

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
January 28, 2014
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The January 28, 2014 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Shelia Carter, Staff Liaison at 5:32 p.m.

Members Present:

Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep./Liaison Legislative Committee
Kevin Collins, Child & Family Resources
Xiomara Guevara, MCOHA
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep./Liaison Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans
Tom Pepe, Citizen Rep.

Also Attending:

Nancy Burwell, Public
Barbara Eames, Public
David Johnston, Division of Child Protection and Permanency

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat MocarSKI, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Shelia Carter, Staff Liaison

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Mr. LaRussa presented the slate of officers for 2014 with Ms. Debi Merz for Chair and Ms. Marcia Brands for Vice-Chair.

Mr. LaRussa asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations from the floor. Mr. LaRussa made a motion to close the nominations and elect the proposed slate of officers. Mr. Pappas seconded the motion. All were in favor of the proposed slate of officers with no opposition and one abstention. Motion was carried. Congratulations to Ms. Debi Merz, Chair and Ms. Marcia Brands, Vice Chair.

Approval of the November 12, 2013 Minutes –

The motion to approve the November minutes was made by Mr. Tom Pappas and seconded by Mr. Charles LaRussa. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – No Report

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

**New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Department of Child Protection
and Permanency (DCP&P) – Dave Johnston**

Morris County Referral Stats for December 2013

Morris East

Total Referrals - 80

Child Protective Services (CPS)- 64

Child Welfare Services (CWS) - 16

Morris West

Total Referrals- 121

Child Protective Services (CPS) - 97

Child Welfare Services (CWS) - 24

County Totals

Total Referrals - 201

Child Protective Services (CPS) - 161

Child Welfare Services (CWS) - 40

In February Morris DCP&P will under go its quality review process. Twelve cases will be reviewed.

There is a great deal of concern over human trafficking in the New Jersey/New York area. Human trafficking often involves forcing people into prostitution or labor to pay their debt for being brought to America. There is a direct connection between human trafficking and the Super Bowl. Since there are so many young people around, abductions have occurred. The Attorney General is providing presentations during school assemblies, entitled “Say Something.” Morris County schools are posting fliers and posters to raise student awareness. The Morris County Office of Emergency Management’s Operations Center will be open until Sunday. The Disaster Response Crisis Counselors (DRCC) team and is ready and on alert in case they are needed.

Staff Report, Homeless Youth Plan – Ms. Becker

Commissioner Blake sent a letter dated October 24, 2013 requesting an HSAC initiative to address youth homelessness. On behalf of the HSAC, a plan was submitted to Luther Owens, Department of Children and Families, Trenton, to address this need in Morris County. Improving services for homeless youth has been a long time priority for local human service providers of children and “aging-in” adults. The plan of action submitted supports Morris County’s human service system of care. All objectives are targeted for completion by end of 2014.

Dave Johnston will be the liaison for this committee and keep the board updated on the progress on this initiative. Ms. Becker suggested making this a standing item on the board’s agenda.

Staff Report, Committee Orientation – Ms. Carter

Orientation Packets for Advisory Council members were distributed and reviewed. The packets included information on funding, by-laws, fact sheet, profile form, conflict of interest statement, organization charts, and meeting dates. The HSAC is the primary advisory committee to the New Jersey Department of Human Services and Department of Children and Families in a broad sense. It is vital that we figure out the needs in our community. The advisory boards are viewed as advisors and each person has an important role. Recent revisions were made to the by-laws including the removal of the CEAS/CoC subcommittee. The CoC is now a separate independent committee. Ms. Carter passed around a sheet for members to sign up for the board's subcommittees.

Subcommittee Reports –

Program Review Subcommittee, Hope House 2013 Funding Re-allocation – Charles LaRussa

The committee considered Hope House AID's Center request for special consideration to use a percentage of their unused funds to provide emergency assistance for two clients in the form of temporary rapid-rehousing. Because this service was not part of the original grant agreement, the committee needed to decide on a subgrant modification and use of funds for this purpose. Hope House did not address this in the September 2013 subgrant modification request which the board approved.

The committee considered another agency already providing housing that could fully utilize the funding for the remainder of the quarter. The Board made the determination to reallocate within the same service sector.

There was a motion from the subcommittee to deny the Hope House modification request and approve the reallocation of funds to another agency within the same service sector.

Discussion ensued. As per the Program Review committee's recommendation, the motion to deny the Hope House modification request and approve the reallocation of funding to another agency was made. The motion was seconded. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. The motion carried.

Planning Subcommittee – Kevin Collins

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. We are serving all eligible applicants and receive approximately ten new applications a week.

The four remaining Dedicated Vouchers from the November report were filled and utilized.

There are currently two unutilized Dedicated Vouchers at KinderCare Learning Center and the 30 day clock is still in effect.

Ms. Carter asked Mr. Collins to explain the Dedicated Voucher Program and how it differs from the prior program. Mr. Collins stated that in the old program contracts were issued to agency providers for a specific number of subsidized slots. If these slots were

not filled, funding for services would be lost. With the new system vouchers can easily be moved to where the current need exists. The vouchers no longer have to be specific to one agency. The board gets monthly reports and status of these vouchers. There is a dedicated roster system the HSAC worked on developing a few years ago. If a voucher is not used within 90 days it goes to the next agency on the list. This helps the vouchers flow to families in need at various agencies and increases the chance a child in need will not go without care.

Partnership Announcements

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board (from Jan. 9 meeting) – Charles LaRussa

- HUD Continuum of Care funding provides homeless and homeless prevention services. There is a 5% cut in next year's award. The HUD governance group met with the providers affected to let them know about the cuts. It was determined that due to HUD service priorities, the supportive services projects would receive an 8.2% decrease with permanent housing project remaining at level funding. Safe Haven, a program that serves individuals who are homeless with serious mental illness, is one of the reduced projects.
- Ms. Alexander, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), stated that current Greystone census is not available but DMHAS is working to comply with the Olmstead settlement. DMHAS is working to meet the requirement to discharge patients on Continuing Evaluation Pending Placement (CEPP) status into appropriate community accommodations within 120 days. This is an ongoing challenge as many individuals need intensive staffing support at high cost to live successfully in the community. The Olmstead settlement, affecting every State hospital, should be concluded in about six months and it is unclear what next steps will be.
- Information was distributed about the documentary Ms. Jacobson mentioned at a prior meeting, "The Anonymous People". More information can be found at MANYFACES1VOICE.ORG, a new website and campaign to engage and mobilize people to transform public attitudes and policies affecting people seeking help or in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. If you have an opportunity to see this film, it is very informative and worth seeing.
- Next MHSAAAB meeting is February 13, 5:15 p.m., MCDHS, 30 Schuyler Place, 3rd Floor, Red Room.

Old Business –

Mr. Johnston asked if there were any further meetings with The Family Success Center. At an earlier board meeting this was discussed as well as concern over the possible overlap of services between The Family Success Center and other local agencies. Mr. Johnston is wondering about the outcome. Ms. Carter stated some

time ago they met with them but there hasn't been a recent meeting or new information to report.

New Business –

Ms. Carter stated the Point-in-Time Count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless is taking place tomorrow. A report of these outcomes will be issued as soon as the numbers are available.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment – The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Marcia Brands and seconded by Mr. Charles LaRussa. Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 28.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski