

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 23, 2016, 340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Township**

Call to Order of the February 23 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council by Mr. Ken Oexle at 5:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Marie Brink, MHASAB Liaison  
Linda Csengeto, OTA Liaison  
David Hollowell, Workforce Development Board Liaison  
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.  
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Rep.  
Thomas Pepe, Citizen Rep.

**Also Attending:**

Dave Johnston, NJDYFS  
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS  
Maria Delaplain, Affordable Housing Alliance

**Staff in Attendance:**

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

**Welcome and Introductions – Mr. Oexle**

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

**Affordable Housing Alliance Presentation – Ms. Maria Delaplain**

Information was distributed on the Affordable Alliance's utility bill payment assistance for those that have fallen behind on electric and/or gas bills.

There are two grants, both intended for low- to moderate-income New Jersey residents who are struggling to pay their electric and gas bills. They are the Payment Assistance Gas and Electric (PAGE) Grant and the Temporary Relief for Utility Expense (TRUE) Grant. Customers may benefit from both programs in a 12-month period for combined assistance towards their past due bill. Up to \$750/utility is available under each program. The same application is used for both programs. Information on both the programs were discussed and there was a question and answer period. For more information on the PAGE and TRUE grants or to apply online, visit [www.njpoweron.org](http://www.njpoweron.org) or call (732) 982-8710.

**Approval of Minutes –**

The motion to approve the January 26 minutes was made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Ms. Marie Brink. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion was carried.

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

Earlier today there was a phone conference with the Commissioner of Human Services. The rates for fee for service for Mental Health/Addictions have come out and are better than expected. Commissioner Connelly reports that they got some good feedback after the meetings they had with providers. There is still some tweaking to be done. It looks like July 1 the fee for service rates will happen. More information will be available after the next meeting. Ms. Carpinteri will be sure this information and link is on the human services website.

Discussion on support for the universal assessment. The CoC is working on this. Some counties are having trouble getting folks to the table, however, in Morris things are good. At the next meeting there will be further discussion on expanded Medicaid and contracts.

Local news is that we are moving forward with the reorganization of Medicaid outsourcing and things are going well. Xerox is providing good service. They are hoping to open the first outstation soon. Ms. Tonnesen and Ms. Bruseo (Office of Temporary Assistance) went to the PAC meeting and are looking forward to these changes and delivering services into the community.

**New Jersey Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – Ms. Wendy Zoccola (Reports in Folders)**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities Supports Program funds services and supports for NJ adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live in a non-licensed setting. The Supports Program is part of the Division’s system-wide reform efforts.

Live Supports Program Question and Answer Sessions are available to families, support coordinators and agencies. Sessions are from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Friday, February 26

Friday, March 4

Friday, March 11

Thursday, March 17

Thursday, March 24

For further information on the Supports Program, the Community Care Waiver and to register for the Question and Answer Sessions go to:

[http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/programs/supports\\_program.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/programs/supports_program.html)

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, Governor Christie presented the FY’17 Budget Address in Trenton. In his public address the Governor re-affirmed New Jersey’s commitment to ensuring the availability of services to support residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and participate fully in their communities. The Division will provide additional information shortly. To view the FY’17 Budget Address visit [www.nj.gov](http://www.nj.gov), where the Governor’s speech is available.

**Mr. Luis Tamayo –**

The Governor presented the budget last week and from DHS’ point of view they fared well. DHS is the largest department in the state government and get the most money. Medicaid is the biggest driver.

There is \$120 million earmarked supporting the rate change. The hope is it will get signed into law on July 1. There are also additional dollars to support coaches that will provide services in the ER when overdoses occur. \$1.7 million has been earmarked for that effort. The coaches will help the person get into treatment. These interventions are for those that had opioid overdoses. They are hiring folks to do this and there are four pilot counties. This is now being extended.

In the General Assistance (GA) world New Jersey is one of the few states that has cash assistance. Although it is modest it’s always a worry that this may be cut. There are a lot of advantages to keeping this program.

Also talked at the Directors meeting about the issue of dealing with the Office of Community Choice Options (OCO). They do the clinical piece of the assessment. Some counties have major road blocks in processing claims.

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Ms. Carpinteri stated that seniors are looking for long term care Medicaid when going to a skilled nursing facility. OTA does the financial eligibility and there is a 5 year look back. This is a lot of work. Once complete it goes to the Office of Community Choice Options (OCO) for final approval on the clinical piece. Both the financial eligibility and the clinical eligibility have to be completed and approved. The wait for both of these approvals could be months. A lot of these applications come in through OTA and the Office on Aging. Once the client is found financially eligible then OCO has 30 days to send out a nurse for assessment. This has not been happening. They need more personnel and better technology. Social services has to refer folks to OCO even if they know they won’t be approved. This is clogging up the system. They need to take away some of this work –maybe there is another option such as using the Aging Disabilities Resource Connection (ADRC) for some of this work.

**New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Protection and Permanency –  
Mr. David Johnston (Report in folders)**

Morris East

Child Welfare Assessments - 24  
Child Abuse Investigations - 70  
Total for MELO – 94

Morris West

Child Welfare Assessments - 27  
Child Abuse Investigations -115  
Total for MWLO 142

### County Totals

Child Welfare Assessments – 51

Child Abuse Investigations – 185

Total Reports 236

Mr. Johnston stated there have been a lot of new referrals. He talked about some local office personnel changes.

Information was given on CP & P 2016 Practice Priorities. For further information on DCF please go to [www.nj.gov/dcf](http://www.nj.gov/dcf)

### **Staff Reports – Ms. Carter**

The Point-in-Time Count was done in January. Obtaining the results is a process. It takes time for agencies to input their data and the information is not yet ready. The Data Collection Committee will meet on March 8. They are part of the CAS (formerly CoC). They hope to have a report at the end of March.

Discussed at earlier meetings the Dedicated Voucher Process and the need to think about sending out a RFP to start a new Dedicated Voucher list. Since there aren't many agencies left on the original list the board was planning to issue an RFP to get new agencies to apply and start a new list. The old system changed about 5 years ago. It has taken a long time to get through the list of agencies on the list. For the most part the voucher was only available if it was not utilized. Then the voucher would be taken away from the agency and given to an agency on the Dedicated Voucher list. DFD advised us to put this on hold since they are reviewing this process. Discussion ensued in regard to this system working well. Fortunately there are still some agencies on the list should so it should be fine to hold off putting out another RFP.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

#### **Program Review – Emergency Solutions Grant Recommendation**

##### **Closed Session –**

Ms. Carter asked if anyone was in conflict with the Emergency Solutions Grant. Ms. Csengeto left the room. Motion was made to begin the closed session of the meeting.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 5:40 p.m.

#### **Return to the Meeting**

The meeting reopened at 5:45 p.m. Ms. Csengeto came back into the room.

### **Actions Resulting from Closed Session**

Ms. Mary Jane Melo made a motion that HSAC approve all five agencies be funded in the total amount of \$152,439 for Emergency Shelter, Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing as discussed in closed session. Mr. Tom Pepe seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion was carried.

### **Planning Child Care – Voucher System Update – Mr. Kevin Collins (Report in folders)**

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. Child & Family Resources is serving all eligible applicants and receive approximately 20 new applications a week.

There are currently no any openings at any dedicated voucher centers.

### **Youth Homelessness – Mr. Johnston**

They are looking to see what programs there are for this population and trying to bring more players to the table.

### **Advisory Committee Reports –**

#### **Workforce Development Boards (WDB) – previously known as Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Mr. David Hollowell (Report in folders)**

The WDB is partnering with New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, Inc. (NJMEP) on a US-DOL Tech Hire Partnership grant application. The purpose of the grant is to equip individuals with the skills they need for well-paying mid/high level skills jobs in advanced manufacturing and information technology. NJMEP is leading the statewide initiative to link the workforce investment system, education and training providers, business related non-profits, industry representatives and NJMEP.

The WDB began the regional planning process required by WIOA on February 18 with a conference call on plan processes and details including the development of a regional planning guidance template. The process will include alignment with WIOA Section 106, NJ Blueprint for Talent Development and high quality partnerships. Thomas P. Miller and Associates will provide technical assistance. The regional plan is due to SETC in October 2016.

#### **Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Ms. Joann McEniry (Report in folders)**

At Feb. 16 meeting the committee discussed:

- The recent lunch and learn organized by the committee was held at Zufall Health Center in Dover, NJ on Friday, January 22, 2016. The event aimed to educate the community about HIV/AIDS medications. Future lunch and learns are being planned by the committee and will be reported once scheduled.
- The impact of stigma on people living with HIV/AIDS services was also discussed. The Planning Council and the City of Newark will be working on the development of a Stigma Index to determine impact. People living with HIV/AIDS from Morris County will be asked to participate.

- Engagement of the Latino community, as well as issues related to HIV/AIDS services for documented and undocumented immigrants was also discussed. The committee identified barriers in receiving medical and social services.
- It was reported that access to HIV medications has been impacted with the shift from the state's AIDS DRUG DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (ADDP) to private health plans under the Affordable Care Act. Difficulty has been identified with insurance approval for one-pill regimes versus multiple pills. Overall, this impacts medication compliance and thus may negatively impact viral load reduction. Concern is raised that a higher viral load results in increased transmission rates.

The next meeting of The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/Advisory Committee is scheduled for: March 15, 2016 at Zufall Health in Dover, NJ.

**Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) – Ms. Laurie Becker (in folders)**

- The 2016 subgrants for Chapter 51 and GIA were approved by the Freeholders and sent out on the week of Feb. 18.
- The County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) voted on 2017 funding recommendations.
- Discussion at the Joint PAC meeting on a stigma free initiative to have all of Morris County stigma free. Jefferson is stigma free and the hope is to make progress on having the entire county stigma free. The towns and counties that have a **STIGMA-FREE Initiative** have programs which aim to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. They are dedicated to raising awareness of the disease of mental illness and create a culture wherein residents who have the disease feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of stigma.
- The Mental Health Association and Community Hope have been talking about problems that have recently happened since The Housing Finance Mortgage Corporation (HMFA) took over those clients in independent supportive housing. Some mistakes have been made and some rental payments were not made or were made late. The concern is that a few landlords are ready to evict these tenants. The clients are also getting late fees. HMFA is a statewide agency that is not local and has little staff. They manage the subsidies and monthly checks for these apartments. There are 24 independent supportive living apartments in Morris County. HMFA is handling any warnings, termination letters or terminations.

**Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – No Report**

**Youth Services Advisory Council – No Report**

**Partnership Announcements – No Report**

**Old Business – None**

**New Business – None**

**Adjournment**

Mr. Tom Pepe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Oexle seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned with no abstentions and no opposition.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Patricia Mocarski  
Program Development Aide**