

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
February 25, 2014
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The February 25, 2014 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Debi Merz, Chair at 5:35 p.m.

Members Present:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep.
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep./Liaison Legislative Committee
Kevin Collins, Child & Family Resources
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.
Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep.
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep./Liaison Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans
Tom Pepe, Citizen Rep.

Also Attending:

David Johnston, Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Wendy Zoccola, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
David Hollowell, WIB
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS
Frank Pinto, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Debi Merz, Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of January 28, 2014 Minutes

The motion to approve the January minutes was made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Mr. Tom Pappas. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – Frank Pinto

Prior to Governor Christie's budget address, a conference call with Commissioner Velez and Commissioner Blake and the Human Services Directors was held.

As of July 1, 2015 all nursing homes are moving to Managed Medicaid. At this time they are not sure what the rate for Managed Medicaid will be since they will negotiate new rates. However, implementation will be slow. Reimbursement for residents already in nursing homes will remain the same. They will still receive the current fee for service of \$231 per Medicaid bed day. As of July 1 new patients will be under the new Managed Care. Peer grouping will continue to 2015. The Peer grouping law says 10% - 50% of

the Peer grouping money must go back into the community. Morris County gives back about \$800,000 through various services and programs to help keep seniors in their homes.

The Morris Area Paratransit System (MAPS) vehicles will soon have advertisements on them. This will be a source of revenue that could bring in from \$30,000 to \$100,000 per year to MAPS. Morris County will hire a firm to do the work. The County will get half the revenue. The firm will get the other half. This revenue will supplement decreasing funds from Atlantic City Casinos.

Homeless Solutions and Employment & Training Services met to discuss conflicting rules. Clients at Homeless Solutions have 30 days to leave the facility. Yet they are required to have four weeks of employment and job training programs. With this requirement it leaves the client little to no time to find a job. The two agencies are talking about this and may give a presentation to the board in April.

Ms. Becker stated that it appears there will be \$2.4 million for Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) which means IOC funding has more than doubled.

**New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities
– Wendy Zoccola**

Family Support Update (Assistance to people in home)

As of February 1, 2014, self-directed respite to families was discontinued (for those 21 and older). Families who received checks for respite will not get checks after Feb. 2014. Alternate options will be discussed with each family. The family may choose to accept respite by their current worker through an agency such as Easterseals. About 25 families in Morris County are affected. Special consideration will be given to families who would experience extreme hardship upon the removal of this support from the home.

Information about this transition is available at:

DDD.SelfDirectedRespiteHelpdesk@dhs.state.nj.us

Department of Children and Families (DCF)/Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

Meetings between DCF and the DDD will resume in February. The purpose of the meetings are to discuss individuals in the DCF system who will be turning 21 and are in an out-of-home placement or who are receiving a high degree of support from DCF.

Group Home Development

- Two new homes are in development in Oakridge. One home is on White Blvd. and one is on Weldon Road. The Department for Persons with Disabilities is developing these homes. Each home will accommodate four individuals.
- A home in Kinnelon on Boonton Ave. will open soon. Renovations are almost complete. The agency is Broadway Respite.

- There is a home in Denville identified as a shared project with Mental Health. The agency is YCS. Four individuals will be served. Referrals will be from Greystone.

Regional Reorganization

Due to recent retirements and changing organizational needs within DDD, an analysis was conducted of our organizational structure. As a result, in part, the following interim changes will be operational, effective January 13, 2014. The Northern and Upper Central Regions will be combined to form the DDD Northern Region: Mariana Pietrunti will continue as Regional Administrator for the Northern Region. Morris, Sussex, Warren, Bergen, Passaic and Hudson will be joined by Essex, Union and Somerset counties.

The Lower Central and Southern Regions will be combined to form the DDD Southern Region.

Ms. Delaney stated there is a lot of concern over the closing of the North Jersey Developmental Center. There are already so many disabled folks on the waiting list for housing. Ms. Delaney is continuing to meet with families to talk to them. Ms. Delaney tells her family story and how she got together with other families with disabled young adults and together they purchased a home. The state pays for the workers in the home but the families purchased the house. Her son has been happy and thriving in his group home for many years. He and his roommates have become a family. Ms. Delaney is trying to spread the word that families must start planning for their disabled children's future.

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

Morris County Referral Stats for January 2014

Morris East

Total Referrals -	93
Child Protective Services Investigations -	74
Child Welfare Assessments -	19

Morris West

Total Referrals -	138
Child Protective Services Investigations -	104
Child Welfare Assessments -	34

Quality review is currently taking place in each county. So far six cases have been reviewed and there are six more to go. The reviews for Morris County are looking good.

The Commissioner met with Area Directors and went over priorities. They have continued to focus on DDD and substance abuse transitioning, enhancing DCP&P and

the Care Management Organization (CMO). The Office of Adolescent Services hopes to be awarded the grants again. They are focusing on early child education and are referring all children three and under to an early intervention program/even those children in foster care. There is a recommitment to case practice model and moving to integrate data with quality.

There are three RFPs on the website and the Department can be emailed questions. The website is: <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/notices/>

RFPs are:

- Request for Qualifications for Respite Services for Families of Children with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD) Closing date – 2/28/14
- Request for Qualifications – The Provision of Intensive in Home Individualized Behavioral Intervention Supports and Services for Children with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities Closing Date – 3/11/14
- Request for Qualifications – the Provision of Intensive in Home Individualized Clinical and Therapeutic Supports and Services for Children with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities Closing Date – 3/11/14.

Staff Report, Ms. Becker

The Morris County Executive Committee will be meeting Thursday at 2:30 p.m. at 30 Schuyler Place in Morristown. The HUD CoC will no longer be under the county infrastructure. The county will still be the lead and ensure requirements for the \$1.5 million CoC funding are met. An HSAC board member will always be on the committee. Mr. Jeff Bashe is the current HSAC representative and Ms. Rebekka Zydel is a candidate for Chair. Mr. Bashe will give reports to the HSAC.

Staff Report, Ms. Carter

The CoC Committee wants to develop a coordinated assessment tool to address the services people need. This tool will enable the Committee to see how well people are being moved through the system in regard to rehousing and reducing their stay. Some counties have a single point of entry system, however, Morris County doesn't. Most agencies are familiar with local service providers and are able to refer clients to the appropriate place.

The Office of Community Development joined the Department of Human Services, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services. The Office of Community Development serves 39 municipalities of Morris County through its administration of the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships and Emergency Solutions Grants. They work with a lot of the same low income population.

The Homeless Plan is being reviewed. The Point-in-Time count was done on January 29. The count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless is taken each year in January. Monarch Housing collected the data and is in the process of culminating results.

Ms. Brands stated that a Continuum of Care (CoC) document showing the picture of services funded would be helpful. This is important since there are so many funding cuts.

Subcommittee Reports –

Program Review – Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Recommendation

The subcommittee met and heard presentations from six agencies on the Emergency Solutions Grant. The ESG is intended to fund street outreach, rapid rehousing, etc. Based on funding priorities the subcommittee recommends funding five of the six agencies. A motion was made to fund five of the six agencies for the 2014 Emergency Solutions Grant. The motion was seconded. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion was passed.

Program Review – 2014 El Primer Paso Subgrant Modification Request

The subcommittee met and reviewed the subgrant modification request from El Primer Paso to move \$12,000 from in-home child care to afterschool care. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the subcommittee's request. The motion passed with no opposition and one abstention.

Planning Child Care – Voucher System Update

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. Child & Family Resources is serving all eligible applicants and receive 20 new applications a week. They have one unutilized Dedicated Voucher at Madison Day Care and one at Project Safe/Academy Street. The 30 day clock is still in effect.

Copies were emailed prior on the High Price of Childcare –copies were also available at the meeting. For a complete New Jersey report see: www.njaccrra.org.

Youth Homelessness – No Report

Advisory Committee Reports –

Workforce Investment Board (WIB)–

LOCAL AREA PLAN

The WIB submitted its Local Area Plan to the New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) on November 26, 2013. The plan was posted on the WIB website (mswwib.org) on December 2, 2013 for a thirty day public comment period. No comments were received. The final plan was submitted January 30, 2014.

The Plan delineates Morris/Sussex/Warren (MSW) WIB strategies and initiatives in support of New Jersey's core values for employment and training, describes the WIB's connection to New Jersey's Talent Network industries and outlines how the WIB and its partners will serve various target groups.

PROGRAM YEAR 2013 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT PERFORMANCE METRICS

On December 17, 2013 the SETC advised the WIB of its performance goals for Program Year 2013 (7/13 - 6/14). The local area performance goals were calculated using the same regression model and data used to New Jersey's approved statewide goals. The regression model heavily weights past performance. Due to our WIB's excellent past performance, the new goals are very high. On January 30, 2014, the WIB requested revised metrics for Adult and Dislocated Retention and Youth Numeracy and Literacy.

The targets are:

Adults PY 2013 Targets

Entered Employment % 90.3%

Retention % 97.0%*

Average Earnings \$ \$19,177.00

Dislocated Workers PY 2013 Targets

Entered Employment % 88.2%

Retention % 90.4%

Average Earnings \$ \$23,354.00

Youth PY 2013 Targets

Youth Placement 81.2%

Youth Degree Attainment 84.5%

Literacy/Numeracy 94.9%*

- Adjusted regression model target.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – No Report

Mental Health, Substance Abuse Advisory Board (MHSAAB) – No meeting (Feb. meeting cancelled due to bad weather)

The annual Consumer & Family Forum will be held on June 17 at the Haggerty Center at 353 East Hanover Avenue in Morristown. Further details will be forthcoming. The next board meeting will be March 13 at 30 Schuyler Place at 5:15 p.m. All are welcome.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans –

Mr. Pinto stated that he was at the meeting and there was discussion concerning the new legislation to raise the minimum wage. There is concern on how it may have a negative effect on the disabled employment centers.

Youth Services Advisory Council (YSAC) – No Report

Partnership Announcements -

Mr. Bashe stated that Morris County is getting \$44 million for Race to the Top. This award will help give educators in New Jersey the tools they need to be successful. Morris is part of this pilot program. The State is doing this in an effort to challenge the centers.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Public Comment – None

Adjournment – Mr. Jeff Bashe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tom Pappas seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide