

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
October 22, 2013
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The October 22, 2013 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Rebekka Zydel, Chair at 5:35 p.m.

Members Present:

Linda Csengeto, OTA Rep./CEAS/CoC Rep.
Xiomara Guevara, MC Organization of Hispanic Affairs
Cynthia DeGazon, Citizen Rep.
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep./Liaison Planning Committee
David Walker, Citizen Rep.
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

David Johnston, Division of Child Protection and Permanency
David Hollowell – WIB (arrived 6:13 p.m.)
Wendy Zoccola – DDD

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Frank Pinto, MCDHS (departed 6:12 p.m.)
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Rebekka Zydel, Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of September 24, 2013 Minutes –

There was a correction to the prior DYFS status reported on page 4 – it should be noted that those statistics were from August. The motion to approve the September 24 minutes with noted correction was made by Ken Oexle and seconded by Linda Csengeto. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions.

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

Award and declination letters for 2014 funding were mailed out on October 11. Any appeals are due shortly. On November 13 the final Freeholder action will be taken to approve 2014 funding.

At the Morris View Advisory Committee meeting managed Medicaid was discussed. The Community Development team is transitioning nicely with the newly named Division of Community Health & Behavioral Services (formerly known as Division of

Behavioral Health & Youth Services). Ms. Becker stated that perhaps early next year Tim Tansey could give the board a presentation on what the Office of Community Development does.

**New Jersey Department of Human Services –
Department of Human Services – Dave Johnston**

DCP&P Stats for September of 2013 and Links to Website highlighting New RFPs

DCP&P Stats

Morris East

Total: 88

CWS: 9

CPS: 79

Morris West

Total: 125

CWS: 31

CPS: 94

Top Municipalities for Referrals

1. Dover – 32
2. Morristown – 15
3. Jefferson - 14

Links to Website highlighting RFPs

Human Trafficking RFP –

<http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/notices/RFPHumanTrafficking.pdf>

Residential Treatment Center RFP –

http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/notices/RFP_NewBeds6RTC.pdf

A packet was emailed to the board earlier on Human Trafficking.

Staff Report – Ms. Becker

All counties received funding to assist individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis as a result of Super Storm Sandy. The program is intended to provide housing stability by offering support with, 1) maintaining temporary housing while a primary residence is being repaired or rebuilt; 2) maintaining a primary residence for the household to return to when repair or reconstruction is completed; 3) maintaining housing after a reduction in income; and, 4) ensuring that affected households have items deemed essential for health and safety upon return to their primary residence. There are no income restrictions. The Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program (SHRAP) is being administered through the Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance.

Staff Report – Ms. Carter

The County of Morris has been notified that the state Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, will be awarding additional funding to Morris for existing Social Services for the Homeless subgrantees to provide increased levels of

services through the remainder of the year. Anticipated recipients of this award will be the Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance, Homeless Solutions, Inc. and Family Promise of Morris County to provide temporary housing and prevention services.

As a follow up to Donna Buchanan's presentation on Employment & Training Services at last month's meeting, their office served 8,811 Morris County individuals between September 2012 and September 2013.

As reported during last month's meeting, the Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System/Continuum of Care (CEAS/CoC) subcommittee is moved to become its own independent body, under the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) regulation. It then becomes necessary to amend the Morris County Human Services Advisory Council By-Laws by removing CEAS/CoC as one of its subcommittees.

Mr. Pinto suggested that the formal process for amending the by-laws be adhered to by distributing changes to the by-laws in order that the board may have a chance to review them and vote to amend the by-laws at the next meeting. The updated version will be put on the website once they are approved.

**Subcommittee Reports –
Planning Subcommittee – Ken Oexle**

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. Child & Family Resources is serving all eligible applicants and receive approximately 35 new applications a week.

There are currently 5 unutilized Dedicated Vouchers at Dover Child Care. The 30 day clock is still in effect.

There were 5 dedicated vouchers lost this month. There were 3 from the Salvation Army and 2 from Collinsville. These dedicated vouchers will be offered to the next eligible provider on the roster which is Cornerstone Neighborhood House.

Legislative – No Report

Nominating/ByLaws –

Ms. Carter suggested that the Nominating Committee be convened to put together a slate of officers for 2014. Officers are voted in office at the January meeting.

Advisory Committee Reports

Morris, Sussex, Warren (MSW) HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee – No Report

YSAC –

Mr. Johnston stated that there was a presentation made by Deidre's House. They have three clinicians trained in trauma that have absorbed a lot of the families needs, but some folks don't want to be involved in case management. They made a plea to the community. They are looking for licensed clinical people to work out of Deidre's House.

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – David Hollowell

The WIB is preparing a Local Area Plan for use of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds for the next three years. The Plan delineates the WIB's support of New Jersey's four core values for employment and training, its relationship with New Jersey's seven Talent Networks and strategies for serving adults, dislocated workers, youth, veterans, persons with disabilities and the long term unemployed.

The Plan, which is required for WIA funding and NJ State Employment and Training Commission certification, is due December 2. Beginning on December 2, there will be a 30 day public comment period. The Plan will be posted on the WIB website (www.mswwib.org) on or before December 2. Please send comments or suggestions to Jack Patten at jpatten@co.morris.nj.us

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Charles LaRussa

- There was a presentation by Julian Hill Jr., Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office on the Morris County Drug Court Program. Morris County is one of several counties in New Jersey that have a Drug Court Program. Drug Court is a collaborative effort between the Judge, Public Defender, Assistant Prosecutor, Court Staff and treatment service providers to deal effectively with drug addicted clients. Drug Court is essentially a program where the state works with defense attorneys to help non-violent, addicted drug offenders by facilitating their road to recovery, as opposed to imposing a harsher sentence, such as fines and jail time. Drug court requires that an offender be (1) employed and (2) under intense supervision, which includes random and frequent drug testing and court appearances. Additionally, a court will impose any counseling and drug treatment programs which they deem most beneficial. The amount of time that the probationary period lasts varies from case to case. The goal of drug court is to positively impact the lives of drug users in Morris County.
- 2014 funding recommendations were presented to the board for Grant-In-Aid (Mental Health and Addictions Services) and Chapter 51 for approval. All 2014 funding recommendations were approved by the board and will go to the Freeholders for approval in September/October.
- The annual Consumer Forum Executive Summary report was completed. The annual Forum was held on June 11, 2013.
 - The high service priorities areas are consistent to last year:
 - Transportation – in western Morris, for veterans, on weekends, for work and education.
 - Affordable supportive housing and increased congregate group home options.
 - Medical and psychiatric services. It is very hard to find M.D.'s who accept Medicaid or will take patients when there is no insurance.

New priorities:

- Mental health and other services for families of young children.
- Respite type programs. They do not exist in the county since the CARES Program closed.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Tom Pappas

- The board held their meeting at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital. The hospital serves approximately 560 patients and is state funded.
- On August 7 the Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee presented a case study of an HIV+ client to the Cross Systems Review Committee.
- The Christie administration announced that it received authorization to spend \$209 million of a supplemental Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The money will be used on services provided to victims of Super Storm Sandy.

Partnership Announcements –

Mr. Nebesni stated that Dr. Matt Bellace will be at the 2013 Natural High Comedy Night and book signing. This event is free for parents and teens (13 or older) and will include a light dinner, performances by The Indicators improv troupe, stand-up comedian Marina Franklin, a stand-up performance and book signing by Dr. Bellace. The event will be held at Morris Plains Borough School located at 500 Speedwell Avenue in Morris Plains. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. and the show begins at 7:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Call 973 285-6860.

Mr. Pinto stated that there was the annual food drive called M.c.M.A.T.C.H. (Morris County Municipal Action to Curb Hunger). The countywide drive ended Sept. 30 and in total collected about 35,000 pounds of food. The three top towns contributing to the food drive were Mt. Olive, Mendham and Rockaway Borough. Awards will be presented to these towns at the Public Officials Forum. The Public Officials Forum will be held on October 29 at 340 W. Hanover Ave. in Morris Township. The Forum is an opportunity to teach the community about the Department of Human Services.

Ms. Carter mentioned that Project Homeless Connect will be held on Dec. 5 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 70 Maple Avenue in Morristown from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Opening ceremony starts at 9:00 a.m. This is a one day, consumer focused, one-stop event to provide an array of resources and support to those experiencing homelessness in the community. There are usually about 200-300 in attendance. If you would like to make a donation or volunteer, call Lisa Falcone of the Mental Health Association of Morris County at 973 334-3496 x105.

Ms. Guevara stated that starting October 1 that Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs (MCOHA) is taking applications for home energy assistance. Applications may be found on line at www.hispanicaffairs.net or by calling 973 366-4770. Their main office is located at 95-97 Bassett Highway in Dover. This year there have been some changes in the guidelines. If there is an interest, they can come out and give a

presentation on their programs. No funding will go out until December. They have new evening and Saturday hours. Fliers were distributed with this information.

Question asked if MCOHA works with the Family Success Center. Ms. Guevara said they have tried but it has been difficult. They do have similar services. Ms. Becker asked if there is any type of a coalition of agencies in Dover. Ms. Guevara stated there is none. They know a lot of folks and various agencies and churches but there isn't a formal coalition.

Old Business – None

New Business – Ms. Carter

Ms. Carter stated that the HSAC is looking for a few new board members. Please notify Ms. Carter if you know of anyone that might be interested.

Mr. LaRussa stated that to Co-Occurring Task Force also is in need of some new members. They meet the third Friday of the month. Ms. Deb McKinley is Chair. Please come out and visit.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment – Ms. Merz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Oexle seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia MocarSKI
Program Development Aide