

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2013

340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The April 23 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Xiomara Guevara, Chair at 5:35 p.m.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep., Liaison MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep./Liaison United Way N.N.J., Success by Six
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep.
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Rep./Liaison CEAS/CoC
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.
Xiomara Guevara, MC Organization of Hispanic Affairs
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.

Also Attending:

Molly Rennie, United Way of N.N.J. (departed at 6:05 p.m.)
Sabine VonAulock, M.C. Office of Community Development
Wendy Zoccola, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Staff in attendance:

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

Welcome and Introduction – Ms. Xiomara Guevara, Vice Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made. Ms. Guevara mentioned that Mr. David Walker resigned his position at Morristown Neighborhood House and may not be available to continue his term on the board. Time will tell.

Guest Presentation – Ms. Molly Rennie, United Way of Northern New Jersey

Spoke about the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed) Report. Though ALICE is working and paying taxes, ALICE represents one third of the people in the state of New Jersey. ALICE represents men and women of all ages and races who work, but aren't sure if they'll be able to put dinner on the table each night. They are child care workers, mechanics, home health aides, store clerks and office assistances – all essential to our community's success. ALICE is a significant population that cannot be ignored. Visit www.UnitedWayNNJ.org/ALICE to download this report.

Approval of February 26 Minutes –

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Melo and seconded by Mr. Ken Oexle. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstention.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – Mr. Frank Pinto

The requirements of the Affordable Care Act made the launch of the Medicaid Managed Care Waiver for long term care a second priority. It looks like the launch for this waiver will not be until July 2014.

The Freeholders have adopted the Morris View Advisory Committee. This committee provides a forum for issues at Morris View and advisement for the Board of Chosen Freeholders to know what is going at the Morris View Healthcare Center. The Board will meet every other month starting in May.

Saint Clare’s Behavioral Health opened at the Central Avenue Complex. The complex is progressing but not as quickly as originally planned. It is uncertain when the next RFP will be issued.

The Senior Nutrition Program is doing very well. There are 15 Congregate Sites throughout Morris County. These sites serve about a half million meals each year. There is a new site in Chatham. It is located at the Chatham Presbyterian church. The new location is much larger than the prior site in Chatham. Please spread the word and encourage seniors you know to visit.

County of Morris Planning and Development – Sabine VonAulock

Funding Recommendations for the Community Development Block Grant, the Emergency Solutions Grant and the Home Investment Partnership will be presented to the Freeholders for approval at tomorrow’s meeting.

On May 21 there will be a “Truth in Renting” seminar sponsored by the County’s Fair Housing Committee. This seminar targets landlords and tenants. It will be held at the Morris County Library beginning at 6:30 p.m.

New Jersey Department of Human Services – No Report

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – Wendy Zoccola

In order to be eligible for DDD the client must be Medicaid eligible. It is often difficult to get this verification and without it services cannot be implemented. After Medicaid is assured services can be provided.

Discussion ensued about the 20 residential homes proposed for development in Morris County. These homes are for people coming out of developmental centers, those returning home to New Jersey and for folks in an emergency situation. There is still a large list of people on the waiting listing for residential housing. Mr. Pinto asked about how many homes have actually opened in Morris County and if some of these are existing homes. There are some existing homes and there will be some new homes. There is a new home in Kinnelon opening in a few weeks.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) – Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) – No Report

Staff Report – Ms. Shelia Carter

The Division of Behavioral Health & Youth Services is coordinating activities with the Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans in preparation for the 2014 Funding cycle. This year, a Request for Funding Application (RFA) must be submitted for Child Abuse Prevention, Grant-In-Aid and Social Services for the Homeless funding. Renewal applications will be accepted for Chapter 51, State/Community Partnership, Older Americans Act and Peer Grouping funding. On May 10 the Request for Funding Application (RFA) Invitation letter and worksheet will go out. Agencies may also request an RFA package on line and find out further information on www.MorrisHumanServices.org. The deadline for agencies to return their funding applications is June 28, 2013.

Ms. Carter thanked Ms. Guevara and Ms. Zydel for their hard work and for reaching out to the committee members and tightening the process. The Chairs for 2013 subcommittees are:

- Planning Committee, Mr. Ken Oexle
- Program Review Committee, Ms. Cynthia Degazon
- Nominating Committee & MHSAAB Liaison, Mr. Charles LaRussa
- Legislative Committee, Ms. Marcia Brands
- CEAS/CoC Liaison, Ms. Linda Csengeto

Subcommittee Reports – CEAS/CoC – Linda Csengeto

The Morris County Housing Authority presented information on the impact of sequestration cuts on 634 participants of the Housing Choice Voucher Program. The Program serves 270 families and 364 elderly and disabled residents by paying 70% of their rent directly to landlords. In order to manage an estimated 6% reduction in funding, the Housing Authority plans to increase the amount each family contributes towards rent. Committee members expressed concern as to whether residents could manage increased rent payments because of tight budgets.

Our Place presented information on their day time drop-in center which serves the homeless and those who seek respite from life on the street in the Morristown area. They offer many services for the homeless and impoverished.

Edna's Haven presented information on their partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church and the Mental Health Association of Morris County. Edna's Haven focuses on serving the needs of homeless and impoverished in Dover and its surrounding area.

Planning Subcommittee – Ken Oexle

Childcare Update – written report provided by Ms. Rebekka Zydel

Child & Family Resources, Morris County’s Resource and Referral Agency do not have a waiting list for child care subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served. Approximately 12 new applications are being received each week.

The NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development will be joining Child & Family Resources for a joint technical assistance meeting on Friday, May 3, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Saint Clare’s Medical Campus-Dover, Community Meeting Room to address concerns related to the e-child care system.

Program Review Committee – Ms. Cynthia DeGazon

Ms. DeGazon asked for the support and approval of the Board on the 2014 Funding Priorities for Grant-In-Aid, Social Services for the Homeless and Child Abuse Prevention. Ms. Debi Merz made a motion that the HSAC support and approve the 2014 Funding Priorities. Mr. Jeff Bashe seconded the motion. Following discussion, all were in favor with no opposition and two abstentions.

Advisory Committee Reports –

Youth Services Advisory – written report provided by Ms. Jessica Mondino

There was a presentation on the DAWN Center for Independent Living. They serve people of all ages and disabilities and have eleven centers servicing all of New Jersey. For further information on DAWN Center for Independent Living see their website at www.dawncil.org.

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P) changed their investigative protocol as of April 1 to include a four tier finding system. Now they will be able to view previous referrals for a family prior to going out on calls.

Jersey Battered Women’s Services (JBWS), a domestic violence facility, received funding from DCP&P to incorporate fatherhood into their “Batterers” program. The goal is to help attendees of the program understand the impact of violence on their families. This program will work to reestablish relationships with their children. For additional information call JBWS at 973-539-7801.

Morris County Prevention is Key, a non-profit dedicated to preventing substance abuse, is looking for volunteers for their “Pathway to Independence” program. It is a big brother, big sister type program. Mentors are needed for 1-2 hours a week and background checks are required. For further information call Morris County Prevention is Key at 973-625-1998.

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – written report submitted by Mr. Jack Patten

The WIB has issued requests for Proposals for In School and Out of School Youth Programs for Program Year 2013, which begins July 1, 2013. Youth training

providers must offer ten core program elements and link employment and academic activities to provide a comprehensive continuum of care and year round programs and services. Prospective applicants should visit the WIB website at www.msw.wib.org. for further information.

Morris, Sussex, Warren Employment (MSW) and Training Services Youth Counselor Ms. Kim Johnson was recently named Chair of the Morris County Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) Planning Committee. Ms. Johnson's extensive experience and knowledge of local youth programs will be a substantial asset to the committee and the YSAC.

The WIB recently submitted a certification application to the NJ State Employment and Training Commission (SETC). The SETC must certify that NJ WIBs meet Workforce Investment Act governance, fiscal and programmatic requirements to receive WIA funding. Initial feedback from the SETC indicates the MSW WIB application is one of NJ's strongest and will require minimal additions for certification.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Mr. Charles LaRussa
Morris County Screening Services was up for a Request for Funding Proposal (RFP); however, no proposals were submitted. The MHSAAAB sent a letter of inquiry to the Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) regarding the lack of proposals submitted. Saint Clare's contract as the County Screening Center expires June 30, 2013. The MHSAAAB asked for response within 10 days to their issues and concerns.

DMHAS responded to the MHSAAAB's letter on March 22 assuring the board they are aware of Saint Clare's critical role. They have no intention of interrupting service and will send out a second RFP shortly.

The 19th Annual Public Mental Health Forum entitled "The Many Faces of Recovery – the Importance of Connections" will be on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Haggerty Center, 353 East Hanover Ave., Morristown. All are welcome. For more information call Ms. Laurie Becker at (973) 285-6852. Light refreshments will be served.

On March 4 The University of Dentistry and Medicine of New Jersey (UMDNJ) got a letter awarding them the RFP for the Statewide Suicide Prevention Hotline. They will receive almost \$650,000 for this hotline and resources.

The MHSAAAB approved the updated 2014 funding priority summaries. These are updated annually in preparation for the annual mailing of the "Invitation to Submit Applications" for 2014 funding available through the county. These letters will go out on May 10.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Mr. Tom Pappas

May is traditionally celebrated as “Older American’s Month”, and this year’s theme is “Unleash the Power of Age”.

The following events are scheduled:

- 5/7 1:30 p.m. Senior and Disability Art show awards at the Morris County Library. Artwork is displayed throughout the month.
- 5/14 1:30 p.m. “Living Treasures” award in conjunction with St. Francis Health Care Center and Morris County Department of Human Services, AARP of Northwest NJ and MCCoOPO.
- 5/24 Morris County College “Celebrates Seniors” a day long event.
- 5/24 12:00 p.m. Morris County annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Distinguished Medal Ceremony on the Courthouse lawn.

The new Morris County Directory of Services is available and online at www.MorrisHumanServices.org.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee – Mr. Robert Armstrong

Mr. William Shapiro is stepping down as Chair of the Tri-county AIDS Advisory Committee and Ms. Joann McEniry will serve as the new Chair.

The committee is hosting an HIV/AIDS Information Roundtable on April 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Hope House in Dover. Invitations for the Roundtable have been sent to agencies, groups and individuals from Morris, Sussex and Warren counties involved in HIV-related endeavors in an effort to strengthen community collaboration and information exchange.

The Information Roundtable went very well. The committee would like to try to get more people to attend the next Roundtable. There were many lively discussions. HIV Information Roundtables will be held bi-annually, the next one scheduled for October 18, 2013.

The annual New Jersey AIDS Walk will be held on May 5 beginning at 12:00 p.m. at the Morristown Green in Morristown. The New Jersey AIDS Walk is held statewide, also in Atlantic City, Asbury Park, Newark and Ridgewood. Last year Senator Robert Menendez and Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen were in attendance and spoke at the Morristown Green.

Mr. Bashe mentioned that there will be a new round of federal Race to the Top – Early Education grants with a proven Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) in place for early childhood education programs. New Jersey lost out in the last round of funding, but the Department of Education and the Department of Human

Services are now initiating a pilot program to fine-tune the revised QRIS approach. The pilot was to include only 40 agencies in Somerset and Middlesex Counties and Newark. However, because the United Way of Northern New Jersey is already working to implement QRIS for its funded agencies, they, together with Child & Family Resources, were able to get 15 agencies in Morris County into the pilot program. This will be advantageous to Morris County child care centers as QRIS becomes required by the State. It should also bring each center in the pilot a quality improvement grant of a few thousand dollars. These funds will come from the State and will be complemented by some funding from the United Way.

Old Business – None

New Business –

At our next board meeting filming will occur for a documentary “Positively Aging.” The film itself is about the aging, HIV positive population in America. The film centers around five people who are over 50 and HIV positive. It chronicles their life stories, the issues they face, the state of their health and interviews with friends and family. By comparing and contrasting their stories, the film will tell the greater narrative of what it means to be HIV positive and over 50. The film is supplemented with interviews with doctors and nurses, public health and social workers, symposiums, conferences, talks, meetings and events. Bob Armstrong will be featured in this film, during the next meeting, to demonstrate some of the work being done with HIV. The documentary is expected to air in August 2014.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Ms. Mary Jane Melo made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Ms. Brands at 6:55 p.m. The next regular meeting will be May 28.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide