

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
August 25, 2015, 340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Township

Call to Order: The August 25, 2015 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Marcia Brands, Co-Chair, at 5:02 p.m.

Members Present:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep., Liaison CoC Executive Committee
Marcia Brands, Vice Chair, Citizen Rep., Liaison Legislative Subcommittee
Linda Csengeto, Liaison OTA
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.
Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep.
Xiomara Guevara, Hispanic Affairs
David Hollowell, Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep.
Michelle Roers, Citizen Rep.

Also Attending:

Mary Giorlando, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities
Rebekka Zydell, Child & Family Resources

Staff in Attendance:

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

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Debi Merz, Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Changes in the Childcare System – Rebekka Zydell – Presentation

In November 2014, Congress reauthorized the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) with strong bipartisan support. The legislation aims to ensure the health and safety of children in child care settings, improve the quality of care, and make it easier for families to get and keep child care assistance. Yet unlike previous reauthorizations, this law was not accompanied with a guarantee of new federal funds. Significant new federal and state resources will be essential for states to fully comply with the law's new requirements without further reducing assistance to children. The number of children receiving childcare assistance nationwide in 2013 was the lowest since 1998.

Ms. Zydell distributed information to board members and reviewed the Child Care and Developmental Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 Plain Language Summary of Statutory Changes.

Discussion ensued about the new regulations and changes and the concern that these changes don't come with any money. Nationally many folks are letting the state know this is impossible to do without additional money. Ms. Zydel stated that what it comes down to is that probably fewer families will be served but there will be a higher quality of care. The goal is to improve the quality of the centers and to try to get them to participate even if they don't want to complete the entire program. This does somewhat align with the Race to the Top Grant. Through Race to the Top there are free trainings for Child Care Centers. Some discussion on this ensued and on Grow NJ Kids.

Grow NJ Kids is a NJ rating system which rates the quality of care at childcare centers. The ratings are from 1 – 5 (5 is the highest). The higher the care the higher the reimbursement. There are fifteen agencies piloting this program. There are 350 licensed childcare centers in Morris County and 20 of those centers serve a high amount of children with subsidies. The other centers have only a few subsidies. All childcare centers have to be licensed but if the centers want to receive subsidies they have to follow all the rules and regulations. There is concern that down the road centers may have to take less children.

It was suggested by Ms. Roers that perhaps the board should advocate for more money for childcare. Ms. Becker stated that the HSAC would have to put together some ideas and thoughts to present for Ms. Carpinteri's approval. It seems like a good thing to work on but may take years. Mr. Bashe stated that the board would have to make a case for this and build an analysis. Ms. Zydel stated that this is the time to start thinking about this and working on it since in about three years the effects of the changes will be seen.

Ms. Zydel saw an article about how many jobs in childcare have an impact on other industries. Ms. Becker thinks that perhaps the Continuum of Care Committee should put together an ad hoc committee to work on this and look at forthcoming changes. Ms. Becker stated that in the Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board (MHSAAB) there are many changes going on due to new Medicaid rules and regulations.

Ms. Zydel mentioned the engaging film "The Raising of America." She believes this would be a great film worth showing the Freeholders. The film talks about the changes in society in childcare, supporting families, etc. It is a research driven film and is excellent. Ms. Brands suggested first showing this film to the ad hoc committee in order that they come up with a letter to the Freeholders in regard to this.

Ms. Delaney stated that she is grateful to the Freeholders and the many services available in Morris County. She mentioned how helpful the services have been to her older disabled son and is thankful that Morris County has helped her son have a great quality of life!

Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the July 28 minutes was made by Ms. Mary Jane Melo and seconded by Mr. Ken Oexle. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition. The motion carried.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – No Report

**New Jersey Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities –
Ms. Mary Giorlando**

There is a new supports program. There is a small group that has begun in the supports program. They are starting small and need to work out the kinks. Hopefully this will grow.

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

Morris East

Child Welfare Assessments – 22

Child Abuse Investigations – 55

Total for MELO – 77

Morris West

Child Welfare Assessments – 32

Child Abuse Investigations – 69

Total for MWLO – 101

County Totals

CWS – 54

CPS – 124

Total Reports – 1078

Staff Reports –

Ms. Becker

The annual county Memorial Service will be held on Sept. 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the memorial park next to the Public Safety Training Academy on West Hanover Ave.

On Sept. 28 all are invited to a “Meet the Director” at the PSTA. Liz Manley, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Children’s System of Care (under DCF) will talk about the Children’s System of Care and answer questions. All are invited.

There will be no MHSAB meeting in August. The next meeting will be on Sept. 10. The funding subcommittee will meet regarding 2016 funding recommendations and discuss changes. The approval by the board will be at the Sept. board meeting. The next step is that the recommendations go to the Freeholders for their approval at their November meeting. Award and declination letters will go out to agencies in November after the election.

The Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) program will kick off on Sept. 1 in Morris County. This is a big deal as it offers another option for folks that are better served out of the hospital. The state provides money to the Mental Health Association of MC to provide this program.

Ms. Brands stated that on October 1 the Governor’s Council on Anti-Stigma campaign will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Greystone hospital.

Ms. Carter

The Program review committee will meet on Sept. 2 and 3 to review the Grant in Aid and CAP applications. They will also discuss the two reallocations for 2015.

Ms. Carter received a request from Hispanic Affairs to modify a 2015 subgrant. Part of what they do is provide preschool transportation for El Primer Paso. They have identified a reduction in the number of children requiring transportation. Head Start has been asking for help with transportation. Hispanic Affairs asked for an expansion of their service to help serve kids that go to Head Start and need transportation. There is no increase in funding. Mr. Bashe made a motion to request the modification request from Hispanic Affairs to expand their transportation to Head Start. Ms. Melo seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion was carried.

Ms. Carter stated that at the next meeting Ms. Charmaine will be here to discuss the Family Success Centers.

Subcommittee Reports

Planning Child Care – Dedicated Voucher System Update – Kevin Collins

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. We are serving all eligible applicants and receive approximately 20 new applications a week.

We currently have one unutilized dedicated voucher at Parsippany Child Care and one at Kindercare Learning Center the 30 day clock is still in effect.

We anticipate about 49 slots opening up as children age out programs the end of August. Many kids are aging out and going into kindergarten.

Ms. Zydel recommended the HSAC reissue an RFA and update the agency list for the Dedicated Vouchers. Ms. Becker believes this was done and put on the website three to four years ago. Mr. Bashe suggested that a subcommittee get together and work on this. Perhaps the entire process should be reviewed. It may take several months to complete.

Youth Homelessness – Dave Johnson

No Report

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – David Hollowell

Workforce Data Quality Initiative

The WIB and Employment & Training Services (ETS) have joined the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development and Rutgers University in the federally funded Workforce Data Quality Initiative. The initiative's purpose is to identify the most effective ways of presenting job seekers with information about the quality of training providers. ETS will issue questionnaires to One-Stop Career Center customers to determine their preferences in presentation and delivery of training provider information and related labor market data. A project organizing meeting will be held at the WIB office on September 3, 2015.

Workforce Investment Act Program Year 2014 Performance

The WIB and ETS met or exceeded all Workforce Investment Act metrics for Program Year 2014, which ended on June 30, 2015. The WIB and ETS met the following metrics:

- Adult Entered Employment
- Adult Average Earnings
- Youth Placement
- Youth Attain Degree

And exceeded:

- Adult Retention
- Dislocated Worker Entered Employment
- Dislocated Worker Retention
- Dislocated Worker Earnings
- Youth Literacy / Numeracy

Program Year 2015 metrics are unchanged from Program Year 2014, as federal, state and local stakeholders develop performance standards for transition to the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory –

Ms. Carter stated that funding allocations were completed for the region.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – No Report

The next meeting will be on Sept. 10 at 30 Schuyler Place at 5:15 p.m. All are welcome.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – No Report

Youth Services Advisory (YSAC) – No Report

Partnership Announcements – Jeff Bashe

The next Continuum of Care meeting will be held on Sept. 8 at 1:00 p.m. at 340 West Hanover Avenue. There will be a SOAR presentation. Project Homeless Connect will be held early November. There is no further report as there were no summer meetings.

Old Business –

None

New Business –

Ms. Zydell stated that DCF put out an RFP to fund an agency to have a role in engaging parents and helping to identify needs in the community. Perhaps County Counsel could keep us informed in what is going on. Maybe someone from NORWESCAP's Head Start or Early Head Start could come in and speak on this.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment –

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Tom Pappas and seconded by Mary Jane Melo at 6:20 p.m.
All were in favor with no opposition and no objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide