employment for youth aging out of the child serving system. The office is also working with Rutgers to provide the Division of Youth & Family Service (DYFS) workers with Adolescent Certificates; this

is a 15 credit course which is mostly on-line. Their next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 14, at 10:00 a.m.

- At the Systems Review Subcommittee meeting Caring Partners reported that Community Resource Development Funds \$25,000 had been distributed to the Center for Prevention and Counseling in Sussex County and Youth Advocate Program for Morris and Sussex. Both of these organizations will expand the availability of outpatient services for youth. The system is currently experiencing a number of Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) closures. Saint Clare's is closing their IOP in both Morris and Sussex and the Center for Protection of Children is also closing. There is a lot of concern about the impact on the system with these program closures.
- The Legislative Subcommittee reviewed Assembly Bill No. A1561 which passed on September 16 and allows for diversionary programming for juveniles who are criminally charged with "sexting" or posting sexual images. Bill A973 received an absolute veto on September 13, this bill created a Juvenile Task Force to examine the procedures in which a youth is waived to the adult system. The subcommittee also discussed and created a slate of officers for YSAC for 2012 Chair and Co-Chair. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at Morris County Department of Human Services (MCDHS), Morristown.
- The Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Program will meet on November 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.
- The Disproportionate Minority Concerns subcommittee participated in the Cultural Competency Training sponsored by Morris County Prevention is Key. The training focused on Disproportionate Minority Concerns. The next meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services.
- The Education Partnership provided a cross training on October 19 which focused on the Children's System of Care and provided a resource fair. The next Education Partnership meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the MCDHS.

The next YSAC meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, at 2:30 p.m. at 340 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown, Ground Floor Conference Room.

Workforce Investment Board (WIF) – David Hollowell

On October 13 the WIB received \$47,419 from the Hurricane Irene Disaster National Emergency Grant. The funds may be used to provide temporary employment on projects for clean-up, demolition, repair, renovation and reconstruction of destroyed public structures, facilities and lands.

Funds may also be used for temporary employment in humanitarian assistance or for repair and restoration of homes of economically disadvantaged individuals.

On completion of grant-funded jobs, Morris County Employment and Training Services will assist grant participants in securing permanent, unsubsidized employment.

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

The next meeting will be on November 10 at the Morris County Department of Human Services Building in Morristown. There will be a presentation by Saint Clare's Behavioral Health Services on the changes. There are a lot of cuts already at Saint Clare's and there is much concern over these cuts in services. The first cut is the CARES Program which is a short term respite program for folks in crisis with Mental Illness. They are not going to run this program any longer. The Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services is going to re Request for Funding Proposal (RFP) this program. The money will be close to what it used to be. There is concern with the trends of Behavioral Health Centers. Morristown Memorial Center has asked for less funding for addiction services and Saint Clare's has also made cuts to their programs. This is concerning overall.

Laurie Becker passed out brochures on the Morris County Parent/Youth Summit to be held on November 16, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It will be held at the Meadow Wood Manor at 461 Route 10 East in Randolph. This is an evening designed to educate and enlighten parents, youth, and community members about the serious issues of bullying and cyber-bullying in an effort to empower our communities to effectively address and put an end to this serious problem. Pre-Registration is necessary. Please call 1-866-782-5273 by November 1.

Michelle Roers thanked Laurie Becker and the team of Crisis Response Counselors for helping out with the incident at the Mental Health Association. All of us should have an emergency response plan so staff members know what to do in the event of an emergency.

Ms. Becker stated that the Crisis Response Team has kept busy with the recent shooting at the Mental Health Association building in Mountain Lakes. The counselors provided mental health support during this crisis.

Frank Pinto stated that Mary Jo Buchanan convinced him to have a binder with emergency contact information in it for all Morris County Department of Human Services employees in case of emergency. Laurie stated that all agencies should have emergency contact information for their employees as well as have a safety plan.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee – Robert Armstrong
Regarding Ryan White funding for the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (NEMA), in Morris, Sussex, Warren, Union and Essex Counties: the NEMA HIV Health Services Planning Council has completed their Annual Priority Setting and Resource Allocation process. The recommendations for percent allocation for Core

and Support Services for the Morris-Sussex-Warren County region were adopted by the Planning Council as recommended by the Tri-County AIDS Advisory Committee as listed in the minutes of our last meeting on September 21. This year's Ryan White funding of \$14,054,011 reflects a 2.5% decrease from the 2010 funding. This is based on a decrease in the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in NEMA. However, the Tri-County region of Morris-Sussex-Warren Counties has an increase in the HIV/AIDS population from 7.4% of NEMA last year to 8.1% currently. The NEMA Planning Council recently approved new standards for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, and has approved a 2011 Needs Assessment.

Hope House just completed a retreat for HIV/AIDS Clients.

The next meeting for the Tri-County AIDS Advisory Committee is set for Tuesday, December 13, at 11:00 a.m. at NJ Aids Services in Morris Plains.

XII. New Business –

Disabilities Update – Nancy Delaney – T.V. Talk

Ms. Delaney will be talking about how the disabled are cared for as they age on a television show tomorrow night on Channel 12. The program is trying to raise awareness so parents of the disabled will have information about setting up homes and plans for their loved ones. This is especially important as disabled person's parents are aging and may no longer be able to care for their adult children.

Michelle Roers stated that NJ After 3 programs were cut. This is an afterschool program at Morristown Neighborhood House that involved many children. They are looking for volunteers to help keep the program going so these children are able to remain at this afterschool program.

Michelle Roers stated that the State submitted a grant for the Race to the Top Challenge. This grant would help improve the quality of programs for low income children from birth to age five in non-Abbott school districts in New Jersey.

Michelle also mentioned that Hospitality Link closed about a month ago. The main reason for their closing was lack of funding. St. Peter's church also couldn't host the program any longer. Our Place in Morristown is still open. There was some discussion on ways to support Our Place and possibly get more funding for them. In the winter it is going to be very hard for the homeless if they have no place to go. Ms. Becker mentioned that Hospitality Link serviced about 50-100 folks daily. Linda Csengeto mentioned how important it is for the homeless to have a place to go, a place to warm up and a place for their mail to be sent. Some of the folks went to both Hospitality Link and Our Place; however, Hospitality Link will be surely missed.

Mr. Oexle mentioned that since 2011 is wrapping up a new Chair and Vice Chair will be needed for the HSAC. The Nominating Committee provides the slate of officers. Nancy Delaney, Tom Pappas, Mary Jane Melo are on the nominating committee. They

will provide the slate of officers at the November meeting and the vote of officers will occur in January.

XIII. Public Comment – None

XIV. Adjournment –

Tom Pappas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. the motion was seconded by Liz Manley.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide