

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**340 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown**  
**March 28, 2017 Minutes**

Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:00 p.m. by Mr. Ken Oexle.

**Members Present:**

Robert Armstrong, HIV/AIDS Advisory  
Linda Csengeto, OTA Liaison  
David Hollowell, Workforce Development Board Liaison  
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Representative  
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative  
Kenneth Oexle, Chair, Citizen Representative  
Tom Pappas, Citizen Representative  
Tom Pepe, Vice Chair, Citizen Representative

**Also Attending:**

Kristen Carew, Dawn Center for Independent Living  
Dave Johnston, NJDCF, Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
Betty Sayner, NJDHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities

**Staff in Attendance:**

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

**Public in Attendance:**

Dorothy Dreeland, Student at Centenary University

**Welcome and Introductions**

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

**Approval of Feb. 28, 2017 Minutes**

The motion to approve the Feb. 28 minutes was made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Mr. Tom Pappas. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

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

At the last Human Services Directors meeting, there was discussion about mental health fee-for-service contracts. Sixteen agencies have taken the early start date. Only one of these agencies is a Morris County agency. Most agencies that have taken the early start are larger, more diverse agencies. The State has a swat team to assist in trouble shooting any upcoming issues. They are working on problems, issues, and ways to work around them. Unfortunately, agencies no longer have a predictable income stream. The state is looking to create a tutorial as a sharing opportunity. Commissioner Connolly said her staff is available to meet with providers.

At the New Jersey Meeting of Counties, it was asked if fee-for-service could be slowed down. It does not seem there is a chance of that happening as the State plans to move forward.

There is still advocacy going on and the Morris County Freeholders passed a resolution urging the state to put fiscal safeguards in place during the transition to fee-for-service, or delay the July 1, 2017 implementation date. They asked for full assurance that agency doors will stay

open and current services remain available to New Jersey's most vulnerable residents. They called upon all counties to join in and insist on these safeguards for our communities.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for Morris View went out and responses are due April 19. About twenty agencies requested applications. The agency given the award will have a 15-year contract with a 4-year renewal. The county has many safeguards in place. They will still own the building. The Veterans Clinic will be expanded and moved to the second floor of Morris View.

At the State HSAC meeting, the Commissioner talked about the new budget. There were some reductions, however, as a whole the Department of Human Services made out well. There could be a significant impact on Title III, which involves close to 500,000 meals delivered to seniors and disabled in Morris County. There is also concern over cuts to the Community Development Block Grant, HOME and ESG Grants.

### **New Jersey Department of Human Services – March DHS report provided via email**

#### **Division of Developmental Disabilities – Ms. Betty Sayner**

There is a new resource for families developed by DDD in collaboration with the Regional Family Support Planning Councils. It is "The Supports Program Policies and Procedures Manual: A Quick Guide for Families". This guide can assist families in gaining a basic understanding of the Supports Program and its service benefits. Please see [http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/family\\_guide\\_to\\_supports\\_program\\_policy\\_manual.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/family_guide_to_supports_program_policy_manual.pdf)

There was also brief discussion about the Community Care Waiver and Supports Waiver.

Mr. Johnson asked if there were any new residences open. Ms. Sayner stated she is not certain but will find out and report to us.

### **New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) – Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Mr. Dave Johnston**

#### Morris East Local Office

Child Welfare Assessments – 23  
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations – 69  
Total – 92

#### Morris West Local Office

Child Welfare Assessments – 33  
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations – 94  
Total – 127

The office had their annual Qualitative Review. All went well. There were 12 cases and 147 interviews conducted in 4 days. The review also involved testimonials from parents. The parents expressed they felt the staff was very dedicated. The office got a 30% overall improvement rate over the 2015 review. They will come up with a performance review plan and work on improving some areas. Staff retention rate is going up since caseworkers are now limited to 15 cases. Prior caseloads were higher and many workers got burnt out and moved on to other positions.

For further information on DCF see their website at <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/>.

## **Staff Report – Ms. Becker – No Report**

### **Ms. Carter –**

Information on 2017 Grant-in-Aid and Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) funding priorities were distributed and discussed.

Ms. Mary Jane Melo made a motion to approve updated 2017 Grant-in-Aid and Child Abuse Prevention funding priorities. Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor with four abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried. Mr. Oexle will take these priorities to the Advisory Leadership group.

## **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 45 new applications a week.
- We are receiving many calls regarding Summer Camp referrals at this time.
- We currently 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.

More and more teachers/child care centers are finishing the new CCDBG required trainings. Everyone is being encouraged to finish the trainings by March 31, 2017.

### **Workforce Development Board (WDB) Mr. David Hollowell**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) prioritizes work experiences as a youth program element. Under WIOA, paid and unpaid work experiences include summer employment opportunities, school year employment opportunities, pre-apprenticeship, internship, On The Job (OJT) training and job shadowing. The Morris-Sussex-Warren WDB and Employment, and Training Services are engaging employers, youth serving organizations and

youth program providers to identify opportunities. Any organization interested in hosting a youth work experience please contact WDB Director Jack Patten at [jpatten@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:jpatten@co.morris.nj.us)

### **Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee Report – Mr. Armstrong**

On Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at Hope House in Dover, the Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee (Tri-County) met concurrently with the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC). EIRC is an initiative of the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area HIV Health Services Planning Council (NEMA Planning Council). The meeting was well attended with representation from The Ryan White Office in Newark (Grantee for NEMA), HSAC of Morris County, members of the Tri-County HIV Committee, local agencies receiving Ryan White funding, clients and others.

Topics of discussion:

EIRC Integrated Plan to collect case studies of clients with interrupted continuum of care. The purpose is to identify why treatment is interrupted at each stage of care with a scale identifying and quantifying the barriers to care. The next phase is to develop solutions and create an Action Plan for their implementation. The results are to be measured by HIV viral load suppression.

Development of an EIRC Cohort Project which further explores those who were not viral load suppressed. NEMA-wide (Essex, Union, Morris, Sussex and Warren counties) viral load suppression has improved from 76% to 81%. NEMA's goal is to achieve 85% viral load suppression by 2018. Also, the development of Risk Reduction Counseling which includes pre-exposure prophylaxis (PreP) and best prevention practices. This is a three year project.

Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) made up of clients from the four agencies in Morris County that receive Ryan White Funding (i.e. Morristown Family Health Center, Zufall Health Center, New Jersey AIDS Services (NJAS), and Catholic Charities Hope House). The CAB is a forum for HIV+ consumers to share their voice and learn how to advocate and learn about avenues for engagement. The combined CAB started in January and now has about 10 consumers attending.

Ending Disparities Learning Exchange (EDLE), which is targeting four HIV+ subgroups – Men who have sex with men (MSM) of color, transgender, youth, and black and Latina women.

Morris County Funding for HIV support services including Transitional Housing for homeless HIV+ people, mental health services, World AIDS Day and prevention education. Discussion of preparation for a Morris, Sussex, Warren county-wide Needs Assessment to coordinate with the NEMA-wide Needs Assessment to identify unmet needs such as Spanish speaking support groups and counseling, and expanded prevention education.

The concern is for the HIV epidemic to be keep in check. The statistics are better. Viral loads have overall improved. If the viral load is undetectable HIV is less transmittable. This is dependent on the ability for people to receive treatment and care. If supports are interrupted (say if funds decreased) it will affect everyone and could become a huge expensive problem. Mr. Johnson suggested getting more information for advocacy to be done. Perhaps stating facts like how much the government will save in the long run by preserving viral load suppression.

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

Ms. McMann, MHASAB Chair, reported on the Advisory Leadership Group and the Unified Funding Plan. One of their goals is to keep all more attuned to information about programs and services, which would in turn assist in making determinations in the funding process. For instance, if there is a change in funding criteria in one funding stream, other advisories might be

able to review the program for another funding stream. The Leadership Group consists of Chairs/Co-Chairs of all Advisory Boards. By having the Advisory Leadership Group work together, there will be a more formally coordinated cross systems approach. All will become more familiar with the various funding streams in the system. This should help reduce/eliminate fragmentation of services.

Ms. McMann reported on the Hope 1 Launch. The Sheriff has a vehicle that they will use to go out in to the community two days a week. Plain-clothed police officers, a CARES person and an MHA person will all be in the van. Other treatment providers are also at the table. In April, the HOPE 1 van will be making its first outreach to our community with the goal of engaging hard to reach individuals into recovery services. The person seeking treatment will not get charges if they have contraband. The hope is that having this van go out into the community will help link more people to services.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Consumer and Family Forum will be held on Monday, June 12, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Haggerty Center, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown. The title of the Forum is "Many Faces of Recovery: Celebrate you!" The Forum is a unique opportunity to get a countywide perspective from the individuals we serve regarding our local system of care. Please join us. Fliers will soon be available.

Ms. Carpinteri stated there is a much going on with the Opioid Task Force. There is a lot of federal funding leveraged for treatment. There are Narcan kits available and training on administering Narcan is free. The Task Force is meeting on a regular basis. For further information contact Ms. Beth Jacobson at 973-285-6867.

Ms. Carpinteri said they have been working to get peer recovery specialists in the Emergency Room to help make connections with those in the Emergency Room due to drug related incidents. The hope is the specialists can help the person get connected to services. St. Clare's is on board but still waiting on others.

Ms. Carpinteri said that some organizations have closed and others are concerned that with the new fee-for-service and lower Medicaid reimbursements more may close. Many private places do not take Medicaid due to the low reimbursement fees.

#### **Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Maria Rosario**

They are currently distributing our 2017 Needs Assessment survey throughout the County of Morris through nutrition sites, providers, and MAPS. The purpose of this survey is to gauge which services are critical for the needs of Morris County residents.

These results will be used for planning purposes for the 2017 Area Plan Contract.

Ophelia Cruse will be participating in the New Jersey State Planning on Aging Stakeholder Meeting on March 1, 2017, as an advocate and partner in the Aging Service Network as the State develops their 2017-2021 State Area Plan. This plan is usually done in a 4-year block and will direct the State's efforts for the next four years and the following are considered priority areas of discussion:

Access and outreach-A trusted visible, accessible and responsive Aging Network.

Empowerment and self-determination- through person center planning where choices are respected.

Full service network- Streamline and improve capacity to maximize services and support independence.

Elder justice and elder rights- through the coordination of protective and legal services. Individuals are respected and valued.

Effective and responsive management- use of quality measures and outcome data to promote sustainability.

In addition, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging are heavily advocating for replacement for the Affordable Care Act, to insure that older adults, caregivers and people with disabilities will continue to receive care in their communities.

**The following questions to the legislators are:**

What does proposal do to ensure that pre-Medicare population ages 54-64 can access affordable and adequate healthcare insurance to protect their health now and save Medicaid and Medicare long term services expenditures later?

Is there restore funding to Aging and Disability Resource centers to ensure consumers can find needed State and local and private resources for long term services and supports?

Will caregivers be supported by this proposal?

**YSAC – Ms. Jessica Mondino**

**PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Joram Rejouis and Kim Cottom from Essex Regional Educational Services Commission.

- McKinney Vento Homeless act passed in 1987 to make sure homeless youth were afforded the opportunity to attend school, allowing states to provide education to homeless youth.
- Renewed McKinney Vento in 2015 to include the Every Student Succeed Act
- 2 parts to McKinney Vento, slight variation of homelessness between the two
  - HUD – Doesn't recognize doubled up situations. Relies on the schools to report youth homelessness.
  - Department of Education – don't have a mechanism to capture homelessness.
- 72% of youth live in double up situations and can only be identified by the school districts but that is not happening
- McKinney Vento mandates that every school district has a homeless liaison
- Essex Regional Services has changed their focus to providing trainings for schools to help identify homeless youth.
- Schools must report on NJSmart which is database to track every homeless youth in the state.
- They have also been partnering with services agencies
- Title one services can be used to provide for homeless youth
- Every school district must set aside \$250 per homeless student, however a lot of schools do not receive enough money to cover all homeless students.
- The Morris Education Partnership will connect with Dr. Rejouis and Ms. Cotton.

**STATE AND COUNTY REPORTS**

**Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

Jeena Williams from DCP&P announced several RFPS that are currently out. All of which can be found on <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/>.

- Collaborative behavioral health programs – coordination between mental health providers and medical providers for children - due 4/12

- Youth advisory networks – networks to build leadership and advocacy skills in youth that are involved with DCP&P or are homeless - due 4/27
- Academic and career exploration programs – assist youth that are involved with DCP&P to develop their skills going into post-secondary education - due 4/20
- Statewide family preservation services contracts – due 3/29
- Short term diagnostic emergency placement centers ages 5-12, 10 beds for the state due 3/22

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Stephanie Iacopelli from Center for Evaluation and Counseling announced that the Comprehensive Adolescent Program along with probation are going to start offering services at the TEC (Transitioning Education Center) School starting in April. They can serve both Morris and Sussex youth.

## **Partnership Announcements**

### **Continuum of Care – Ms. Carter**

Pennrose Properties LLC gave a presentation at the CoC Executive Committee. They plan to develop 68 units of Affordable Housing in Dover. Five of those units will be designated for the homeless. The Executive Committee voted and agreed to provide a letter of support.

The CoC Executive Committee is preparing to review monitoring materials for the six agencies, nine programs funded by the Morris Continuum of Care for homeless services.

### **Old Business –**

The status of El Primer Paso was discussed. Ms. Carter stated they are continuing to provide services and will be invited to give a presentation about the work they are doing.

### **New Business –**

Mr. Armstrong asked if it might be possible to move the public comment portion of the meeting to an earlier time in the meeting. Perhaps after the approval of the minutes. He thinks there might be more involvement that is public if this was not at the end of the meeting. Following discussion, Mr. Oexle stated this could be possible if the public is limited to three to five minutes.

Ms. Dorothy Dreeland, Student at Centenary University, said she is learning about advocacy in school. Her teacher is a social worker and pushes advocacy.

### **Adjourn –**

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Ms. Linda Csengeto. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Patricia MocarSKI  
Program Development Aide