

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
September 29, 2015, 340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Township

Call to Order: The Sept. 29, 2015 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Marcia Brands, Co-Chair, at 5:03 p.m.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep., Liaison MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory
Marcia Brands, Vice Chair, Citizen Rep., Liaison Legislative Subcommittee
Linda Csengeto, Liaison OTA
Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep.
Xiomara Guevara, Hispanic Affairs
David Hollowell, Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pepe, Citizen Rep.
Michelle Roers, Citizen Rep.

Also Attending:

David Johnston, NJDYFS, DCP&P
Marie Brink, Public

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS
Maria Rosario, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Marcia Brands, Vice-Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the August 25 minutes was made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Ms. Mary Jane Melo. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention.

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities – No Report

New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Protection and Permanency – David Johnston

Morris East

Child Welfare Assessments - 19
Child Abuse Investigations - 57
Total for MELO – 76

Morris West

Child Welfare Assessments - 20
Child Abuse Investigations - 78
Total for MWLO - 98

County Totals

Child Welfare Assessments - 39
Child Abuse Investigations - 135
Total Reports - 174

Staff Reports –

Ms. Becker

The Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) program has begun. This is a court mandated treatment for individuals engaged in mental health and addictions treatment. It offers another option for folks that are better served out of the hospital. The state provides money for the Mental Health Association of MC to provide this service. The first client has started in the program.

Ms. Carter

The list for next year's board members has been submitted. The HSAC is a sixteen member board. There are eight people that have reached their term length and need to step down. Thanks to all those dedicated members for all their efforts. There are a few new people signed up. Ms. Marie Brink will be one of our new members. She will also be on the MHSAAAB. Please keep in mind that after a year members can rejoin the board.

The SuperNOFA is out. It is money available that is dedicated to Homeless Services funded through HUD. The process is under way. Presentations of applicants will be heard, ranked and reviewed. Recommendations are due to HUD by Nov. 20. If submitted early extra points will be received. The target goal is to submit by Nov. 19.

Subcommittee Reports –

Planning Child Care – Voucher System Update (September 2015) – 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 approximately twenty new applications a week.

Currently, there is one unutilized dedicated voucher at Early Years CCC, at Roxbury Day Care and eight at Salvation Army. The thirty day clock is in effect.

Ms. Becker stated the Planning Committee will have to meet to revisit the voucher process. There is a need for a new child care list since the current list is old. Ms. Carter suggested having the subcommittee meet in the next month or two and prepare an RFP to go out in January. The goal is to try to have a new child care list ready by next fall.

**Program Review –
Funding – Closed Session – 2016 Funding Recommendations**

There was a motion to close the meeting.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act and per the boards resolution language and the closed session began at 5:12 p.m. All those in conflict with any of the funding streams were asked to leave the meeting. Ms. Marie Brink and Mr. Tom Pepe left the room.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Brink and Mr. Pepe reentered the room.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Brands stated that the funding subcommittee met, reviewed and discussed all Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) and Grant-in-Aid (GIA) funding applications. There were two CAP and 27 GIA applications received for a total of 29 applications. There were two new applications. The subcommittee recommends the HSAC approve all 2015 CAP and GIA funding recommendations as discussed in closed session.

There was also a recommendation from the funding subcommittee that \$11,626.00 from two agencies that will not spend down funds be reallocated to four other agencies. The subcommittee recommends this \$11,626.00 be reallocated to the four other agencies as discussed in closed session.

On motion of Mr. Marcia Brands and seconded by Ms. Linda Csengeto, the 2016 CAP and GIA funding recommendations are approved and the reallocation of \$11,626.00 is approved. There were two abstentions and no opposition. Motion was carried.

Youth Homelessness – Mr. Dave Johnston

Locally – The Adolescent Task Force meeting at Roots and Wings on 9/15/15 was well attended. There were two guest presentations:

Volunteers of America talking about their Independent Living Program for youth aging out of the system. And,

A Home Within – The NJ Chapter of this California based agency spoke about their current recruiting efforts of clinician’s to work with youth (pro-bono) who are either currently in foster care or had been in foster care at some point in their lives. Home Within is a national non-profit organization that provides free psychotherapy to these individuals. There is no age limit on those eligible to participate in the program, and there are no time limits on the psychotherapy that is provided. These clinicians will remain with the youth for “as long as it takes”. The program is intended for all those who were removed from their family of origin due to abuse or neglect, and

the only other requirement is the willingness to engage in an ongoing psychotherapy. For further information or to make a referral contact:

Debi Roelke, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist #3870, Morristown, NJ

Clinical Director – North Central Chapter of a Home Within

droelke@optonline.net or call 973-664-0033.

At the State level – DCF’s Office of Adolescent Services is working on several issues related to engaging aging out youth for entry into the workforce and creating other opportunities for youth who might be interested in the Youth Challenge Academy, in post-secondary education opportunities for pregnant and parenting students. There is also work being done with HUD related to housing vouchers specifically for this population.

Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Mr. David Hollowell

WIB Annual Report

The WIB Annual Report for Program Year 2014 (7/14-6/15) is nearly complete and will be sent to the graphic designer in the near future. The report contains performance and fiscal data, a message from the WIB Chair and Director. Information on WIB Committees and One Stop Career Center contacts. The WIB met and exceeded all their performance methods. This year, the WIB is attempting to complete and distribute the Annual Report much earlier than in previous years.

New Jersey Employability Skills Task Force (NJESTF)

Jack Patten represents the Morris, Sussex, Warren (MSW) WIB on the NJESTF. The Task Force will meet on October 22 to develop its final report and recommendations. New Jersey WIB Directors recommended, due to their importance to New Jersey’s economy, employability skills training in New Jersey should be elevated to the level of academic and occupational training. Specifically, employability skills training should be fully promoted, funded, monitored, assessed and publicized. The Task Force is expected to accept the recommendation.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Robert Armstrong

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee met on September 29 at New Jersey AIDS Services in Morris Plains. This committee is also called the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) which is an offshoot of the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (NEMA) HIV Health Services Planning Council. This council advises the city of Newark regarding the needs of the HIV+ population of Morris, Essex, Union, Sussex and Warren counties. The Planning Council plans for the allocation of Ryan White Program Part A funding, which is a federal medical program administered by HRSA, granted to the city of Newark and distributed through the five counties. The city of Newark is the epicenter of our local HIV epidemic with a population of roughly 10,000 HIV+ people. In Morris County there are 850 documented people living with HIV/AIDS which is 6.1% of the region’s infected population.

The Morristown AIDS Walk was held in May as a part of New Jersey AIDS Walk, a private non-profit organization that is a statewide HIV agency collaborative with AIDS Walks

simultaneously held in Newark, Asbury Park and Atlantic City. This year Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen spoke at the opening of the walk in the Morristown Green.

A seminar titled *Community Dialogue: Share Your Voice, Listen to Others* was held on June 23 at the Public Safety Training Academy for the purpose of creating a dialogue between HIV+ people and their local providers about available services, consumers needs and how people living with HIV/AIDS can become involved in the services process. This includes serving on the NEMA Planning Council, the Morris Sussex Warren HIV Advisory Committee/ EIRC, AIDS Watch in Washington, DC, the Morristown AIDS Walk and volunteer work at the local agencies.

On September 29 there was a Lunch and Learn held at the New Jersey AIDS Services on the topic of Housing and was well attended. The Community Involvement Activities/Community Conversations (CIA) Committee of the NEMA Planning Council is holding a Halloween party for HIV+ youth at the NEMA office in Newark on October 31. A new Client Services Directory is available for the five county region.

The new client services directory was reviewed. It will be copied and/or emailed for the next meeting.

Question asked by a board member is why are the numbers of those infected with HIV/AIDS is so low in Morris County. Mr. Armstrong stated it seems there is a different type of population in Morris County. Three quarters of those infected with HIV/AIDS are living in the five larger cities. It seems the infection rate is higher there.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Charles LaRussa

- The MHSAAAB received 49 Funding applications for 2016 (applications relating to mental health and addictions). There were several new applicants. The MHSAAAB funding subcommittee met, reviewed and ranked Grant-in-Aid and Chapter 51 applications. The subcommittee put forth their recommendations before the full MHSAAAB for approval at the September 10 board meeting. The MHSAAAB approved all 2016 funding recommendations.
- The MHSAAAB agreed to send a letter to Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen urging him to advocate against the proposed cuts in funding to the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH). PATH are the homeless outreach services from the Division of Mental Health and Addictions (DMHAS). Mr. Schwarcz, Mental Health Association of M.C. (MHAMC), received a letter telling them that PATH funding is proposed to be cut by 25%. There is a half million dollars or so that goes to Homeless Outreach for the mentally ill. MHAMC provides case management for these homeless. It is their biggest program. These cuts would have a significant impact on the homeless in MC.
- There will be a UNITE to Face Addiction Rally in Washington D.C. on October 4. Morris County is sponsoring a bus to the event which reduced the roundtrip cost to \$20 a person. The bus leaves from CARES Recovery Center, 25 West Main Street, Rockaway at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4. If interested you must reserve your seat. For more information email Denise Mariano at mariand@optonline.net.

- There will be a Countywide Prevention Forum on November 4 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown. The Forum is featuring David Sheff. The Forum flyer and registration link can be found on www.morrishumanservices.org. Seating is limited so registration is required. For more information call 973 265-1998.
- The next MHSAAAB meeting will be on October 8 at 5:15 p.m. at Greystone Park, 59 Koch Avenue, Morris Plains. All are welcome to attend.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Written Report

- Ophelia Cruse took over as Director on August 1, 2015, this was her first official ACADV meeting.
- Open enrollment for Medicare will be October 15 through December 7, 2015.
- NORWESCAP RSVP is seeking volunteers for the tax season, anyone interested is advised to call (973) 784-4900 x3502

YSAC – Written Report

The YSAC had presentations from all of the programs that it funds, the following programs presented:

- Telling Our Stories – Morris Arts
- Family Outreach Program, Mending Arts, FCIU – FIS
- Storytelling Arts
- Comprehensive Adolescent Program – Center for Evaluation and Counseling
- Adolescent Substance Treatment – New Hope
- School Based Mentoring – Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Choices – JBWS
- ESCUCHA! Youth Mentor Program – the Educational Center
- Juvenile Accountability Leadership Program

Partnership Announcements – Laurie Becker

The CoC Executive Committee is updating the bylaws and working on refining the process. This includes working on the monitoring tool, policies and procedures.

Old Business

Ms. Csengeto reminded all that Project Homeless Connect will be held on November 5 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 70 Maple Ave., Morristown. Please see fliers on the table for further information. For more information call Lisa Falcone, MHAMC, at (973) 334-3496.

Ms. Becker suggested the HSAC send a letter to Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen urging him to advocate against proposed cuts in funding to Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program. PATH provides homeless outreach services through the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addictions Services (DMHAS). The MHSAAAB already sent an advocacy letter in this regard. Ms. Melo made a motion for the HSAC to send an advocacy letter in regard to the PATH funding cuts as well. Mr. Pepe seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition.

New Business –

Ms. Roers stated the ALICE Report has gone national. She distributed a map showing areas now involved.

Ms. Guevara reported that Home Energy Season began this week. This year, there is concern that there may not be emergency funds available for clients. In prior years, clients could receive one-time emergency payment assistance. This year funds are expected to be cut. Clients can apply earlier this year. Next meeting Ms. Guevara will bring fliers about the program. Hispanic Affairs has late night hours on Tuesday and is open the first Saturday of the month.

Hispanic Affairs completed the first year for the Center of Immigration. They served 500 clients. Private fundraising pays for the Center. The need is there. There are a lot of youth (minors, teenagers) seeking asylum.

Ms. Guevara stated that they have started to work with Zufall for the physical needs of their clients. They need more mental health services. Ms. Roers asked about Wind of the Spirit? Ms. Guevara said that they do more advocacy type work. The two agencies work together on things Hispanic Affairs cannot do. They are a good counterpart.

Mr. Johnston mentioned the Tiger R.A.P. Program at Dover High School. The program provides counseling, employment assistance, mentoring, referral services and recreation for youth. Ms. Linda Seeley was running the program, retired and hasn't been replaced. Perhaps Ms. Guevara could send an advocacy letter to DCF for her replacement (DCF funds the position). Ms. Guevara said there is a large gap and a need for more youth services. Ms. Becker said she has also been hearing there is a large gap for Spanish speaking assistance. Mr. Johnston said Dover recently got about 96 unaccompanied minors. Morristown also got some unaccompanied minors. Perhaps this is something the YSAC could address.

Ms. Becker suggested the board have a presentation on Hispanic Affairs and Wind of the Spirit. Perhaps this can be done in October since in November the Family Success Center is presenting. Ms. Becker stated it's an important issue to get Hispanic Affairs and Wind of the Spirit to present at the same meeting. This way the board can hear about both agencies and the agencies can hear one another present on their services.

Ms. Roers stated that the Public Officials Forum will be held on November 30. They are going to highlight early education and caregiving. Senator Kean and Cory Booker will both be there. She will forward further information.

Ms. Roers said the North Jersey Health Collaborative is working on identifying a key priorities list. They have the top ten issues. They are:

- Obesity;
- Housing;
- Radon;
- Substance abuse related;
- Socioeconomic despair;
- Caregivers;

- Mental health;
- Birth outcomes;
- Cardiovascular disease;
- Work force development;
- Health literacy; and
- Diabetes treatment.

October 1 is the next North Jersey Health Collaborative meeting. They will discuss and work on a list of what the community can do.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment -

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Tom Pappas and seconded by Ken Oexle at 6:25 p.m. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide