

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown
May 24, 2016
MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:12 p.m. by Mr. Kenneth Oexle. Chair.

Members Present:

Kenneth Oexle, Chair, Citizen Representative
Thomas Pepe, Vice Chair, Citizen Representative
Marie Brink, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, OTA Liaison
Cynthia DeGazon, Citizen Representative
Joann McEniry, Morris, Sussex Warren HIV Advisory Liaison
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Luis Tamayo, New Jersey Department of Human Services
Wendy Zoccola, NJDHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities
David Johnston, NJDCF, Division of Child Protection and Permanency

Staff in Attendance:

Jennifer Carpinteri, MCDHS
Laure Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Maria Rosario, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of April 26, 2016 Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes, amended as follows, was accepted with two abstentions:

Clarification to Child Care issues in the Dover Community Presentation;

Information in this paragraph integrates Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) families in need of childcare with Federal poverty level families served by Headstart. Dover has approximately 50 percent ALICE population. Agencies like El Primer Paso, serve them. Headstart, with 200 plus children on their waiting list, demonstrate the need for services to both populations.

Clarification to DCF, Division of Child Protection and Permanency Staff Report;

The statement “80% percent of kids that are adopted began as foster children” was not reported and should be removed from the record.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – Ms. Jennifer Carpinteri
Freeholder, Christine Meyer, is active in hearing concerns from the Mental Health Community regarding changes to fee for service rates and process for implementing the new fee structure. Meetings with both Senator Tony Bucco and Assemblyman Anthony Bucco have occurred. Addressing local concerns, the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services announced providers will have the option to remain in current cost reimbursement contracts for all of State Fiscal Year 2017, converting to fee for service effective July 1, 2017. Though progress has been made, advocacy work is not complete. It is necessary to drill down on the rates and how they are going to impact services moving forward. If fees are not sufficient what’s that going to look like for our system of care? Also, the State needs to provide more clarity on key identifiers and outcome measures. There are lots of moving parts that still need to be developed. Slowing down implementation was a huge feat.

Ms. Laurie Becker

Mental health providers have two options one to start January 2017 the other to start July 2017. The reality is this is still going to roll out. The second alternative will allow more time to phase into the transition. There have been a few increases in fee for service rates that seem to be coming in drips and drabs through the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Today, as an example, a rate increase for licensed mastered clinicians in the community support services area, related to supportive housing was reported. The rate went from approximately \$31.00 to \$35.00 per hour.

Current structuring of mental health rates does not fully cover service needs for many individuals with Severe Mental Illness (SMI). Increased reimbursement is needed for non-face-to-face support built into current service provisions. Examples of critical supports are staff time spent driving (especially long distances to scatter site housing), telephone contact with individuals and care management/advocacy that benefit individuals when he or she is unavailable. Overall, the loss of safety net provided in deficit contracts.

The Morris County Department of Human Services on behalf of all local advisory boards, with Mental Health Addictions Services leading the charge, submitted a letter for the State Senate Hearing.

The Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) and Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) will develop letters around this issue to keep momentum going.

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Luis Tamayo

It was reported at the State Human Services Advisory Council meeting that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Housing and Community Affairs, plans to open the wait list for housing choice vouchers. Eligible recipients may use these vouchers to rent apartments throughout the state.

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Office of Adolescent Services provided an overview of the Youth At-Risk of Homelessness Federal Project and Youth Homeless prevention and intervention initiatives in process. An offer was made to extend this presentation to local HSAC's.

New Jersey Human Services Advisory Council regulations were discussed. The state is collecting feedback from local HSAC's to incorporate into the draft. Comments are being collected by Shelia Carter, at scarter@co.morris.nj.us, no later than June 3rd.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – Ms. Wendy Zoccola

Housing vouchers

There are 200 statewide housing vouchers available to individuals receiving DDD services through the Supportive Housing Connection (SHC). SHC is an organization that issues rental subsidies in partnership with the Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Eligible applicants must qualify for DDD services, be experiencing housing instability, have a completed NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool (CAT), Medicaid eligible and a Support Coordinator prior to receiving the voucher. Additional information may be found at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Mr. David Johnston

Morris East

Child Welfare Assessments –	21
Child Abuse Investigations –	65
Total for MELO –	86

Morris West

Child Welfare Assessments –	40
Child Abuse Investigations –	98
Total Reports –	138

County Totals

Child Welfare Assessments –	61
Child Abuse Investigations –	163
Total Reports –	224

Elaine Mico is the new Morris West Local Office Manager effective May 16, 2016.

Department of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P) Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) - available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help children and youth experiencing emotional or behavioral crises. Services are designed to defuse an immediate crisis, keep children and their families' safe and maintain

children in the home or current living situation including foster homes, treatment or group home settings. For youth in placement, it will be required that a referral is made to MRSS to further support resource parents and link children to services in the community.

This initiative was a success in Mercer County in 2015 and is moving to Morris and Sussex counties beginning August 1st.

DCP&P is seeking resource homes and foster families for tweens (8 to 12 year olds) and older adolescents (14 and above). If members have any suggestions for DCP&P recruiters, please contact me.

There is a Request for Proposal for Trauma Treatment and Supportive Services for Child Victims of Domestic Violence in Two Pilot Counties: Morris and Somerset. A Bidders Conference was held on April 27, 2016. Bids are due June 28, 2016. Additional information may be found on the State's website under proposals.

Staff Reports – Ms. Shelia Carter

- The Social Services for the Homeless funding process begins May 27.
 - \$221,881 is available for homeless prevention and emergency services targeting at-risk individuals and families. The anticipated return date is June 17.
 - The HSAC funding review meeting will be held June 28.

Staff Reports – Ms. Laurie Becker

The Morris County Department of Human Services 2017 Request for Funding Applications (RFA) is also scheduled to go out on May 27.

Advisory Committee Reports:

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

Sean Hendricks, Department of Labor Business Representative in Morris County reported that one or two positive recruitments per week are hosted by the Randolph One-Stop Career Center (OSCC). Positive recruitment is an employer specific recruiting, pre-screening and hiring event that uses all One-Stop Career Center resources to assist businesses in reaching staffing goals. On Wednesday June 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there will be a positive recruitment for Atlantic Health at the Randolph OSCC. Atlantic Health has already posted 15 openings on Jobs4Jersey for nurses, patient care technicians, clerks, lab services coordinators and a dental hygienist. Atlantic Health plans to request positive recruitments twice a year for the foreseeable future. Sean is also working with My Limousine on recruitment of drivers on June 7th from 10 a.m. to noon.

Jane A. Armstrong has joined the WDB staff as the Senior Planner. She holds a Doctorate degree in research from the State University of NY Health Science Center, Brooklyn and a Post-doctoral fellowship from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. She is a tenured faculty member and former Chair of Biology and Mathematics

at Centenary University. In 2003, she accepted the position of Dean of Health and Natural Sciences, and later Dean of Corporate and Community Programs, at County College of Morris. She brings to the WDB experience in workforce development, federal grant acquisition and management, and a history of the development and delivery of collaborative community programs with non-profit and academic partners.

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

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/Advisory Committee has not officially met since April's report. However, a brainstorming meeting about how best to utilize the county website was held Tuesday, May 17 at 11:00am at 30 Schuyler Place in Morristown.

General meeting location rotate between New Jersey AIDS Services, Zufall Health and Hope House. The next meeting of The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/Advisory Committee is scheduled for: June 21, 2016 at Hope House in Dover, NJ.

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

The 22nd annual Forum for Consumers and Families will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the Haggerty Center, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, in Morristown. Please see fliers in your folders. This year the Forum is titled "Many Faces of Recovery: Stigma Revisited." There will be a special recognition for Terri Belske. The "Mental Health Consumer Advocate" recognition award will be given to her family in her honor and memory for many years of dedication to consumer advocacy. This award will be given to honor a dedicated consumer advocate each year.

All are welcome. Agencies are being asked to bring resources to share with attendees at the Forum. They are also being asked to bring extra materials for the upcoming Morris County Wellness Event to be held June 14 and 15 at Central Park of Morris County on the former Greystone property.

Morris County Freeholder Hank Lyon proudly announced the Stigma Free Communities Initiative whereby the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders declares Morris County to be "Stigma Free" and urges all residents to help end the stigma that follows those who suffer mental illness and substance abuse disorders. All thirty-nine towns have been asked to join this effort so that all of Morris County can be proud of its stigma free status.

A webpage on the Morris County Department of Human Service's website is in the process of being built, around this initiative, and will be in place by June 15th. The site will include facts about what mental illness is, provide linkages to community resources, hope that recovery is possible with ongoing treatment and supports through recovery stories. As important, that treatment is available and there's no shame in accessing services. A leadership group/ad hoc committee is also being put together to develop what it is they want to provide the community through this initiative.

Advisory Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Maria Rosario
The Legislative Review Committee Members reviewed the following bills and recommend them for endorsement of the ACADV:

- Assembly, No. 414 – Limits rent increases for certain senior citizens.
- Assembly, No. 985- Permits certain portion of municipal development trust funds to be spent on housing affordability assistance to veterans.
- Assembly, No. 1245 – Increases income eligibility limits for PAAD and Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program.
- Assembly, No. 4865- Requires DHS to ensure distribution to senior citizens of notice from Division of Consumer Affairs concerning risks and prevention of fraud.
- A letter in support of the reinstatement of the NJ Commission on Aging will be sent to Governor Christie.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – No report.

Partnership Announcements – Ms. Shelia Carter

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Intent to apply for both new and renewal projects for homeless services is available at www.MorrisHumanService.gov. The return date is June 17th.

A Mandatory technical assistance session is scheduled Thursday, June 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 30 Schuyler Place, 3rd Floor Blue Room in Morristown.

Old Business – Ms. Michelle Roers

Provided an update on the United Way of Northern New Jersey's progress in addressing the Childcare situation in the Dover community. A stakeholder meeting is planned for 10:00 am, Thursday, May 26 at the United Way office, 222 Ridgedale Avenue in Morristown. The goal of this meeting will be to determine a viability plan for keeping centers, in particular, those about to close open; perhaps through a centralized management/administrative model and brainstorm other ideas.

PreKOurWay, a nonpartisan not-for-profit, will be meeting in Dover, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Thursday, June 9th at the First Memorial Church on Blackwell Street to raise awareness and understanding about universal pre-school expansion across New Jersey. The community will be involved in discussion around the current status of early childhood education and how stakeholders can be involved in getting legislators to move on existing legislation. Dover is a top community in line for assistance if legislation were funded.

Child & Family Resources – Rebecca Sherrod

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. The agency receives approximately 30 new applications a week. The number of applications received weekly are not expected to increase May – August.

Currently there are no openings at any dedicated voucher centers.

Following is a list of 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 Leaner 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.

Collinsville, a dedicated voucher center, is closing the end of June. Families on dedicated vouchers have chosen to utilize these vouchers at other dedicated voucher facilities convenient for them.

New Business

Michelle Roers provided updated statistics on the Earned Income Tax Credit. In partnership with NORWESCAP and over 150 volunteers, 2,283 tax preparation services were provided to modest income residents netting \$508,000 cumulative return.

Cynthia DeGazon expressed appreciation and resignation from the board due to relocating out of state. The board wished her well. She will be missed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Shelia Carter