

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

February 26, 2013

340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The February 26 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Rebekka Zydel, Chair at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep., Liaison MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep./Liaison United Way N.N.J., Success by Six

Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep.

Chris Carey, Citizen Rep.

Linda Csengeto, Citizen Rep./Liaison CEAS/CoC

Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.

Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep.

Charles LaRuss, Citizen Rep./Liaison MHSAAAB

Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.

Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.

Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep./Liaison Aging Disabilities & Veterans (departed at 6:05 p.m.)

Michelle Roers, United Way of N.N.J. (arrived at 5:45 p.m.)

David Walker, Morristown Neighborhood House

Rebekka Zydel, Chair/Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Elizabeth McGovern, DCF - DCP & P

Jack Patten, WIB Director

Sabine VonAulock, M.C. Office of Community Development

Staff in attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS

Shelia Carter, MCDHS

Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

Frank Pinto, MCDHS

Approval of January Minutes –

Mr. Oexle made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bashe seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and two abstentions.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – Mr. Frank Pinto

As much as \$5,751 could be claimed by eligible residents, with modest incomes, that know to apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit on their return. We are working to inform the community about the credit in hope that more people apply each year.

Additional information can be found at www.irs.gov/eitc or call by calling 1-800-829-1040.

The Governor gave his budget address this afternoon. There is good news regarding Medicaid and county nursing homes. Reimbursement rates will continue this fiscal year and at least through June 2014. The full roll out of Medicaid will start being phased in July 2014. In 2015 the start for nursing homes will roll out. The Governor announced the expansion of the Medicaid program through the Affordable Care Act. He says he will do what is right for New Jersey.

In the Governor's speech today he also talked about Mental Health and Addictions. He says that there will be a \$4.4 million in savings from closing Hagedorn. This money will be reinvested. The drug courts will be expanded \$4.5 million and Adult Protective Services (APS) will receive a 20% increase in funding. There is no reduction for Aging Programs but dollars will be down due to projected enrollment dropping. The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will be given \$41.8 million more for new community placements. The Department of Children & Families (DCF) has a positive budget message. They will maintain budget across their programs. There will be a \$3.7 million increase in the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) and the Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS). There will be a \$1.5 million increase for the transition of children from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). The Medicaid Waiver will result in a budget reduction in some areas. Hospital funding charity care will maintain at \$1 billion and HIV/AIDS funding will be maintained.

County of Morris Planning and Development – Ms. Sabine VonAulock

The Community Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership are two federal programs that will be reviewed early next week. These two programs and the Emergency Solutions Grant will all be affected by sequestration – a proposed 9 percent cut.

**New Jersey Department of Human Services -
Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – No Report**

Employment Horizons provides employment, training and job placement services to persons with disabilities and other disadvantages in the greater Morris Count area. Ms. Delaney informed the committee that cutbacks to Employment Horizons are expected to be large this year.

Since the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities is receiving cutbacks, group home staff, food allowance and the like are expected to receive less funds as well.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) – Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) – Ms. Elizabeth McGovern

The January numbers were about average.

Morris West	-	140
Morris East	-	127
Total		267

March is usually a tough month. Referral numbers are expected to be higher.

The last Federal Monitoring report of DCP& P programs, resulting from a Department lawsuit, was good. Due to Hurricane Sandy, the next report period was extended to the end of March.

Ms. Brands questioned how recovery from Hurricane Sandy is progressing in Morris County. Mr. Pinto stated that most of the storm damage has been cleaned up. Morris County was fortunate compared to damage in other areas. Ocean County lost a third of their homes.

In addition, Ms. Roers said the United Way ran a campaign and raised money for the neediest communities. They are working with schools in an Alternative Spring break program. Students from colleges all over the country are going to the shore areas to work with organizations like Habitat for Humanity. The students are funding themselves for this program through donations. Drew Brees (famous football player) donated \$1 million to the United Way to help get supplies, etc. to help out with the venture. MTV is partnering in an effort to spotlight students doing work and give North Jersey recognition for their support. Hardest hit areas will take a long time to recover. The Governor allocated \$40 million to fill gaps for things that aren't covered. This money probably will not be available until June when the budget is passed.

Ms. Brands questioned support Morris County provide to counties hardest hit. Mr. Pinto said county governments do not provide direct financial support to other county governments. Every county has a long term Disaster Recovery Committee. Allocations to these committees are based on demand. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) deployed caseworkers to areas in need.

Staff Report – Ms. Shelia Carter

During the New Jersey Department of Human Services Advisory Council meeting this past Friday, there was discussion on the status of youth transfer from the New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS), Division of Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Children & Families (DCF), Children's System of Care. In addition, the misunderstanding surrounding the February 6, 2013 letter to Mental Health Service providers from the Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) was also addressed.

In DMHAS's attempt to realign certain mental health and substance abuse services between the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health & Addictions Services and the Department of Children and Families, Children's System of Care, the letter sought to facilitate identification and separation of children's services from adult services in blended outpatient programs in order to transfer resources and responsibility for individuals age 0-17.99 to the Department of Children & Families, Children's System of Care. Since service consumption patterns, cost utilization and offsetting revenues differ for children and adults, assistance was sought from Mental Health Service providers in separating information for outpatient programs based on actual information contained in Final Expenditure and Quarterly Contract Monitoring Reports.

The letter went on in an attempt to identify types of mental health programs that would be divided between the adult and children's system, such as Intensive Outpatient Treatment and Support Services (IOTSS), Early Intervention and Support Services, etc. and those Mental Health and Addiction Services programs for individuals age 18 to 20.99 that would be part of a unified system for screening and affiliated emergency services that would continue to be administered by the adult Mental Health Substance Abuse System. Programs like Driving under the Influence Initiative and Drug Court services would remain with the Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services for all age groups. Since the February 6 letter was not clear and created many concerns in local communities, the Division of Mental and Addiction Services committed to forwarding a new letter with hope of creating better understanding and dialog for assistance in moving this system closer to the system of care expressed in the State's waiver application supported by the Governor.

An order was signed to extend Human Services Advisory Council regulations for seven years. Also discussed was the consolidated system that is supposed to modernize the General Assistance (GA) program administered through the Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) in the way information is processed. In 2006, Morris County developed its own software system. Morris County has used a certification scan system to make the office run paperless. The state has developed a similar system through IBM. It is an integrated software system. OTA will have to get their records out of their current system and into the new system. In this way the whole state will be integrated and files can be easily viewed and cases easily transferred. This will be a much more efficient system.

Subcommittee Reports

Planning Subcommittee – Ms. Rebekka Zydel

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served and approximately 12 new applications a week are being received by the child care resource and referral agency.

There are 27 eligible Dedicated Voucher child care programs on the Morris County roster. We are currently at number 10. The board may want to consider issuing a second Request for Funding Application (RFA).

Regarding the question raised about the status of e-Child Care in the community, Child & Family Resources continues to provide training and technical assistance to child care providers. The Division of Family Development has included an e-Child Care Specialist position in the FY13 CC&R contract. The role of the specialist is to provide on-going training and technical assistance. Child & Family Resources is experiencing an increase in requests for training as providers are realizing they are not being paid in full. The Division of Family Development (DFD) is strongly enforcing their instruction related to manual payment exceptions and many providers are being denied manual payments. DFD has also implemented a Sanction Policy. The Sanction Policy impacts parents and providers and relates to the non-use of e-Child Care as well as program violations. Challenges are reported by providers:

- Language barriers
- Time constraints, specifically for those families utilizing public/county transportation
- System glitches (save/store mode, dedicated phone lines in school districts, short term summer programs)
- Increased administrative workload/costs

CEAS/COE – Ms. Linda Csengeto

- Housing Alliance – they are still advocating for towns to use their Municipal Trust Funds.
- Point in Time Count (PIT) – took place on January 30, 2013. As a part of its Continuum of Care (CoC) application for homelessness funding, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requests that jurisdictions across the nation conduct an unduplicated count of the homeless over the course of one day in the last ten (10) days in January. The goal of the PIT is to identify the number of homeless people at a given point in time and to collect demographic and other information about those who are homeless to be used to develop effective plans to address and end homelessness.
- The 2012 AHAR (Annual Homeless Assessment Report) and CoC application have both been filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Closed Session

On motion of member Bob Armstrong and seconded by Ken Oexle the board closed the open portion of the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Return to Meeting

The meeting reopened to the public at 6:20 p.m.

Actions Resulting from Closed Session

The recommended allocation for 2013 Emergency Solutions Grants will be forwarded to the Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee and Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Mr. Jack Patten

- Donna Buchanan has succeeded Olga Burns as Director of Morris, Sussex, Warren Employment and Training Services (ETS). ETS operates the programs planned and funded by the WIB.
- During March, the WIB will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for youth employment and training programs funded under the Workforce Investment Act. To receive a copy of the RFP, please call 973-829-8400 x232.
- The WIB is currently advocating for affordable, accessible GED testing in New Jersey. Proposed changes to GED test formats, costs and accessibility threaten to

decrease the number of NJ test takers and limit the amount of credentialed workers available to NJ employers.

Morris Sussex, Warren (MSW) HIV Advisory Committee – Robert Armstrong

The MSW HIV Advisory Committee met on February 19 at 11:00 a.m. at New Jersey AIDS Services at Greystone Park. This was a joint meeting with the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) as mandated by HRSA through the Newark EMA (NEMA) HIV Health Services Planning Council in conjunction with the Tri-county Committee. The group finalized a letter they will send out announcing a HIV Information Roundtable to be held on April 19 at Hope House in Dover, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The purpose of the roundtable will be to familiarize an expanded group involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment with available community resources with the goal of developing and implementing workable strategies to reduce the number of new infections, increase access to care and improve health outcomes for those living with HIV/AIDS. If you know anyone who you think should be aware of the HIV Information Roundtable in Morris, Sussex or Warren counties contact Bob at RLA723@optimum.net. The next meeting of the Tri-County HIV Advisory Committee and the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 11:00 a.m. at Hope House in Dover.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board (MHSAAB) – Mr. LaRussa

The MHSAAB met on February 14.

- Conducted board orientation – one new member this year, Julian Hill of the Prosecutor's Office.
- Funding subcommittee presented a recommendation letter to the full MHSAAB for a vote on the DMHAS RFP for a Statewide Suicide Prevention hotline (674 K for 24/7 hotline and referral service) 4 proposals and MHSAAB recommended UMDNJ for the award. The board is awaiting the outcome.
- Morris County screening services is up for RFP – MHSAAB will be reviewing any proposals submitted and provide recommendation to DMHAS.
- MHSAAB Planning Committee will be meeting end of March to review/update 2014 funding priorities summary.
- Watching progress on Involuntary Outpatient Commitment programs as they roll out in six other counties. MHSAAB members are invited to this Friday's PAC meeting, where Bob Davison, CEO of MHA Essex County will be reporting on the status of the Essex program.
- First planning meeting held to work on the 2013 annual Morris County Public Forum for consumers and families.
 - The Forum will be held on June 11, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Haggerty Center, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morristown.
 - Topic: Importance of Connections in Recovery.All are invited.
- March 21 will be the annual skating event at Mennen Arena.
- Cross Systems Presentation at Morris County Aftercare on Expungement – Cleaning Your Records. For further information, contact Mr. LaRussa.

The next meeting, TBD, may meet in March (if needed) to conduct the review and make recommendations related to the Screening Center RFP.

Council on Aging Disabilities & Veterans (ACADV) – Mr. Tom Pappas

- The Advisory Council introduced the new members for 2013. The importance of the subcommittee meetings was discussed which contributes to the accomplishments of the Council throughout the year.
- Also discussed were the changes in regard to hospital admissions. If you are taken to the emergency room and held for observation for several days and not formally admitted the costs will be out of your pocket and not billed to your carrier. This is because of new penalties the hospitals are facing if a patient is readmitted in 30 days to their facility. Also, if you are not admitted and require a nursing home stay it will not be covered. So it is important for you to ask to be admitted.
- AARP is offering an online Driver Safety Class and completion can result in a reduction in your auto insurance premium.

United Way of Northern New Jersey, Success by Six – No Report

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Report provided by Ms. Mondino (read by Ms. Carter)

- Concerns regarding the switch of the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Department of Addiction Services (DAS) to the Children's System of Care (CSOC) were brought up. There are many concerns from numerous members of the board. The committee will reach out to a CSOC representative and see if someone can attend the next YSAC meeting.
- Discussing possible speakers for the next few meetings. CSOC Representative as well as DDD service providers.
- The committee should be trying to utilize as many other resources as possible besides Perform Care. Especially local sources.
- Morris County Human Services will host their annual Natural High Skating Event on March 21 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Mennen Arena.
- Morris County Tech School is hosting 3 presentations: Substance Abuse Awareness April 18 at 7:30 p.m.; College for students with IEPs and 504s April 10 at 7 p.m.; and Harassment Intimidation and Bullying March 19 at 7:30 p.m.
- The Education Partnership will be holding a training to explain the changes to the Children's System of Care on April 24 at 8:30 a.m. at the Public Safety Training Academy.

Old Business

Ms. Carter wants to remind the board that the monthly board meetings will now be on Tuesdays as agreed upon at prior meeting. There will be no meeting in March and the next board meeting will be April 23.

Ms. Zydel asked if anyone on the board might like to attend the YSAC meetings and bring a report back to this advisory. Please let Ms. Carter know if interested.

New Business

Ms. Zydel mentioned that tomorrow is the Freeholder Board meeting. It's great for Board Members to attend. This Freeholder meeting will be held on Court St. on the 5th Floor and starts at 7:30 p.m. Budget is on the agenda for this month.

Ms. Zydel asked if anyone had ideas for presentations. Someone suggested holding a board meeting at Greystone. Ms. Brands will look into. It would be a great opportunity to see Greystone. Ms. Roers stated that United Way usually does a presentation on ALICE in April. Also mentioned was possibly holding a meeting at Interfaith Food Pantry and having a tour of the new building.

Public Comment – None**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on April 23.
Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide