

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
May 27, 2014
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The May 27, 2014 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Marcia Brands, Co- Chair at 5:38 p.m.

Members Present:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep. Liaison United Way N.N.J., Success by Six
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep., Liaison Legislative Subcommittee
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep., Planning Subcommittee
Xiomara Guevara, Morris Co. Organization for Hispanic Affairs
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep., Liaison Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans
Tom Pepe, Citizen Rep., Liaison Program Review Subcommittee

Also Attending:

Kathy DeFillipo, Freeholder
David Johnston, New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Wendy Zoccola, New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities

Staff in Attendance:

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

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

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of April 22 Minutes

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

County of Morris Department of Human Services – Frank Pinto

Thanks to those that attended the Freeholders reception last week.

There will still be some Peer Grouping revenue through the next few years; however, it will be decreasing.

There will be an impact on the department as Managed Medicaid rolls out effective July 1. Managed Care will impact Morris View Healthcare Center and all nursing homes. The rates of those already in Morris View and other nursing homes will be frozen at the current rate for the first two years. New patients will be billed at the new lower Managed Care rates.

New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – Wendy Zoccola

The Department is struggling to get individuals onto Medicaid. This is a requirement to receive any services or support offered by DDD. Some individuals will have a support waiver. The support waiver is not available yet. When available, it is anticipated that this waiver will allow DDD eligible individuals to have a budget to purchase their services.

Mr. Pinto asked Ms. Zoccola how many people are still living in North Jersey residential facilities. Although at this time she is uncertain of the number of individuals who reside in North Jersey Developmental Centers, those that remain are still waiting for residential placement.

On June 2 there will be two residential homes opening in Parsippany. Each home will hold four people. There is one home on Beverwick Rd. and another on Morraine Rd. Homes that are currently proposed for clients with a developmental disability are largely identified for clients who are moving from developmental centers or returning from out of state residences as opposed to those individuals who currently reside in the community.

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

DCP&P Data for April

Morris East Local Office

Child Protective Services Investigations – 83

Child Welfare Assessments – 19

Total – 102

Morris West Local Office

Child Protective Services Investigations – 94

Child Welfare Assessments – 37

Total – 131

County Totals – 233

DCF – Requests for Proposals (RFP) for Parent Linking Program in a DCF Funded School Based Youth Services Program – Total Funding \$390,000 available for three programs (\$130,000 each) over four years. There will be no Bidders Conference for this RFP. Only electronic proposals shall be accepted for this RFP. Please register your Authorized Organization Representative early. Bids due: June 6, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.

Funding Agency

State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families

50 East State St., 5 Floor

Trenton, NJ 08625

For further details on RFPs the website is <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/notices/>.

Staff Report

Ms. Carter reported that the Program Review subcommittee will convene to review the monitoring process. The sign up sheet for the agency monitorings was passed around and will also be emailed to the group.

Subcommittee Reports

Planning Child Care – Voucher System Update

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. Child & Family Resources is serving all eligible applicants and receives approximately 25 new applications a week.

The three remaining Dedicated Vouchers from the April report were filled and utilized.

We currently have three unutilized Dedicated Vouchers. Two are at the Neighborhood House and one is at Project Safe – Academy Street School and the 30 day clock is still in effect.

Jefferson Child Care will have ten openings for summer. They are the only CCVC Center that has summer only slots in addition to regular dedicated voucher slots.

Thank you Letter to Freeholders

Mr. Tom Pepe made a motion to approve the letter to the Freeholders thanking them for their support. Ms. Mary Jane Melo seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. The motion was carried.

Youth Homelessness – Dave Johnston

The Aging In/Out Task Force met on May 20 and worked on modifying the data collection tool presented at the April HSAC meeting. The tool will be used to get a picture of housing and other challenges experienced by the 17-24 year old homeless population. Efforts will be made with to obtain data for sub-groups within this population of: 14-16, 16-18 and 18+.

Ms. Becker mentioned in regard to the Aging In/Out Task Force that Allison Blake sent out a request to find out locally how youth homelessness is addressed. There is a lot of focus on this age group. Things are moving in the right direction. Discussion ensued about the collection of data and how the numbers are captured.

Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – David Hollowell

NJ DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (NJLWD) LISTENING TOUR

On May 30, NJLWD executives will visit the Randolph One-Stop Career Center as part of their 2014 listening tour. The executives are attempting to visit all New Jersey One-Stops by the end of June. A key topic of conversation will be transportation to the Randolph One-Stop which is not served directly by New Jersey Transit (NJT). Morris, Sussex, Warren Employment and Training Services has submitted plans to NJT to serve

the center, at costs ranging from \$40K to \$80K. The meeting will determine if NJLWD will contribute to funding the proposed route changes.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS TASK FORCE

The WIB is a member of the NJ Employability Task Force, which is led by the NJ Business and Industry Association. The task force seeks to publicize the employability skills “crisis” that presents significant obstacles to economic growth through out the state. Job seekers lacking employability skills are at an extreme disadvantage in the labor market and employers can’t fill important jobs due to applicants’ lack of skills. Important employability skills, also known as soft skills, include attendance and punctuality, communication, teamwork and problem solving. The task force will conduct stakeholder focus groups this summer and issue an interim report by late September.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – No Report

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Charles LaRussa

- The Annual Public Forum for Consumers and Families will be held on Tuesday, June 17 at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Haggerty Center, 353 East Hanover Avenue in Morristown. Please join us for an interactive evening. The theme is Many Faces of Recovery – Wellness in Action. If you have any questions or want more information please call Laurie Becker at 973 285-6852.
- There was discussion about the heroin epidemic and the need to create a task force to try to address this. A sign up sheet was sent around at the PAC meeting, and there was a lot of interest from the committee. Barbara Kaufmann from Morris County Prevention is Key has agreed to be the lead agency and is committed to working with us on this. The plan is to hold a conference focusing on heroin as the annual countywide prevention conference. At the PAC meeting, Dave Roden from New Hope mentioned that six lives were saved with the use of Narcan in Monmouth County in the first week of its use. Ms. Jacobson passed out information on SAM: Smart Approaches to Marijuana. SAM is a new group of professionals advocating for a fresh approach that neither legalizes nor demonizes marijuana. Further information on SAM can be found at www.learnaboutsam.org
- Next MHSAAAB meeting is July 10, 5:15 p.m., MCDHS, 30 Schuyler Place, 3rd Floor, Red Room.

Council on Aging, Disability & Veterans (ACADV) – Tom Pappas

- May is ‘Older American’s Month’. The theme is “Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow”. The focus is on fall prevention which is a major factor in remaining healthy and independent. A serious fall can increase dying in a 5 year period because being immobile causes a decrease in a senior’s general well-being.
- Morris County Division on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans sponsors events during the month of May. For further information on county events can be found on the website at <http://morrishumanservices.org/events.asp>.
- Be aware of scammers. Phone scams are on the rise.
- The Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans is moving to Morris View Healthcare Center, 540 West Hanover Ave., Morris Township.

- The ACADV wrote a letter of support to the Legislature for several Assembly Bills. Bills are:
 1. Assembly Bill No. 84: Increases the income limit for eligibility for senior citizens' and disabled persons' to receive their property tax deduction.
 2. Assembly Bill No. 727: Provides certain veteran benefits to veterans of the global war on terror conflicts and those of certain military engagements served during certain periods "those with war service". This bill provides veteran's status to a veteran of any operation, mission or conflict during the global war on terror, including those who served in Operation Noble Eagle, in the United States or abroad. Under current law, only members of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom are veterans of the global war on terror. Under current law, members of Noble Eagle or any other concurrent or subsequent operation, mission or conflict related to the global war on terror do not qualify. This bill will include those persons. The bill amends several statutes that define "veteran" for purposes of civil service hiring preferences, the purchase of service credit and calculation of retirement benefits for the Public Employee's Retirement System and the Firemen's Retirement System and for the receipt of the property tax deduction. Also under this bill the "in country" 14 day active service requirement that limits the definition of veteran for some military engagements is supplemented with a minimum 90-day active military service requirement regardless of location, and exclusive of any period.
 3. Assembly Bill No. 1671: Limits rent increases for certain senior citizens.
 4. Assembly Bill No. 2187: "New Jersey Housing Assistance for Veterans Act," establishes pilot program to assist certain veterans with housing modifications and rehabilitation; appropriates \$5 million.
- The ACADV reviewed an e-mail that was sent to the Freeholders stating that there should be a fee for the Senior Nutrition Program and participants should have the ability to pay for meals based on income. The ACADV agreed to write a letter of support for the Nutrition Program.
- The Zufall Dental Van is available outside the Veterans Clinic twice a month and welcoming new patients, especially veterans. The next available dates are May 30 and June 9. For more information call Zufall at 973-328-3384.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – No Report

Partnership Announcement – Jeff Bashe

The CoC Executive Committee met last week and are continuing their work on the coordinated assessment process for the homeless. The committee approved a set of performance standards for monitoring homeless services. There will be a set of metrics to show how services for the homeless are being improved. They also started to work on a policy and procedure manual for the Executive Committee. This is a work in progress. They worked on the Homeless Plan and are thinking about adding a preface. They discussed the wide range of services in the county. This information will be shared once it is complete.

Mr. Pinto stated that at first they weren't sure they were happy with these changes. It was HUD's idea and requirement that the HSAC have a CoC and a CoC Executive Committee. As things are progressing there really seems to be a benefit to this new requirement. The Executive Directors are now sitting around the table and talking. Hopefully through this coordination more resources will be brought into the community and more services will be provided. Further discussion ensued.

Old Business

Mr. Dave Johnson remembered that several months ago the board discussed writing a letter to The Family Success Center in regard to their concern over possible duplication of services. It seems unclear what services they are actually providing. Discussed ensued. Since they get a lot of funding from the Department of Children & Families (DCF) it was suggested that the board write a letter to DCF requesting information about what services the Family Success Center is intended to provide. The letter will express the board's concern over the possible duplication of services. It will also ask DCF to start some type of monitoring.

Mr. Jeff Bashe made a motion to write a letter to DCF from the board expressing these concerns. Mr. Tom Pappas seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions and no opposition. Motion was carried.

New Business –

Ms. Xiomara Guevara stated that the Home Energy Assistance Program has been extended to June 30. This is for heating and cooling bills. Cooling is mainly for individuals with medical problems. For further information call the Morris County Organization of Hispanic Affairs at 973 366-1131.

Mr. Pinto stated that Morris County held a very nice Memorial Service at the Administration Building. Hurricane Harry was the speaker. His real name is Harry L. Ettlinger. There is even a movie recently made about him. Harry and his family fled Germany in Sept. 1938. Six years after his arrival in the U.S. he was drafted and returned to Europe as an infantryman in Jan. 1945. Harry told a little about the various assignments he was given in the Infantry. At one point he was assigned to supervise underground operations at a Nazi repository. He and his crew (they were known as the Monuments Men) first priority was to return seventy-three cases containing sections of stained glass belonging to Strasbourg Cathedral. It took 20 months to empty the mines of some 900 works of art. Most of the treasures later went back to German institutions. Harry gave an excellent speech. After his speech several veterans were recognized and presented with awards. Charles Jurgensen, Veterans Service Officer, did a great job organizing this event.

Mr. Pinto also stated that Ms. Mary Jo Buchanan, Assistant County Administration, will be leaving the county to take a job in Ocean County. Ms. Buchanan will be going to work for the Ocean County Partnership for Children. Ms. Buchanan will be missed by all.

Mr. Pinto asked Freeholder Kathryn DeFillippo to tell the board about herself. This is Ms. DeFillippo first year on the Freeholder board. She was a councilwoman in Roxbury Township from 2006 to 2013. She served as mayor in 2009 and deputy mayor in 2012-13 and was also a member of the town's Zoning Board of Adjustment. She has a long history of public and community service. She is past president of the Roxbury Area Chapter of Commerce and is currently on the board of the NJ Metro Chapter of the National MS Society. She was the driving force behind bringing the Walk MS to Roxbury in 2006 and has raised tens of thousands of dollars to help find a cure and raise awareness for people afflicted with this disease. She is a graduate of SUNY New Paltz with a BA in education and special education. Ms. DeFillippo is retired Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. She was the director of a sheltered workshop for physically and mentally handicapped adults in New York before working in the insurance industry in Washington D.C. area providing medical management and vocational rehabilitation services to injured workers. Ms. DeFillippo looks forward to being a part of Human Services and will do her best to attend board meetings.

Public Comment – None

**Funding – Closed Session –Funding for Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) -
Funding Recommendation
CLOSED SESSION**

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch.231, the Open Public Meetings Act and per the board's normal resolution language, and voted to conduct the closed session at 7:03 p.m. All those in conflict with Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) were asked to leave the meeting.

RETURN TO THE MEETING

The meeting returned to open session at 7:25 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Pepe stated that the subcommittee met and reviewed the 2015 SSH funding recommendations. The subcommittee presented their recommendations to the board; however, the board had some discussion and recommendations. On motion of Mr. Pepe seconded by Jeff Base all were in favor of the funding recommendations for the 2015 SSH funds. There was no opposition and one abstention. The motion was carried.

Adjournment – The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Pepe at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide