

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown
September 27, 2016
MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:04 p.m. by Mr. Kenneth Oexle. Chair.

Members Present:

Kenneth Oexle, Chair, Citizen Representative
Thomas Pepe, Vice Chair, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, OTA Liaison
David Hollowell, Workforce Development Board Liaison
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS
Wendy Zoccola, NJDHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities
David Johnston, NJDYFS

Staff in Attendance:

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

Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of August 23, 2016 Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Mary Jane Melo and seconded by Linda Csengeto. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstentions.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – No Report

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Tamayo

At the beginning of September the Human Services Directors and State Human Services Council met. Ms. Carter was in attendance at this meeting. Ms. Carter gave a summary of the meeting and stated the Commissioner summarized the fee-for-service information and went over start dates. Also discussed was other money that may be available to help clients with copays. They discussed Logisticare. The RFP went out and bids are being reviewed for a new Medicaid transportation provider. There is a now a Medicaid application for cell phone users (since a lot of clients don't have access to a home phone).

Ms. Carter stated there was a presentation from the Child Care Resource and Referral statewide network. Ms. Zydel and team of presenters went over recent changes and how the work they do impacts the community. Also discussed was the importance of Child Care Resource and Referral participation in local HSAC's .

Mr. Tamayo has been sending DHS updates to cultivate the legislative piece within the HSAC. There is some information on health in the updates as well. Ms. Becker said it is good for the board to be informed and updated on the legislative advocacy piece. Receiving the DHS updates is helpful.

Mr. Tamayo gave a brief report in regard to the New Jersey Department of Human Services budget. The total State budget is \$35.1 billion. The NJDHS budget is \$7.9 billion. This equals about 22% of the state's overall budget. Mr. Pepe asked what this \$7.9 billion pays for. Mr. Tamayo said the money pays for psychiatric hospitals, mental health services, addiction services, etc. Mr. Pepe asked what percent of people are served by that \$7.9 billion. Mr. Tamayo said the budget is on line and public information. Ms. Carter said there used to be an Executive Summary of the budget which showed how the money was spent. Mr. Tamayo said he will put something together on this to distribute to the board. Ms. Becker said they used to send out these summary reports but don't any longer.

New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities – Ms. Wendy Zoccola

Mr. Pepe asked how the transition is working. Ms. Zoccola stated the waiting list is moving forward. Some people initially came with money attached. Some people are provided with other resources and will be part of another waiver. With each graduating class (once child turns 21) they enter into a new world. They don't have all the pieces figured out yet. The concept will work but they are still hiring people and transition is occurring.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) – Mr. David Johnston

August

Morris East - 48 (significant drop not sure why usually 90-100)

Morris West – 106

There is a pilot program slated to begin on Aug. 1 – where kids in foster homes have to be contacted by local representatives. This is in order that they are offered as much support as possible. They are tracking this program through the Red Cap system. The hope is by the end of the year they will have a better idea of the numbers.

Two RFPs closed Friday. Please see the website for further information. Some discussion ensued about these RFPs. They are trying to get joint training on sex crimes for both the East and West offices. There are a lot of new staff, detectives and intake workers and they must work on developing relationships.

Staff Reports – Ms. Becker

There is a lot of work and energy on the Stigma Free Initiative. Anyone interested in joining the Stigma Free Committee is welcome. The next meeting will be Oct. 25 at 9:30 a.m. at 30 Schuyler Place, Third Floor Blue Room in Morristown. Please contact Ms. Laurie Becker at (973) 285-6852 if you are interested in joining or obtaining further information. You may also visit the website at <http://morriscountynj.gov/hs/stigma-free/>.

All advisory boards have reviewed and approved their 2017 Grant-in-Aid, Senior Grant-in-Aid, Child Abuse Protection and Chapter 51 funding recommendations. Award and declination letters should go out mid-November.

Ms. Carter –

This year, ten (10) advisory members were appointed. There are currently eight (8) members. Two members resigned (Ms. Cynthia Degazon moved out of state and Ms. Marie Brink stepped down for personal reasons). The term limit is six one year consecutive terms. All are within term limit except one. Most members have expressed an interest in remaining on the board. Some of the eight people that had reached their term last year, may want to return to the board in 2017.

Planning – Child Care Report – Rebecca Sherrod

They are busy with a lot of applications and have sent out over 700 applications. They are still waiting on what changes may occur in regard to the voucher system. They are utilizing all vouchers. They are partnering with Homeless Solutions and hosting an open house titled “Subsidy Community Engagement”. The open house will be held on October 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Homeless Solutions Transitional Housing Program Conference Room at 3 Jean St. in Morristown. There will be a lot of resources available and childcare providers will be there to talk to people about their options. They are also partnering with Essex County to host financial management strategy workshops.

Ms. Carter provided an update on the current status of El Primer Paso. Mr. Pepe talked about NORWESCAP expansion ideas related to Head Start in Morris County.

Program Review –

Funding – Closed Session – 2017 Funding Recommendations

There was a motion to close the meeting.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act and per the boards resolution language and the closed session began at 5:45 p.m. All those in conflict with any of the funding streams were asked to leave the meeting. Ms. Rebecca Sherrod, Ms. Jane Armstrong and Mr. Tom Pepe left the room.

RETURN TO MEETING

Motion was made by Ms. Csengeto and seconded by Mr. Pepe to reopen the meeting. The meeting was reopened to the public at 6:03 p.m. Ms. Rebecca Sherrod, Ms. Jane Armstrong and Mr. Tom Pepe reentered the room.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Hollowell stated that the funding subcommittee met, reviewed and discussed all Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) and Grant-in-Aid (GIA) funding applications. The subcommittee recommends the HSAC approve all 2017 CAP and GIA funding recommendations as discussed in closed session.

On motion of Ms. Mary Jane Melo and seconded by Ms. Linda Csengeto, the 2017 CAP and GIA funding recommendations are approved. There were two abstentions and no opposition. Motion was carried.

Youth Homelessness – Ms. Laurie Becker

They are going to address the Aging In/Aging Out Task Force. This committee is now called Bridging the Gap Network and is looking at the needs of young adults between the ages of 17 – 24. A letter was put together stating committee’s goals and objectives. The Task Force is waiting for further guidance from the State. Additional statistics are also needed.

Advisory Reports –

Workforce Development Board (WDB) – Mr. David Hollowell (written report submitted)

The Morris Sussex Warren Workforce Development Board (WDB) and Morris, Sussex, Warren Employment and Training Services (ETS) have issued a Request-for-Proposals for In-School Youth employment and training services in Morris County. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act requires that 20% of youth expenditures be used for work experience. This requirement necessitates expanded In-School Program work experience components and opportunities. The WDB and ETS hope to attract responses from Morris County School Districts with the capacity to provide workplace training for senior students.

The WDB and ETS has completed a search of soft skills curriculum and is piloting the *Conover Workplace Readiness* series designed to develop workplace skills. It is an on-line or instructor led soft skills program with an assessment test, 20 video-based lessons as well as a printable PDF course workbook. Skills addressed include the ability to communicate, prioritize, work in a team structure, make decisions and solve problems. ETS and WDB administrators and a random sampling of ETS customers have completed the series. Survey tools were created by the WDB to gather feedback. <https://www.conovercompany.com/>

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Ms. Joanne McEniry (written report submitted)

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/Advisory Committee met last on Tuesday, September 20, 2016.

- The committee received a presentation from Heather Lynch, Ed.S. LAC from Morris CARES. She provided members with an overview of services offered for sexual assault victims in Morris County.
- The committee is actively recruiting consumers and members of the community to participate in monthly meetings. Members were encouraged to invite consumers to attend. In addition, possible barriers to participation were discussed.
- Discussion was had regarding the development of a community wide Memorandum of Agreement. The committee will discuss this in greater detail at the October meeting.
- A Lunch and Learn will be hosted by New Jersey AIDS Services on October 18 for providers and people living with HIV/AIDS. The topic will cover issues related to HIV and aging.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Farleigh Dickenson University.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) – Ms. Becker (written report submitted)

- Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day will be held on Oct. 6 statewide. Former Governor Codey and Governor McGreevy are involved. Volunteer to spread the word to prescribers and families in your community. They are looking for 100 volunteers per county. Volunteers will do community outreach as well as visit prescribers with CDC guidelines. For additional information and to sign up to volunteer visit www.DrugFreeNJ.org/KnockOutVolunteers.

- The Consumer & Family Forum Summary is complete and can be viewed on the county website at www.morrishumanservices.org
- There was an update and discussion CHAMPS program at Ruth Davis Drive, Parsippany. This has been a 12-year collaborative of Comprehensive Behavioral Health (CBHC) and Community Hope, funded by the State and with the housing provided by the County on property near Greystone Hospital. There are eight houses with five residents in each house and an additional house used for day services. At CBHC's initiation, the partnership with Community Hope was dissolved as of August 1. This action was a violation of the County lease. The CHAMPS program will be relocated when CBHC finds appropriate housing for the individuals served.

Thus the county has sent out Request for Conceptual Letters of Interest to local non-profit agencies regarding the potential availability of the nine homes. The goal of the county is to continue to offer these homes to individuals served by the local continuum of human services. Letters of Interest are due by Oct. 14. Once letters are received, the Chairs of each Freeholder Appointed advisory committee will review and provide recommendations to the Department Director.

Advisory Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans (ACADV) – Ms. Maria Rosario (written report submitted)

- ACADV is currently working on their 2017 Area Plan Grant and the Contracts are due to the State October 17, 2016.
- Morris County Remembers Sept. 11 Memorial at 6:00 p.m., West Hanover Ave, Parsippany.
- On September 28, 2016 the Division on Aging Services, in the New Jersey Department of Human Services will be conducting an audit of our Department.
- The Division of Aging Services invites you to participate in one of the upcoming Regional Stakeholder regarding Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving (JACC) program meetings listed on flyer. The closest one is in Wayne. New rules are being proposed for this program. The budget for this program was \$6,900. The JACC program served eight consumers since the program began. Now for 2016 the State increased the budget to \$244,622 and now 29 consumers can be served. There was always a waiting list and the State saw a need in Morris County for this program's budget to be increased.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Jessica Mondino (written report submitted)

ACTIONS ITEMS

- There were no action items

PRESENTATIONS

- Carmela from Family Link presented about their Early Intervention program.
 - Run by the Department of Health, they have 4 regional offices
 - Provide services to ages 0-3
 - Anyone can make a referral
 - Ages and Stages website
 - Eligibility criteria
 - One on one, go to child
 - No cost for services such as developing the plan, evaluations and assessments

- Sliding scale for cost of services, some insurance companies may cover these services
- Services include
 - Speech therapy
 - Physical therapy
 - Occupational therapy
 - Developmental Intervention
- Michele Cline from St Joseph's Regional Medical Center spoke about their office of Children's Mental Health Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth.
 - Direct Services
 - Outpatient, family, individual
 - Serve hearing youth with deaf parents, deaf youth with hearing parents or both
 - They have an office at St Clare's on 1 Medical Dr, there is a worker there every Friday
 - Residential Program
 - West Trenton on campus of NJ school for the Deaf
 - Ages 10-21 that need out of home placement
 - Through DCF, SPEC level
 - Psychologists, psychiatrists, art therapists, counselors etc.
 - 24/7
 - Family participate
 - 6-12 months
 - Current vacancies
 - Take insurance and Medicaid, also a sliding scale
- Samantha Polanco, Morris County Employment and Training services spoke about their youth employment counselors
 - Cover Morris, Sussex and Warren
 - Work with "WIOF" funds
 - Ages 16-24
 - Work with anyone that has any employment barriers
 - High school drop out
 - Ex offender
 - Pregnant/parenting
 - Homeless/runaway
 - Foster child
 - Low income
 - Basic skill deficient
 - 3 options/programs
 - High school Dropout – New bridge Jobs plus
 - Earn GED
 - Work readiness training
 - Different career or education options
 - On the job training
 - Has high school diploma and wants to get job, if employer is hesitant to hire them because they have no training, workforce can pay half of their salary up to \$5,000. So they are being trained while working in the actual job
 - Individual training grants

- Can fund to go to training up to \$5,000 (ex. Go to VoTech for automotive)
- Provide counseling
- In demand market research
- Job hunting
- Interview skills
- Follow up with how job is going for about a year
- Check ins
- Have to be a permanent resident or US citizen
- Also have these programs for adults
- Transportation, New Bridge provides for their program. Can also assist with public transportation

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Juli Harpell-Elam announced that JBWS along with FIS were awarded a grant through DCF trauma focused CBT for children who have witnessed domestic violence. FIS is in the process of hiring and setting up the program. Referrals will come from JBWS, DCP&P, etc.
- Juli also announced that Cathy Stevens has retired and Michelle Malo will be taking her position.
- Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro talked about the upcoming Mending Arts workshops. The first one is “Breaking the Stigma” starting Oct. 18 for high school students aged 14-18. Giving them a voice to talk about all the stigma around mental health and substance abuse. Second group for ages 11-14 called “Our Hood, New Rules” talking about all things that affect youth those ages.
- The next meeting will be on October 20 at 340 W. Hanover Ave., Morris Twp.

Partnership Announcements – Ms. Becker

The Executive Committee met last week. There was a debriefing on the 2016 CoC application. The application was submitted and as a result there is some improvement of the process. The committee is finishing the third year with the new CoC Infrastructure. The bottom line is that Morris gets \$1.7 million for the community by doing this CoC work. Morris was also able to get more housing vouchers. Things are moving along. HUD priorities are different that CoC priorities. In order to score and get more money Morris needs to back away from some of the services and programs HUD traditionally funded. It would be a good idea for the chairs to meet and look at the whole picture. The systems need to work more collaboratively. There may be different funding streams that could help with some of the shortfalls.

Project Homeless Connect will be held on Dec. 1 at St. Peter’s Church in Morristown from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for folks to learn about available services. Coats, hats, socks, etc. will be given away. The goal is to connect people in need with provider resources.

Dec. 1 is also World AIDS Day.

Old Business – None

New Business –

Mr. Oexle gave Ms. Zoccola a card from all and wished her best of luck upon her retirement.

Public Comment – None

Adjourn -

There was a motion made by Mr. Tom Pepe at 6:40 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide**