

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
1 Executive Drive, Morris Plains
November 27, 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
Linda Csengeto, OTA Liaison
Kenneth Oexle, Chair, Citizen Representative
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative
Tom Pepe, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Kathy DeFillippo, MC Freeholder
David Johnston, Deidre's House

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS
Elaine Mico, NJ Division of Child Protection & Permanency

II. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions made.

III. Approval of October 23 Minutes –

Motion to approve the October 23 minutes made by Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk and seconded by Mr. Tom Pepe. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstentions. Motion carried.

IV. Morris County Department of Human Services – Ms. Becker

Ruth Davis Drive proposals are due on Nov. 30. The Advisory Leadership group will meet on Dec. 20 to review proposals and make decisions. So far, two proposals have been received.

Navigating Hope outreach has begun. Although the Navigating Hope vehicle is not out on the road, it will be on the road by the end of December. The staff is shadowing Hope One on the Hope One van. Family Promise has begun submitting vouchers for service. Their contract was executed about six weeks ago.

V. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Luis Tamayo

There will be a State Department of Human Services Budget Listening Session on Dec. 5. This is an opportunity for individuals and the community to weigh in on how the budget is shaped. There is a new Commissioner, a new team, and a new process. Some HSACs submit position papers. Written comments are shared even after Dec. 5. Speakers are limited to three minutes during the speaking session.

Ms. Becker said it is important to have the local voice heard. This is a good opportunity for Leadership groups across the board. We will discuss this at the Leadership meeting. Mr. Tamayo suggested looking back at last year’s suggestions. Ms. Carter said that this group might want to input information. Ms. Becker said if someone wants to attend the session to present, it is not necessary to get permission from the Freeholder board. Ms. Roers said she thinks it is good to have someone physically there to speak. Discussion continued. The following ideas were selected for the presentation:

- Need to maintain preschool funding; voucher expansion and subsidy rates.
- Emergency shelter assistance and Code Blue funding.
- Medical marijuana, if legalized could cost the state more money for treatment and ancillary services.
- Mental Health/Addictions - Fee-for-service, community supportive housing.

Mr. Pepe said he would be willing to present.

Fliers and emails have been distributed to ensure modest income residents are aware of NJ Family Care, a publicly funded health insurance program, which includes CHIP, Medicaid and Medicaid expansion populations. This means qualified residents of any age may be eligible for free or low cost health insurance that covers doctor visits, prescriptions, vision, dental care, mental health and substance use services and even hospitalization. For additional information, call 1-800-701-0710.

VI. New Jersey Department of Children & Families – Division of Developmental Disabilities (DCC&P) - Ms. Elaine Mico

DCC&P sent out many emails to make sure all are aware of the open enrollment dates for Family Care.

November is National Adoption Month. There was a celebration last week in Ledgewood. Six children were adopted that day, Lunch was served and there were games and prizes.

In November, there was a decrease in referrals. Referrals were 140 (usually 100). Morris East and West are going through staffing changes. Ms. Humphrey has filled Mr. Johnston’s position and will be transitioning to attend this meeting.

VII. Staff Report – Ms. Becker

All 2019 funding notices went out. Thanks to all providers for their applications. There was nice increase in applications this year. There are five new programs and a few

increases to current programs, especially in the case management area. As of today, there are no appeals and we received some thank you calls.

Today the Sheriff held a new training on Behavioral Health Threat Assessments. It is to teach how to intervene before violence happens. There were 75 that attended. Dr. Randazzo from Washington, DC, gave the presentation. This model is the roll out of how to identify when a child is in some level of distress or concern and to offer mental health services and other supports to avoid tragic events from happening. Tomorrow is the second part of the training.

They are partnering with Law Enforcement and Providers. It is a nice process primarily in schools with mental health at the table to reach out to the community and take the stigma free message to the schools. Many young people live with problems and are afraid to talk due to the stigma. There is no profile, often no signs. A lot of time, the person has had a history of loss and trauma. The Dr. said that just because someone has a mental illness does not mean he or she is more violent.

Ms. Becker will reach out to bring mental health providers to the table as needed. Ms. Becker said this whole field is complicated and people need to be at the table to assist and understand the big picture. Mr. Johnston said this is something the Education Partnership should be involved. Ms. Becker said a lot of the problem is bullying and we need to get more information out there on anti-bullying. Mr. Johnston said there is a new superintendent in the schools, Ms. Angelica McMillan, and she is very interested in all of this. Mr. Johnston said there many good people to talk to at the schools.

Staff Report – Ms. Carter

We are beginning the work of developing subgrant agreements for providers notified of being funded in 2019.

According to this morning's HUD Regional conference call, no news on the 2018 CoC funding award.

The 2019 Point-in-Time Count process will be discussed at the December 10 Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Advisory meeting in Trenton. Strategies to engage youth and LGBTQ populations will be examined. Ideas will be incorporated in Morris County's Point-in-Time Training for volunteers scheduled 9:30 a.m., January 11, 2019 at the Morris County Department of Human Services, 1 Medical Drive, Conference Room 82 in Morris Plains.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports –

Nov. 2018 – Child Care Report

Planning Childcare (Voucher update) – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod

All numbers are pretty much the same. The Department of Human Services, Division of Family is making grants available to support programs and providers participating in the state's Child Care Subsidy Program to comply with the federal law requirements. The grants includes a specific emphasis on expanding center's capacity to serve infants and

increasing children's access to quality programs and providers. There are many grants available to childcare centers and providers. Applications will be accepted starting Nov. 5.

The agency must be in NJ Grow Kids or enrolling in it. There is a grant for minor repairs for health and safety, a program and classroom quality enhancement grant, and an infant expansion quality initiative grant. For further information, see their website at <http://www.childcarenj.gov/Providers/Grants>

Slate of Officers – Mr. Ken Oexle

Ms. Sherrod is on the nominating committee. The vote will be in January. Nominations are Mr. Tom Pepe for Chair and Mr. Bob Armstrong for Vice Chair (if he accepts). Nominations can be made at the next meeting. Mr. Oexle thanked everyone for their help and support through the last few years.

IX. Youth Homelessness – No Report

X. Advisory Committee Reports –

Workforce Development Board – No Report (no meeting)

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Armstrong (written report submitted)

On Tuesday, November 13, the Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory (Tri-County) met concurrently with the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) at the Human Services Conf. Rm., 1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains.

Ms. Maria Fodali from Family Promise and Ms. Kelly Curry of Community Partnership shared information about Navigating Hope and the Single Stop Program: empowering people to thrive through benefits access and services. For further information, see their website: <https://singlestopconnects.org>.

New Jersey AIDS Services (NJAS) will host a World AIDS Day event on November 30. NJAS will be expanding services to the LBGTQ population.

The HIV Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) met Tuesday, November 27 at 11:00 a.m. There was a presentation on the topic of Inflammation and HIV.

Following the Tri-County meeting a Lunch and Learn was held. Ms. Elizabeth Kocot from NJ Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, Essex/Hudson County District Office and LCDR, and Ms. Tunesia Mitchel, from the Division of Medicare/Health Plans Operations Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, presented to consumers on Navigating Medicaid and Medicare.

The next Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Feb. 19 followed by a Lunch and Learn at the Zufall Wellness Center, 85 Washington St., Morristown. Topic: Holistic Approaches to HIV Care.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board –Ms. Becker

- Mr. Rose Brown and Ms. Deanna Ackerman, from the Mental Health Association of Essex & Morris, Inc. County presented on Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT). They explained about the program and answered questions. AOT/Involuntary Outpatient Commitment refers to mental health laws that are mandated, community-based, mental health treatment for individuals with mental illness, who, because of their mental illness, meet a legal standard for outpatient commitment.

AOT is an alternative to involuntary inpatient hospitalization for eligible consumers in Morris and Sussex County. Individuals are assessed by a mental health screener and psychiatrist and if commitment to involuntary treatment is necessary, the screening staff and psychiatrist shall determine what type of treatment is the least restrictive to meet the needs of the individual pursuant to NJSA 30:4-2.2 (m). If an individual meets the criteria for AOT, the individual will be mandated to participate in mental health treatment in the community.

The goal of AOT is to enable individuals to live safely within their communities, to avoid repeated hospitals and/or incarcerations, and to ensure that they have access to outpatient mental health services. For further information or to make a referral for this program contact Deanna Ackerman at (973) 334-3496 x418.

- Sheriff Gannon gave an update on Greystone Psychiatric Hospital. He is the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. He said the census has been dropping and they are working on safety and security and have made some big changes in the last year. There has been a new CEO appointed and many good things are going on. This is our most vulnerable population and families are embracing the changes. They notified the state of any issues of concern. There are continuing staffing issues and difficulty keeping staff. Ms. Becker asked if there is advocacy specific to the shortage of psychiatrists. There are only eleven there now and Greystone is attempting to recruit ten more. Discussion about the low salary of psychiatric staff at \$225,000 and the higher salary of the competing hospitals, some starting at \$275,000. Ms. Carpinteri stated this is because they are salaried under Civil Service.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Rosario (written report provided)

Christine Hellyer reported staffing changes in the Aging Department:

- Kathleen McHugh has joined the nutrition staff as a clerk.
- Marisol Heredia, Assistant Supervisor of Social Case Work Assisting Shawwna Bailey with Case management and Adult Protective Services.
- Karen Webster, Caregiver Coordinator is retiring the end of this month.

The Division on Aging submitted the Area Plan Contract to the State for review and completed the Third Quarter reports to the State.

Medicare open enrollment ends December 7, 2018. Now is the time to make any necessary changes to your coverage.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – No Report

XI. Partnership Announcements – No Report

XII. Old Business –

Ms. Carter stated that Ms. Mary Jane Melo is retiring after serving many years on multiple Advisory Boards. The Freeholders will present her with a resolution for her dedication and many years of service at the Jan. 9 Freeholder’s meeting.

XIII. New Business – None

XIV. Public Comment –

Freeholder DeFillippo said that a young girl Sasha Truesdale, from Morristown, died of an overdose on Nov. 23. She was working and a graduate of Montclair State. So many people are dealing with addictions. It is so sad we have not been able to correct this problem. We have seen a real collaboration around the county and have gotten some good results. Human Services is a large department and Freeholder DeFillippo is committed to us. She thanked everyone for their hard work and time. Ms. Chandler said that St. Clare’s is a big help with educating the schools.

Ms. Roers said it is good to have Freeholder representation at the board meetings. It is a nice presence and been many years with little Freeholder attendance.

Mr. Johnston said that Deidre’s House had a gala and raised the most money ever. About 95% of this money goes to direct services. They provide free therapy to families. There will be another fundraiser in the spring.

XV. Adjourn –

Motion made by Mr. Tom Pepe to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Mr. Joe Pawelczyk seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Administrative Secretary