

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown
January 24, 2017 Minutes**

Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:07 p.m. by Ms. Mary Jane Melo.

Members Present:

Marcia Brands, Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital
Kenneth Oexle, Chair, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, OTA Liaison
David Hollowell, Workforce Development Board Liaison
Joanne McEniry, HIV/Aids Advisory Liaison
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative
Tom Pepe, Citizen Representative
Debi Merz, Citizen Representative
Ken Oexle, Citizen Representative
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Dave Johnston, NJDCF, Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Luis Tamayo, New Jersey Department of Human Services

Staff in Attendance:

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

Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Nominating Committee –

Ms. Melo presented the slate of officers for 2017, Mr. Ken Oexle, Chair, and Mr. Tom Pepe, Vice Chair. Ms. Debi Merz made a motion for Mr. Ken Oexle to continue as Chair and Mr. Tom Pepe to be Vice Chair. It was unanimous vote with no opposition and no abstention.

Approval of November 15, 2016 Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Ms. Mary Jane Melo. All were in favor with no opposition and four abstentions.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – No Report

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Luis Tamayo

At the Jan. 6 HSAC State meeting, there was a lot of time spent discussing criminal bail reform. The legislature feels this can put a lot of burden on the counties and the mental health services needed. They are addressing some of the facts. Those that cannot afford bail are often released. How do communities advocate for more services to help prevent more crime. Some mandates are given without funding. The bail reform program started as of Jan. 1. It is supposed to help get folks out of jail. Ms. Becker stated that the MHASAB is following bail reform closely as it is rolling out. Ms. Becker stated that the reality is that while these folks are in jail at least they are safe. This crosses a few departments and they need to collectively figure this out.

Ms. Becker said there has been response to those with special needs. Counties are required to give mental health training. The idea is to train the police departments. The local Prosecutor's Office and the Mental Health Administrator are involved. For now, this is on the back burner. Morris does not have this five-day mental health training for law enforcement yet. Bail reform came first. How to support that is challenging.

Also discussion about code blue. When it is very cold, homeless folks cannot be left outside. Legislature is raising the temperature to 40 degrees and extreme weather including hot weather. There are more demands on the counties for services and sheltering people. Committees need to discuss and work on this.

Ms. Csengeto stated that Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance places people in hotels when there is extreme weather. They try to place everyone. Ms. Carter said this topic was also discussed at the CAS meeting. The Morristown train station is supposed to be open and last time in severe weather, they were not open. Jeff Paul is the resource of where to go in bad weather, but he cannot force places to stay open. Ms. Csengeto said that at times people refuse to go into shelters. There were a few tragedies this year. Mr. Tamayo said that in some counties it is mandated that places be open placing more burden on the county.

Mr. Tamayo stated that DSH budget forum was held on Jan. 22. Personal testimony was given. Less people attended this year but they got about 170 pieces of written testimony. Feb. 28 will be the budget address. People can weigh in on whether they agree or not. DHS reports were sent around to the board by email.

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

Morris East Local Office

Child Welfare Assessments – 23

Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations – 71

Total – 94

Morris West Local Office

Child Welfare Assessments – 42

Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations – 88

Total – 130

Dave Johnston stated that NJ Dept. of Children & Families, DCP&P, are looking for foster parents. He asked that all try to spread the word. They have a recruiter going out, doing presentations, and trying to recruit foster care. Foster families provide a home for children who have been abandoned, neglected or abused. These children are in need of nurturing families who will help them heal and grow. For further information on being a foster parent, please call 1-877-NJ FOSTER or go on line at WWW.NJFOSTER.ORG

Staff Report – Ms. Becker

Ms. Becker reported on the Morris County Stigma Free Communities Initiative. The next Stigma Free meeting will be Feb. 21 at Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance, 340 W. Hanover Ave., Morristown from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Some of the group has been working on creating a consistent message to give when speaking to the public. The committee's goal is to have all 39 towns in Morris County Stigma Free. There are 20-30 active members on the committee. This is a community awareness and education effort and community partners are trying to

incorporate the Stigma Free Initiative into other meetings. They want people to feel comfortable to ask for help. There are currently ten towns on board. The Morris County website has a lot of Stigma Free information.

Staff received Nurtured Heart training from Ms. Nacie Arnold and Ms. Sierra McEniry. This is a type of training to help kids with intense problems. The Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA) is more than just a parenting or educator behavior management strategy. It is a philosophy for creating healthy relationships with the people in our life. It was originally created by Dr. Howard Glasser in 1992, and has been successfully implemented through families, classrooms, foster care, health care professionals, social workers and criminal justice organizations that are seeking successful, early intervention techniques. There is a great need to inspire these kids/adults to greatness. For more information on the Nurtured Heart Approach go to www.ChildrensSuccessFoundation.com. For further information on this training, contact Ms. Nacie Arnold at 973 285-6850.

Ms. Becker stated that the staff is working on a new project for 2017. It is the Unified Funding Plan. This year the focus will be on Grant-in-Aid. The Advisory Leadership Group will look at funding priorities. If one board cannot fund a program, perhaps another board can. With all the cuts and changes, it would be helpful to work together and look at applications on a case-by-case basis. There will be more information on this at the next meeting.

Staff Report – Ms. Carter

On Jan. 24 into Jan. 25 Morris County participated in NJ Counts 2017, a statewide count of homeless and at-risk of being homeless individuals and families. An effort was made by a host of professionals and volunteers to ask homeless across the county – where they plan to spend the night. The results of this survey will continue to guide Morris County in implementing a best practices effort to end homelessness within the county's 39 municipalities. It is vital to obtaining Federal aid for homeless programs. The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) drives this statewide event.

The CoC received an award of \$24,000 overall the same amount as last year. HUD will enter into an agreement with the agencies that receive awards. The budget is effective in April and after that, the contracting piece will be done. The money is primarily for housing projects. HUD wants to get more people into permanent housing. They are still funding Safe Haven and some transitional housing. There are many vouchers given out that help with apartment rentals.

There have been some funding decreases. Childcare has been removed from this funding stream. 211 was funded in Morris County. They are our call center and will be a face for this coordinated piece. They maintain the list of emergency shelters. OTA also outsources to 211 for after-hours calls.

Subcommittee Reports –

Planning – Child Care Report – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod (written report submitted)

- There is no waiting list for childcare subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served and they receive approximately 30 new applications a week.
- They do not have any openings at any dedicated voucher centers.
- The following centers are centers that have Dedicated Voucher Spots throughout Morris County:

Dover Child Care – 50 North Morris Street, Dover NJ 973-366-0277
Early Years – 52 Cooper Road, Denville NJ 973-328-4011
El Primer Paso – 29 Segur Street, Dover NJ 973-361-0880
Flanders Valley Country Day – 6 Bartley Chester Rd, Flanders NJ 973-252-9696
F.M. Kirby Center – 54 East Street, Madison NJ 973-377-4945
Jefferson Child Care– Nolan's Point Road, Lake Hopatcong NJ 973-663-2704
Kindercare Learning Center – 181 Howard Blvd Suite N, Mt. Arlington, NJ 973-601-9440
Little Learner Academy – 30 Old Budd Lake Road, Budd Lake NJ 973-691-9430
Little Learner Academy – 89 Route 46 East, Denville, NJ 973-625-2800
Little Learner Academy – 25 Green Pond Road, Suite 2, Rockaway NJ 973-983-0600
Mt. Olive Child Care – 150 Wolfe Road, Budd Lake NJ 973-426-1525
Neighborhood House – 12 Flagler Street, Morristown NJ 973-538-1229
Parsippany Child Day Care – 300 Baldwin Road, Parsippany NJ 973-334-7286
Roxbury Day Care – 25 Righter Road, Succasunna NJ 973-584-3030
Salvation Army – 95 Spring Street, Morristown NJ 973-539-0543
The Magic Garden – 113 Fern Avenue, Wharton NJ 973-361-4167

These centers hold 350 dedicated voucher spots cumulatively.

Some discussion ensued about the state's new regulations. They can continue to pay for childcare when the parent is pregnant and for 90 days when someone loses their job. They can also pay for summer care. All childcare centers receiving help must get standard health and safety training of ten hours. This is mandated training all over the state and is free. In addition, the training is offered in Spanish and on line. New employees must take this training within two weeks in order to keep their accreditation.

Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Investment Board – Mr. Hollowell

On January 4, 2017, Workforce Development Board (WDB) Director, Jack Patten, convened a meeting with representatives of the Morris, Sussex, Warren Adult Literacy Consortium (Morris County School of Technology, Sussex County Community College, Warren County Technical School). The meeting addressed the Workforce Development Board's expanded role in development of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title II (Adult Education) Plan for Program Year 2017 (7/17-6/18). WIOA mandates that the WDB participates planning of Title II services to insure efficient use of resources and lack of duplication between WIOA funded literacy activities.

NJBIZ, the leading NJ business journal, designated the Morris, Sussex, Warren Workforce Development Board as a top County and City Business Resource in 2017.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Ms. Joanne McEniry

The board met on Jan. 17 and had a presentation by the Morris County Success Center and a presentation by Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance. Morris County will participate in an HIV Stigma Index Study. Consumers will be interviewed to capture the level of HIV stigma. New Jersey AIDS Services will collect the information gathered and submit to Rutgers.

The HIV Collaborative was signed by community partners in agreement to work together to provide complete care to HIV inflected clients. Several local agencies signed including Zufall Family Health Center, New Jersey AIDS Services and Legal Services. The Lunch and Learns are doing very well. The last one was on Self Advocacy. They are looking at forming a

consumer advisory board to help consumers advocate for themselves. The next meeting will be on Feb. 21 at New Jersey AIDS Services in Morristown. They will discuss barriers to mental health and oral health. These are both big issues to those on Medicare. Many have no dental services. They are trying to find other opportunities for these folks. Before when folks had no health care, they would go to a clinic. Now more people have health care, see private physicians, and cannot go to a clinic. There will be a Ryan White Representative at the next meeting to discuss this.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) – Ms. Mary Jane Melo

- Ms. Becker reported that the 2017 GIA subgrant packages are expected to go out at the end of January.
- The Opiate Task Force will meet on Feb. 21 at 5:00 p.m. at the Morris County Offices of Temporary Assistance. The committee continues to work on getting peer recovery specialists into the Emergency Departments. The hope is to begin this “Addiction Recovery Response Team”, at least at Saint Clare’s, by February 1, with Atlantic Health to follow once legal issues have been addressed.
- On Feb. 28, there will be a Heroin Forum at the Public Safety Training Academy for Public Health Officials, Law Enforcement and EMTs to discuss strategies and highlight for prevention and recovery support. It will take place from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This event will also highlight the stigma free initiative.

Advisory Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans (ACADV) – No Report (next meeting in Feb.)

YSAC – Ms. Nacie Arnold (from Dec. mtg.)

PRESENTATIONS

Nacie Arnold & Tara Prezioso (Youth Shelter) presented on the NJ Promising Path to Success Initiative (under the Department of Children & Families).

- Six Core Strategies –Preventing Violence, Trauma, and the Use of Seclusion, Restraint and Coercion in Behavioral Health Settings.
 - The Nurtured Heart Approach- which is:
 - A relationship-focused approach designed to help children and adults build “Inner Wealth” and use their intensity in successful ways. It was originally developed to work with the most difficult children, but has proven impact on every child, including those who are challenged behaviorally socially and academically.
 - Already implemented in out-of-home treatment facilities such as:
 - St. Peters, TEC School, Plaid House & Daytop.
- Discussion of Next Steps and how to best integrate the Nurtured Heart training into the community.

STATE AND COUNTY REPORTS

Department of Children and Families (DCF) - New RFP for intensive out of home treatment services for youth with intellectual/developmental disabilities (intensive-IDD). Bids are due by February 1, 2017. Details can be found at www.state.nj.us/dcf/providers/notices/RFP_Intensive.IDD.pdf

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Partnership

Cyberbullying and Sexting: What You Need to Know was the last training done and well received.

February 8, 2017 Training will be on the Nurtured Heart Approach.

Juvenile Review Committee (JRC)

Concerns of the committee are:

- Lack of Spanish speaking providers. Out of Home treatment facilities cannot accept youth due to a lack of bi-lingual staffing.
- Need better coordination and collaboration with CCIS partners.

The next YSAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, at 2:30 pm at 340 West Hanover Avenue.

Partnership Announcements – None

Old Business –

Ms. Becker stated there is nothing new concerning Ruth Davis Drive. The Advisory Leadership group will reconvene on Feb. 2 at 9:30 a.m. They have drafted an RFP for the lease of the homes and want to get it ready to go. Mr. Pepe and Mr. Oexle will attend this meeting.

New Business –

Mr. Oexle categorically reported the way in which HSAC funding is used. Ms. Becker stated this will be helpful and is a part of the Unified Funding Plan. Mr. Tamayo said this shows the HSAC's impact. Mr. Dave Johnston suggested perhaps a pie chart with the percentages and categories that does not include the agency names would be helpful. Some discussion on this. Ms. Carter agreed to make a chart including percentages and service areas.

Adjourn –

There was a motion made by Tom Pepe and seconded by Mr. Marcia Brands to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.