

**Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) Executive Committee Meeting  
January 28, 2016  
Meeting Notes**

**Meeting began at 10:10 a.m.**

**Voting Members Present:**

Jeffrey Bashe, Community Rep.; Jenni Briggs, Roots and Wings Foundation; Joan Bruseo, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance; Jennifer Carpinteri, MDCHS; Terry Connolly, Community Soup Kitchen; Luisa Fieno, Community Hope & Monitoring Comm.; Russ Hall, Housing Alliance of MC; Nancy H. Magee, Community Foundation of NJ; Dan McGuire, Homeless Solutions; and Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources, Inc.

**Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Lou Schwarcz, Mental Health Association Morris County; and Joann Bjornson, Family Promise.

**Staff:** Laurie Becker, Shelia Carter, Patricia Mocariski, Morris County Human Services.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Mr. Jeff Bashe welcomed all.

Ms. Rebekka Zydel, Chair, opened the meeting with introductions.

**2. Approval of Nov. 19, 2015 Minutes**

One correction noted by Lou Schwarcz on the first sentence at the top of page 2. Replace the sentence with “Mr. Schwarcz stated that MHAMC is interested in working with the committee to develop and coordinate an assessment component.” Motion to approve the minutes with noted change by Ms. Joan Bruseo and seconded by Ms. Rebekka Zydel. All were in favor with seven abstentions and no opposition.

**3. Vote on 2016 Slate of Officers**

Ms. Zydel went over the proposed slate of officers:

Chair – Jeff Bashe

Vice Chair – Jodi Miciak

Acting Vice Chair – Joan Bruseo (during Jodi’s absence)

All voted in favor of the new slate of officers.

**4. Conflict of Interest – Jeff Bashe**

All members were asked to sign and return the conflict of interest statement.

**5. By-Laws – Jeff Bashe**

By-Laws are done.

Mr. Bashe thanked Ms. Zydel for all her hard work as Chair the last two years.

## **6. CoC Orientation and Discussion – Ms. Taiisa Kelly – Monarch and Jeff Bashe**

Presentation was given on the Morris County Continuum of Care. Included in the presentation was an overview of the history, purpose and primary activities. The CoC gets \$1.7 million from HUD annually which is about 5% of our homeless system. This HUD money has a big impact on our system. The hope is to start seeing a reduction in homelessness with the ultimate goal of ending homelessness.

There was some discussion on HUD's moving away from providing transitional housing. Ms. Becker asked how the continuum of care would meet the goal of ending homelessness without transitional housing. Ms. Kelly stated that in many cases transitional housing is taking people in that aren't really homeless. A lot of folks leave transitional housing to go back to living with family and friends. Transitional housing doesn't necessarily reach the hardest to serve population. Therefore, HUD is encouraging communities to move away from the Transitional Housing Model which is an expensive service. The rapid rehousing service model is now being given priority. There should be more discussion on this issue.

There was some discussion about HMIS data and how to increase its accuracy. Mr. Bashe stated that there is a need to improve the data quality. Ms. Kelly stated that we need to think about what data to bring to this meeting to make it productive.

Ms. Carpinteri stated that with all the changes due to Medicaid this is a good time to conduct a service inventory and identify needs. It also could be a good time to educate the Freeholders on what the CoC Executive Committee does, telling the story with data.

Ms. Kelly distributed the draft Morris' 2015 scoring summary sheet. Mr. Bashe asked what areas on the scoring sheet are weak. Ms. Kelly went over the information on the scoring sheet. 2015 was a competitive year. The weakest areas are in performance and strategic planning. She believes we may lose some points since we have not done the work the application requests. The 2016 application could be better if the community works on weak areas identified from the 2015 application.

Ms. Kelly will bring the HMIS report to the next meeting to see where we are and build on it.

Ms. Zydell asked how we are coordinating with other bodies. The Morris County Provider Resource Committee (formerly known as CEAS Providers) group is still meeting. We need to strengthen the interconnectedness with regular presentations and reporting among the groups. Ms. Bjornson said perhaps it would be advantageous to have interconnectedness with the Cross Systems group as well.

Most of the CoC policies and procedures are on the human services website at [www.morrishumanservices.org](http://www.morrishumanservices.org). Ms. Kelly can start to make a manual as well.

There was a question and answer period on the PowerPoint presentation related to the overview of the CoC.

## **7. Early 2016 Priorities and updates:**

### **Monitoring-**

Mr. Bashe stated that the programs have to be monitored each year. Monarch will be taking the lead in monitoring the programs. There was discussion on alternating years with a paper review one year and an actual monitoring the next year.

Ms. Kelly stated this year the goal is to conduct on-site reviews. This committee must make recommendations about areas of improvement either after the monitoring review or a subcommittee can meet to collectively gather recommendations.

Ms. Kelly would like to schedule monitoring in March and April and asked if anyone wants to participate (voting members only). She will put together the necessary information. Monitoring generally takes 2-3 hours each. Another possibility is for the agency to come in for monitoring. There are six monitoring visits to be done. Since these are not county monitoring, Ms. Becker suggested the agencies receive monitoring materials from Ms. Kelly or Mr. Bashe.

Ms. Kelly will try to schedule the visits for March and then at the end of March and April meet with the subcommittee to come up with recommendations. Target date for basic presentation of the results to the Exec. Committee will be in May.

Mr. Bashe asked if the committee wants the results to come back to the full committee or the subcommittee. Ms. Zydel stated that it's probably best in a smaller group due to privacy issues. Mr. Bashe stated he agreed and thinks a small non-conflicting committee with 2 or 3 people involved would be best.

Jenni Briggs, Russ Hall, Terry Connelly, and Jeff Bashe volunteered to help with the monitoring. Maybe the Market Street Mission can also help.

### **CoC Application update and outlook for 2016 –**

Ms. Zydel stated that the group discussed announcing requests for new projects at an earlier time and separate from the renewal requests. Ms. Kelly will put together a letter of HUD priorities from 2015 for this effort.

### **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Update – Ms. Carter**

2016 ESG applications will be collected and go before the HSAC in February. Applications will be reviewed and scoring and ranking will be done. They will take into consideration funding priorities established by this committee. The recommendations will then go before the CDRS in March for their review.

Ms. Becker asked if anyone on this committee wants to join the HSAC in order that this committee have representation at HSAC meetings. Mr. Bashe offered to attend as needed.

### **2016 Point in Time Initial Report – Ms. Carter**

System's data is still being entered into SuveyMonkey. Once fully collected, the data will be reviewed for discrepancy to achieve final results. At the next meeting Mr. Schwarcz will report back on his agency results. Perhaps we can get further information from Wes Gaynor, Homeless Solutions.

### **Community Assistance Services (CAS) report – Luisa Fieno**

The CAS has decided to change the meeting format. There will be more working meetings. At the next meeting they will review standards. There is a vacancy for the chair of the Data Collection Committee. The committee will meet every month prior to the CAS meeting. They may meet less often after they get a lot of the initial work done.

Ms. Becker mentioned Project Homeless Connect. The County is committed to plan this event. Perhaps the CAS can be involved. MHAMC has taken the lead for the past several years with decreasing community provider involvement. Ms. Becker stated that she will get together with Ms. Falcone to discuss the plans. Ms. Schwarcz believes this committee should be involved. Ms. Bjornson suggested discussing further at the next meeting and asked that Mr. Schwarcz can give a proposal of what is needed.

### **Annual Homeless Assessment Report – No Report**

#### **8. Other Business/Systems Advocacy**

Mr. Schwarcz stated that two things have recently impacted the homeless. The housing vouchers from the state are now being administered by HMFA. MHAMC has 130 people that get vouchers and through these vouchers the government pays about 2/3 of their rent. There are 91 people that get visits daily. MHAMC is still doing all of the case work. There have been a lot of problems with the fragmentation of services and oversight of rental subsidies. Mr. Schwarcz is working with other groups to try to fix the problems. . These people already have many challenges and now are afraid of losing housing and landlords. The clients are also getting late fees they must pay. Perhaps this group can do some advocacy support in regard to this

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.