

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 26, 2015, 340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Township

Call to Order: The May 26, 2015 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Debi Merz at 5:02 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep., Liaison CoC Executive Committee  
Linda Csengeto, Liaison OTA  
Debi Merz, Chair  
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.  
Tom Pepe, Citizen Rep.  
Michelle Roers, United Way NNJ

**Also Attending:**

David Johnston; NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
Susan Alvino, Department of Children & Families  
Wendy Zoccola, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

**Staff in Attendance:**

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Jennifer Carpinteri, MCDHS  
Shelia Carter, MCDHS  
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

**Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Debi Merz**

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes – Ms. Debi Merz**

The motion to approve the April 28 minutes was made by Mr. Jeff Bashe and seconded by Mr. Ken Oexle. All were in favor with no opposition and two abstentions. The motion carried.

**Morris County Department of Human Services – Ms. Jennifer Carpinteri**

MAPS curb to curb transportation service is available to residents age 60 and older, 18 and older with physical or mental disability that include functional limitations or reside in rural areas of Morris County. Trips to medical appointments such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy and dialysis have high priority. 63,906 trips were provided in 2014.

Casino revenue funds which help support the MAPS transportation program are down more than 50% since 2008. The MAPS office is asking the Governor and Legislative Representatives to restore funding to the 2012 level. Members and guests are asked to sign and return cards of support to Lauren Burd (at the MAPS office) before June 17. The Freeholders are also being asked to pass a resolution supporting MAPS and the restoration of funds. If funding is restored to the 2012 level, the additional \$6 million will stabilize funding and reduce the need to cut vital community transportation and paratransit programs.

Most counties charge for MAPS services. In Morris clients are asked for donations. If the MAPS program is unable to get funds restored Plan B may be to require a fee for services. MAPS began bus advertising only a few months ago which provides some revenue.

Mr. Johnston stated the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is able to pay for transportation for their clients over 18. It was mentioned that some counties still have Dial a Ride. Ms. Zoccola suggested

that MAPS partner with or ask for donations from large companies such as Shop Rite, Atlantic Health Care or M & M Company.

Ms. Carpinteri talked to Logisticare regarding state bidding. They need to get policies and procedures straightened out to match Medicare/Medicaid Providers. In Morris County less than 25% qualify for Medicaid.

Mr. Joseph Costantino is now Fiscal Officer for all of the Morris County Department of Human Services. Formerly, he was responsible for fiscal matters concerning the Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance.

Mr. Joseph Kovalcik, Director of Finance and County Treasurer will be invited to speak to the board about the county budget at a future meeting.

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

Live Webinars on DDD's System Reform will occur as follows:

Access: [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd)

- A) DDD'S System Reform: Understanding What it Means for Some Entering DDD Services. This webinar is designed to provide information to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and school personnel.
  - Friday, June 5, 2015 – 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - Monday, July 13, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
  
- B) DDD's System Reform: Understanding What is Means for Someone Currently Receiving DDD Services. This webinar is designed to provide information to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have already been receiving DDD-funded services, their families, and service providers.
  - Wednesday, June 17, 2015 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
  - Saturday, August 15, 2015 – 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  
- The long awaited mental health group home has opened (collaborative effort between Mental Health and DDD). All but one resident has been identified. People coming into the home are one from Ancora, two from Greystone and the fourth has yet to be identified. The home is located on Morris Avenue in Denville. Youth Consultation Services (YCS) is the provider.
- A four person home in Randolph has opened. Four females will be served. YCS is the provider.
- A four person home in Mt. Olive will open shortly. This home will serve four individuals who have specialized medical needs. The provider is REM/Mentor.
- 74 individuals are identified for seven new homes that will open. The homes are located in Parsippany/Troy Hills, Parsippany, Chatham, Long Valley, Denville, Flanders and Randolph.

### **New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Dave Johnston -**

Suzanne Alvino is the new Area Director.

The Qualitative Review was done this past May. Twelve case files were reviewed. There were about 170 interviews with stakeholders, parents, youth, therapists, etc. After the review a performance improvement plan is developed.

Statewide the office got a high rating in safety and did well in living arrangements, stability and family supports. However, there needs to be improvement on the long term view, child wellbeing, and better links to community support. They are working on the performance improvement plan. This is not done every year and takes about a week to do.

Ms. Becker wondered if there is a way to hone in on that population through the Aging-In Task Force. Mr. Johnston stated there are two ways – two of these cases that are aging in/out youth are selected. There is quality review of adolescents done using a modified tool since adolescents have different needs. The Office of Adolescent Services is very involved. They do things to educate youth. They also try to look at youth and help them find connections, someone to spend holidays with, or a support system for them. They do things on an ongoing basis. They try to help youth with practical needs such as housing vouchers while they are transitioning from youth to adults.

Ms. Becker said that back in October some of this information was presented at a Strategic Planning Day. One requirement of DCF was to add to the plan of homelessness that there is supposed to be oversight by the HSAC.

#### **Staff Reports –**

##### **Ms. Laurie Becker**

No Report

##### **Ms. Shelia Carter –**

The Morris County Continuum of Care 2015 Notice of Intent for projects targeting homeless individuals and families is due this upcoming Friday. In 2014, \$1,750, 933 was awarded to 11 projects for services ranging from programs working to remove barriers to permanent housing. After HUD's SuperNOFA is released, the CoC Executive Committee will review the notices and hear presentations from potential projects applicants. Additional information may be found on the Morris County Department of Human Services Website at <http://morrishumanservices.org/behavioral/continuum.asp>.

The Morris County Department of Human Services is also in the midst of its 2016 funding process for Grant-In-Aid, Child Abuse Prevention and Older American Act Funding. Renewal applications are also being accepted for State Community Partnership and Peer Grouping Funding. All applications are due Friday, June 26. Funding information can be found on the Morris County website at [www.morris.humanservices.org](http://www.morris.humanservices.org).

Funding review meetings will be scheduled in July and August. Monitoring's for 2015 subgrants will also be scheduled throughout the summer. Ms. Becker stated that it looks like this year the funding is flat/level.

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

##### **Planning Child Care – Dedicated Voucher System Update Written Report**

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served. Child & Family Resources receive approximately 20 new applications a week.

Currently, there are three unutilized dedicated vouchers at Dover Child Care, one at Little Learner and one at Morristown Neighborhood House. The 30 day clock is still in effect. Two dedicated vouchers were reallocated from Collinsville to Early Years CCC in Denville which are yet to be filled.

We allocated the two slots lost by Collinsville to Early Years CCC in Denville which are not yet filled.

### **Youth Homelessness – Dave Johnson**

No further report (discussed earlier).

### **Workforce Investment Board – Written Report**

Youth Provider Request-for-Proposals –

On March 30, The WIB and MSW Employment and Training Services issued a request-for- proposals for youth employment and training. Services procured under this proposal will begin July 1, 2015, under the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act. Despite extensive outreach to potential providers, only two proposals were submitted. On May 21, the MSW Youth Investment Council approved the proposals from New Bridge Services and Phillipsburg School Based Youth Services. Both organizations have provided high quality youth services for the WIB for over 20 years.

Fund Transfer -

On May 12, the WIB asked permission from the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development to transfer \$200,000 from the WIA Adult Program to the WIA Dislocated Worker program. The request was approved on May 19. The transfer will allow MSW Employment and Training Services to meet the demand for dislocated worker training through June 30, 2015.

### **Morris/Sussex/Warren HIV Advisory – No Report**

#### **Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Written Report**

- The annual Consumer and Family Forum “Many Faces of Recovery: Creative Expressions” will be held on June 9, 5:30 p.m., at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Haggerty Center, 353 East Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ. The Forum is for individuals and their families who have been involved with or who want to learn more about Morris County’s publicly-funded human services. It is sponsored by the Morris County Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board and Board of Chosen Freeholders. All are invited for an interactive evening. Light refreshments will be served.
- The Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug abuse (GCADA) funds Municipal Alliances in all 21 of New Jersey’s counties. 2016 funding to Morris County’s Municipal Alliances was voted on and approved by the MHSAAB. The funding is in the amount of \$473,890. This funding goes out to 33 of the 39 municipalities. There are a few small municipalities that choose not to participate. The Municipal Alliance network is made up of local, grassroots organizations which are comprised mainly of volunteers. This statewide network was established to assess needs, set priorities, develop plans and implement programs which form the foundation of New Jersey’s substance abuse prevention activities.
- Parents Who Host Lose the Most Campaign is on until the end of June. Proclamation for this campaign will be given by the Freeholders at the first meeting in June. This campaign is to help bring awareness of the local conditions around underage drinking in our community – to leaders, parents, and youth – and send a direct message that parents who provide alcohol to teenagers do so at a great risk to the community. Statistics show that through combined endeavors, the number of youth using alcohol has declined, but there is further work needs to be done.
- The next MHSAAB board meeting is July 9 at 5:15 p.m. at 30 Schuyler Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor in Morristown. All are welcome.

## **Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans (ACADV) – Written Report**

- May is “Older Americans Month” and the theme is “Get into the Act”. This theme is meant to show that people should get involved in physical activities and also that the Older Americans Act is up for renewal.
- A Freeholder’s Welcome is planned for May at the Morris View Healthcare Center. The Freeholders have been involved with Morris View and the public need to be made aware of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.
- June is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Americans with Disability Act”.
- On June 28, DAWN, is hosting an ADA anniversary event at Central Park from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. with The Morris Park Commission and the Dept. of Human Services.
- The Elder Economic Index states that in Morris County, seniors over the age of 65, living alone, 45% are in economic distress. Only 55% of seniors are economically secure.
- Monetary cuts are expected under the Older Americans Act, consisting of .08% for each of the next three years.
- Sequester cuts may be going into effect 7-1-15. Less funding is expected under the Older Americans Act due to census shifts. People are moving out of New Jersey.
- The Committee is Advocating for the re-authorization of the Older Americans Act Bill, Federal Senate No. 192.

## **Youth Services Advisory Council Report – Dave Johnston**

Through a new Initiative the Children’s System of Care is undertaking the substance abuse contracts that came over to the Children’s System of Care. As of August 1 aging youth will be going to programs and will have an automated referral. There will need to be more collaboration.

## **Partnership Announcements – Jeff Bashe**

As Ms. Carter mentioned earlier the Notice of Intent is out. They are expecting the same agencies to apply as last year.

The CoC is now an independent body working on the rules and infrastructure and trying to work through some issues. The Executive Committee may be in need of more member since a few are leaving/retiring.

## **Old Business – None**

## **New Business –**

Ms. Becker invited all to the annual Consumer and Family Forum “Many Faces of Recovery: Creative Expressions” on June 9. Details were given previously and fliers are available.

Ms. Roers stated that NORWESCAP is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They passed out “Save the Date” cards for this event to be held on Sept. 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Fiddler’s Elbow Country Club in Bedminster. For further information contact NORWESCAP at (908) 454-7000.

Ms. Roers said the North Jersey Health Collaborative has been started following the federal mandate. Atlantic Health took the lead and it will include a few counties. They are actively looking at health issues in the area. They are running focus groups and collecting data and trying to do a community assessment. For more information go to The North Jersey Collaborative website at <http://www.njhealthmatters.org>. Anyone can go on their website and find a lot of information and data. They are trying to figure out where we as a community can be collaborative – for example maybe with transportation services. Ms. Becker stated there are a lot of diverse folks at the table. Peter Talbot, Rockaway Health Officer, is Chair of the Morristown Committee and K. Curt from Atlantic Health is the Chairperson of the Collaborative. Lot of agencies are in

the Collaborative: United Way, Cornerstone Family Programs, Morristown Neighborhood House and Zufall. They in the finalist category. The group needs to try to identify what the area needs are and strategically address them. Robert Wood Johnson Hospital is also involved in the Collaborative.

**Public Comment** – None

**Adjournment** –

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Mr. Jeff Bashe. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. The next meeting will be on June 23.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski  
Program Development Aide