

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
1 Executive Drive, Morris Plains
June 26, 2018 Minutes

I. Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:18 p.m. by Mr. Ken Oexle.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, HIV/AIDS Advisory Liaison
Jeff Bashe, CoC Exec. Com. Liaison
Linda Csengeto, OTA Liaison
Heather Diamond, Center for Evaluation and Counseling
Jeff Bashe, CoC EC Liaison
Kenneth Oexle, Chair, Citizen Representative
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey

Also Attending:

Kathy DeFillippo, Freeholder
David Johnston, NJ Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Betty Sayner, NJDHS, Division of Disabilities
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS
Rebecca Tritt, Substance Use Navigator

Staff in Attendance:

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

II. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions made.

III. Approval of May 22 Minutes –

Motion to approve the May 22 minutes made by Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk and seconded by Ms. Linda Csengeto. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstentions. Motion carried.

IV. Morris County Department of Human Services – No Report

V. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Luis Tamayo

On June 8 the Human Services, Directors met with the community. The budget was discussed and there is not a lot of news. There are some big changes:

- The Division of Mental Health & Addictions (DMHAS) will move back under the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- \$18 billion (from DMHAS) will go back to DHS.

- There will be cuts but not yet sure where.

By July 1, there must be a balanced budget. The community is supportive of the budget as presented. Various items were discussed. In Morris, there is a fixed rate of approximately \$50 or \$60 for hotel payment (for emergency housing). In many counties, the hotel payment is higher. In Hudson, the average cost for hotel payment is \$142. Mostly SSH money is used for this. In Hudson, they use county funds to help cover the difference. Shelters are paid if the person is a welfare client and there is a limit. This is a big issue. There may be an opportunity to revisit with new State leadership.

Mr. Johnston said that they met with NJ 211 regarding the Coordinated Entry. DCP&P gets involved with 211 and families that have kids that go into foster care (if they are homeless). Mr. Bashe said this puts more pressure on shelters. The CoC priorities are not really for funding shelters but for permanent housing instead. Lack of shelter funds could have an effect on Grant in Aid (GIA) applications.

Ms. Csengeto said the reimbursement rates have been the same for the last 20 years. They are losing many motels due to the low reimbursement and others due to incidents. Ms. Carter said there is a shift to short-term service to clients.

Mr. Bashe said many counties do not have GIA. Morris has \$3-4 million for GIA and \$8-10 million total for all funding streams. The Continuum is working to try to get more landlords involved in the voucher program. It is a tough road since rental reimbursement rates are so low. Mr. Tamayo stated it would be great to get Janelle Winters, NJ Director of Dept. of Community Affairs, to come in to speak. She oversees state vouchers. Mr. Bashe agrees that is a great idea to have her come and speak, but we need to work on what we want to present to her.

Mr. Tamayo said the Commissioner met with family members and providers regarding childcare. They would like more input before writing a plan. Once they complete the plan, it should be in effect from August 2019 to 2021. Ms. Zydel stated that an advocacy letter concerning the low childcare reimbursement rates went out from the HSAC. Individual agencies also sent advocacy letters. Ms. Roers attended a recent hearing and there were many people testifying. The advocacy letters and testimonies were helpful. Mr. Tamayo said childcare rates were discussed. In the last 5 years, 44 childcare centers closed.

Ms. Roers said that low reimbursement rates are the reason some centers are unable to keep their doors open (especially the smaller centers). There are 94 centers across the states that were rated and received ratings. Child care subsidy rates increased for licensed childcare centers if they participate in Grow NJ Kids. Grow NJ Kids, New Jersey's Quality Rating Improvement System, is New Jersey's program to raise the quality of childcare and early learning across the state. Those centers with good ratings are able to get higher reimbursements. See www.grownjkids.gov for further information.

New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) - Betty Sayner

Overview:

DDD is a large division that serves more than 25,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. DDD is shifting from a contract-based system of service reimbursement to a Medicaid-based, Fee-for-Service system. Individuals are being assigned to support coordination agencies to help them manage an individual budget. Individual budgets are based on a tier level that is determined by a comprehensive assessment. The Fee-for-Service model allows for increased flexibility, increased choice and an expansion of services. The Division's transition to a Fee-for-Service system is expected to be fully implemented by June 2019.

DDD Updates:

Stephen Komninos' Law Employee Training - *Current provider agency staff, support coordination agency staff and self-directed employees must complete training by August 1, 2018.* The Stephen Komninos' Law strengthens protections for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and went into effect May 1, 2018. Because this law directly impacts direct support professionals, a training was developed to help them establish a firm understanding of the rules and requirements. DHS developed a Komninos' Law employee training and competency assessment available through the College of Direct Support. Questions regarding the Stephen Komninos' Law and training can be forwarded to the Helpdesk, administered by the DHS Office of Program Integrity and Accountability (OPIA): DHS-SKLaw.Opia@dhs.state.nj.us. An additional mandate of the law, drug testing (including pre-employment, random, and for cause), via the DHS vendor Energetix Corp, began on June 15, 2018.

New / Proposed Development in Morris County:

1. ***Advancing Opportunities*** McKinley St., Lincoln Park – Group Home (GH) is open, but the agency has not fully completed their Molina/Medicaid application and qualification process for individual supports. No move in dates have been set.
2. ***CPNJ*** was looking at a vacant lot on Rt. 202 in Morristown / Harding Twp. as a possible site for two 4-bedroom medical group homes. NJDEP did not approve the site for two homes, due to a stream in the center of the property. Only one home was approved for construction on the property. The agency is also relocating a GH from Essex Co. to Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey – 39-41 Lincoln Park, Newark, Essex County to Sun Valley Way, Florham Park, pending approval of licensure.
3. ***Avidd Community Services*** has several projects planned including:
 - Old Turnpike Road, Washington Twp. - Projected to serve 4 people; 2 are confirmed. The inside of the home is complete; exterior work is almost complete.
 - Espanong Road, Jefferson / Lake Hopatcong - Projected to serve 4. This is a vacant lot on 1.5 acres. Project closed with HMFA 12/20/17. Projected

licensing in 7/18. Minnehaha Blvd. in Lake Hiawatha - Projected to serve 4. Projected opening date is 9/1/18.

- Glenwood Road, Parsippany - Projected to serve 4 people. Projected opening 7/18.
- Mooney Road, Roxbury – Projected to serve 4 people. Project began 1/29/18. Vacant lot. Inspection of land was completed. Developer is working to fill a \$100,000 funding gap.

4. **Bellwether** is developing two new 6-person group homes in Morris County (Pine Brook & Morris Plains). Certificate of Occupancy has been obtained for both homes. Construction is 100%. Tours for proposed individuals will be scheduled after the agency hires a Clinician, Site Supervisor, and Program Director. They are also proposing a 6 person group home in Lincoln Park (construction is needed and no individuals have been identified yet).

VI. New Jersey Department of Children & Families – Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P) – Dave Johnson

Morris East LO

CWS	26
CPS	87
Total	113

Morris West LO

CWS	28
CPS	115
Total	143

There was an increase in May and June - numbers are high.

VII. Staff Reports – Ms. Becker

Ms. Becker introduced Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo. Freeholder DeFillippo is the Human Services Liaison. She gave the opening remarks at the Consumer & Family Forum. The Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) and the Freeholders sponsor the Consumer & Family Forum annually. The Sheriff, the Hope One vehicle, providers and clients all came out for this event. Two recovery stories were told and the annual Terri Belske Consumer Advocate recognition award was given out. Part of the Forum was a question and answer period where consumers let officials know their needs and services that are missing in the county.

Terri Belske was a pioneer at becoming a consumer advocate. She empowered herself and many others. She passed away a few years ago and this award is given in her honor. This year the award was presented to John Robbins who is both a strong advocate and compassionate person.

There was a photo shoot done by Vicky Mulligan and Life Center Stage. The photos were made into a slide show and presented at the end of the evening. A beautiful song accompanied the slide show entitled “I Am”. Prior to having his or her picture taken,

each person was asked to find a word that described him or her. Each slide had the person's picture and included a positive word reflecting that person. Ms. Mulligan reminded everyone to let the positive qualities in each person live on, know you are whole, and remember to "Celebrate You".

The 2019 Request for Funding Applications has begun. All 2019 funding applications are due Friday, June 29.

Ms. Becker reported that NJ Division of Mental Health & Addictions Services (except the hospitals and licensing) are slated to move back under the NJ Dept. of Human Services from the Dept. of Health). She noted that the MHASAB had sent a letter to State officials last year advocating to keep DMHAS under Human Services.

Ms. Becker said that it is the last day anyone can appeal the decision on the agency awarded the Navigating Hope project. Navigating Hope will provide mobile outreach in the community, complementing Hope One services. The Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) will be staffing this new program along with the new provider. This van will be similar to the Hope One model but will bring more human services assistance to the people. Navigating Hope will be able to take applications for food stamps, GA, etc. The agency chosen and their proposal will go to the Freeholders for final approval on July 11. At the next meeting, we will discuss further.

Ms. Carter

Agency monitoring are set up for July and August. There is a special need for people to sign-up for July 5 and July 9 since these dates are quickly approaching.

New Jersey AIDS Services (NJAS) submitted a subgrant modification request to expand the scope of work related to the HIV/AIDS educational component of the subgrant. The 2018 Subgrant Agreement is for transitional housing and AIDS prevention education. Additional funding is not requested. Under the prevention education service component of the subgrant, NJAS goes into schools and various places to speak to youth and seniors about HIV/AIDS transmission among other topics.

A Continuum of Care goal is to outreach to the LGBTQ community, work with the community and providers to deliver cultural sensitivity training in working with this population.

Motion to approve the work scope expansion was made by Ms. Linda Csengeto and seconded by Ms. Michelle Roers. All were in favor with no objection and one abstention. Motion carried.

An update was given on the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development response from the Commissioner related to the Human Services Advisory letter requesting additional funding for childcare.

The Office of Community Development's 2018 Annual Plan is on the Human Services website at <https://hs.morriscountynj.gov/community/> for comment through July 13, 2018. Responses are appreciated.

VIII. Planning Child Care (Voucher System Update) – Rebecca Sherrod (written report submitted)

There is no waiting list for childcare subsidies. Currently serving all eligible applicants and receive approximately 30+ new applications a week.

There are not 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

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.

There was also a rate increase for the reimbursement rate and the tiered reimbursement went into effect during the first pay period of June. The rate is now tied to Grow NJ Kids ratings.

Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF) Plan draft was released and comments were made and due by June 20, 2018.

Now through Sept. is the busy season. One small center, Aida Budrick, Boonton, is closing.

IX. Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Development Board – Jane Armstrong

They received an 8% cut which was no surprise. The cuts will be spread between three areas and total about \$500,000.

Morris County has the lowest unemployment and Sussex and Warren have relatively low unemployment. Unemployment in Morris is 2.9% to 3.0%. In Sussex, it is 3% to 6%. They recently got some dislocated workers. It seems dislocated workers are mostly very young workers and older workers that are leaving not by choice. There is a big demand for highly educated individuals here, especially those with IT skills. Some companies are closing and the market is volatile. The board is going to discuss modifying the budget. The major impact is that there will be no new hires and no replacements.

They met with Assistant Commissioner Bailey. He indicated there will be greater flexibility with LGBTQ funding. Ms. Donna Buchanan received special recognition at the Project Self Sufficiency event. Congratulations to Ms. Buchanan.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Armstrong

On Tuesday, June 19, the MSW HIV Advisory (Tri-County) met concurrently with the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) at the Human Services Building, 1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains. EIRC is an initiative of the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area HIV Health Services Planning Council (NEMA Planning Council).

At the Tri-County meeting, there was a presentation by Alton Robinson, Lead Peer Recovery Specialist, Morris County CARES (Center of Addition, Recovery, Education & Success). Mr. Robinson reported on methods used to connect people to recovery resources such as the Hope One Mobile Outreach van, which goes to all at-risk population locations to educate, give NARCAN training and link people to care and treatment. A lively question and answer session followed.

Meeting agenda items included Needs Assessment surveys and the voting in of the three new Tri-county committee members.

The NEMA HIV Health Care Planning Council is currently preparing an update on their needs Assessment and will utilize information from Morris, Sussex and Warren counties. The deadline for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant application submission is September 21.

A Lunch and Learn followed the Tri-county meeting with a presentation by Ms. Sue Willard from PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) on the topic of HIV Around the World.

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) has changed its name to the Community Action Board with the same acronym (CAB). The group met on June 26 at the Zufall Wellness Center in Morristown, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The topic was *Ask a Pharmacist* with a roundtable discussion facilitated by pharmacist Michael Tinglin of Walgreens. The group will next meet on Tuesday, July 24, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00

p.m. at the Zufall Wellness Center, 85 Washington St., Morristown. Karen Mortka, CRNP, will give a presentation on *Aging Positively*.

National HIV Testing Day is on Wednesday, June 27. Free and confidential HIV tests will be given at the Zufall Health Center, 18 W. Blackwell St., Dover (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) On July 25, free HIV testing will be done at the Zufall Wellness Center, 85 Washington St., Morristown (noon to 4:00 p.m.). Throughout the year HIV testing is given at the Family Health Center, 200 South St., Third Floor, Morristown.

The next Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Sept. 18 at Morristown Medical Center, 435 South Street, Third Floor Conf. Rm., Morristown. Tracy Klingener, Mental Health Association, will give a presentation. A Lunch and Learn will follow with the topic *Getting Back to Work and Degree Training Programs*.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board – Ms. Becker

At the next meeting on July 12, there will be a presentation by Legal Services on a newly funded project with Zufall. The project is called the HEAL project (Health, Education & Legal Partnership). Zufall will identify those individuals with need for legal support and then make referrals to Ms. Sharon Yoo from Legal Services. They will offer advocacy and representation for clients. There is a case manager, Mr. Eric Maren, who will work with Legal Services to help these individuals.

The Morris Advisory Leadership group is looking at the unified approach to funding. By using a unified approach, it will enable more than one advisory board to look at an application and increase chances for funding. Thus, applications may be considered for more than one funding stream.

All are welcome to the July 12 meeting. Exciting news will be shared about Navigating Hope.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans –

Freeholder DeFillippo said that the new Veteran's Clinic and Veterans Service Offices have opened at Morris View Health Care Center. There is a large nice new space and services all located together.

Youth Services Advisory Council – Jessica Mondino **STATE AND COUNTY REPORTS**

- Dave Johnston noted that there were no public notices currently on the DCF website. He also stated that the website was under construction but the emergency information can be found.
- FIS has a new Nurtured Heart certified trainer, Kattya Koenigsberg. Rebecca Tritt, one of the substance use navigators is also a newly certified advanced trainer.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro from FIS announced that their COO Diane Williams will be leaving FIS and Going to JBWS as their CEO and President. FIS is look for a new COO
- Juli Harpell-Elam also announced that JBWS' Center for Non Violence has moved to 1055 Parsippany Blvd.
- Margaret Hefferle asked about the Developmental Disabilities subcommittee. Jessica Mondino informed the committee that she, in partnership with DAWN Center for Independent Living, were working to create a DD subcommittee as directed by CSOC. More information will be given on this initiative in July.
- Diane Coloney from Atlantic Home Care and Hospice, talked about their camp for youth who have experienced a loss (death of family member). It is called Camp Clover.
 - Camp Clover offers fun, interactive and educational activities to help with the grieving process as well as traditional camp activities, which include swimming, sports and arts and crafts. It is our hope that children will emerge from their camp experience with new coping skills to help them in their journey through their grief.
 - Camp Clover is staffed by professional grief counselors and trained volunteers and will run from August 14 through August 17, 2018.
 - Camp Clover is funded by donations and is FREE to all children.
 - Additionally camp will provide busing and lunch.
 - Camp Clover is located on the grounds of Camp Riverbend, 116 Hillcrest Road, Warren, NJ.
- The first part of the July YSAC meeting will be a closed meeting to approve the Funding recommendations, Plan and Application. The second part from about 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. will be a focus group for the 2019 County Comprehensive Plan for Alcohol and Drug Abuse, facilitated by Beth Jacobson.

X. Partnership Announcements

Mr. Bashe distributed a copy of the Notice of Intent letter that went out from the CoC Executive Committee to Morris Area Community Agencies. The Morris CoC is accepting Notices of Intent from any agencies interested in applying for funding to support both New and Renewal Projects through Morris County CoC process. The HUD CoC program provides funding to programs serving homeless individuals and families in the community. See letter for priorities and further information.

CoC funding is moving to permanent housing and away from funding shelters. This is an additional reason it is important for the Freeholders to support GIA funding. GIA is a very competitive process and we expect a lot more proposals this year. Thanks to the Freeholders for all their support.

XI. Old Business – None

XII. New Business –

Ms. Carter asked for help with the agency monitorings. Please sign up. (List was circulated earlier.)

Ms. Roers asked if there is any impact in Morris County on immigrant children (due to recent new laws). Freeholder DeFillippo said she has heard some children have been moved across the country. This topic may be addressed at the next Freeholder meeting.

Mr. Johnson got a letter from the Commissioner regarding this. Some agencies have federal contracts. There is agency in Burlington and some of the immigrant children are being sent there. The cost is a lot to take care of these children and no one is sure where the money will come from. Ms. Carter said that perhaps Ms. Guevara, from Hispanic Affairs, can update the board on this at the next meeting.

Mr. Oexle asked if there are any programs or presentations we want to see on the agenda in the fall. Mr. Bashe suggested we have a DCA presentation.

XIII. Public Comment – None

XIV. Adjourn –

There was a motion made by Ms. Michelle Roers to close the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Jeff Bashe seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Administrative Secretary