

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown
January 23, 2018 Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:20 p.m. by Ms. Mary Jane Melo.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, HIV/AIDS Advisory Liaison
Jeff Bashe, COC EC Liaison
Linda Csengeto, OTA Liaison
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative
Kenneth Oexle, Chair, Citizen Representative
Tom Pepe, Citizen Representative

Also Attending:

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board Liaison
David Johnston, DYFS
Betty Sayner, NJDHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat MocarSKI, MCDHS
Maria Rosario, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions made.

Approval of November 28 Minutes –

There was one correction suggested by Mr. Tom Pepe on Page 4. The Little Learner Academy should be the Little Learner Academy. Motion to approve the November 28 minutes, with noted correction, was made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Ms. Linda Csengeto. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

County of Morris Department of Human Services –

Mr. Oexle stated in early December there was an Advisory Leadership Group meeting. The group consists of mainly Chairs and a few members from various county advisory boards. They discussed the unified funding plan. They are looking across the service continuum from aging, youth, mental health to all of areas of human services to determine the highest priorities. They also recapped 2017. The Ruth Davis Drive RFP is in process. The group will meet again in the spring to discuss top service priorities.

**New Jersey Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities –
Ms. Betty Sayner (written report submitted)**

Overview:

DDD is a large division that serves more than 25,000 people with developmental disabilities including those with: intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, spina bifida, traumatic brain injuries and certain neurological impairments.

DDD is continuing its shift from a contract-based system of service reimbursement to a Medicaid-based, fee-for-service system. In the new system, individuals will be assigned to a support coordination agency to help them manage an individual budget. Individual budgets based on a tier level that is determined by a comprehensive assessment. These are “up to” budgets (someone may purchase needed services up to the top budget amount). The amounts range from \$19,000 for an individual enrolled in the Supports Program to \$406,100.00 for an individual enrolled on the Community Care Waiver.

On 12/18/17, the number of individuals in Morris County who were eligible for Division-funded services and still needed to select a Support Coordination Agency was 692.

New / Proposed Development in Morris County:

1. Advancing Opportunities McKinley St., Lincoln Park – ready to fill four person GH.
2. Aplus is planning to open a two person supervised apartment program in Overlook Village, Flanders.
3. Bergen United Way is the Project Developer on a Tax Credit project is being planned in Florham Park. A provider agency has not yet been identified. DDD will support a total of 24 beds, consisting of one 4-bedroom group home and 17 apartment units. This program is expected to be licensed in 2019.
4. CPNJ is looking at a vacant lot on Rt. 202 in Morristown / Harding Twp. as a possible site for two 4-bedroom medical group homes. The Township is being consulted on if two homes would be allowed.
5. DPD (Department for Persons with Disabilities) is relocating an existing home to Ridge Road in Succasunna. The Group Home currently serves eight people, but there are plans to reduce the program to five. They secured the funding and closed on the property in 5/17. Construction has started. Projected opening was in December.
6. Avidd Community Services has several projects planned including:
 - Old Turnpike Road, Washington Twp. - Projected to serve four people. Vacant lot on 3 acres. Closing on the home was 5/17 and construction began 7/17.
 - Espanong Road, Jefferson / Lake Hopatcong - Projected to serve four. This is a vacant lot on 1.5 acres. In 8/17, they were waiting to close with HMFA.
 - Minnehaha Blvd. in Lake Hiawatha - Projected to serve four. Vacant lot needing demo and new construction. As of 8/17, they were waiting to close with HMFA.
 - Glenwood Road, Parsippany - Projected to serve four people. Closing occurred and demo started in 8/17. Agency plans to backfill this GH with individuals from an existing GH, and then fill that home.

Bellwether is currently developing two new 6-person group homes in Morris County (Pine Brook & Morris Plains). The initial inspection (by the State Architect) for both homes was completed on 12/17. Other than some renovation recommendations, there were no major issues noted. Bellwether is projecting the homes will be ready for licensing the end of 3/18.

Ms. Sayner stated that Ms. Carol Johnson is the new Commissioner. They are continuing to shift to fee for service. In their office there are 21 case managers and all are their cases are changing over and being managed by private agencies. Mr. Steven Camino from the state will be visiting the clients that have transitioned bi-annually in the health care facilities. This is being done to help ensure quality assurance during the transition period.

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

There have been some administrative changes. Ms. Allison Blake and Ms. Liz Manley have both left their positions. Under the children’s system of care with fee for service, there are many changes as well.

December

MORRIS EAST LO

CWS – 31

CPS – 66

Total - 97

MORRIS WEST LO

CWS – 38

CPS – 88

Total - 126

In 2017, they kept statistics for Deidre’s House. They got a grant for this program. Through MOUs, they served both victims and perpetrators in Morris County. They often are hitting 600 referrals a month. This is more referrals than many bigger counties.

Various RFPs are available. For further information on DCF or RFPs, please see DCF website at <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/>.

Staff Report – Ms. Becker

There is a lot going on with the Stigma Free Initiative. Two areas they want to increase engagement with are the faith based community and the youth. They are working with the Municipal Alliances to integrate the Stigma Free Initiative into different areas. Through this initiative, they are trying to get folks to talk about their illness and get help without being judged. The message is spreading.

They are working on updating resource directories. They have begun printing some posters with the Stigma Free logo and the Stigma Free mission. There are only about 13 towns left to join the Stigma Free Initiative. They are trying to get these towns on board.

Staff Report – Ms. Carter

Morris County conducted a Point-in-Time count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless on the night of Jan. 23. The results of this endeavor, led by local agencies and volunteers, will guide plans to end homelessness.

This year there is an addendum specific to Morris County to help identify youth and the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender (LGBT) community. A question was added addressing why there is such a high percentage of homeless people coming here from outside of Morris County.

2018 Emergency Shelter Grant applications have been received. Emergency Shelter Grant funds support homelessness prevention, emergency shelter and related services. Seven agencies will give presentations on their applications. The Program Review Committee will hear the presentations and participate in the rank and review session. The presentations are scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 1:00 p.m. prior to the general HSAC meeting.

Mr. Bashe and Ms. Roers were welcomed as new members on the board this year.

Subcommittee Reports

Planning Childcare – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod (written report submitted)

- There is no waiting list for childcare subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served and they receive approximately 15 new applications a week.
- 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

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.

Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Investment Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong (written report submitted)

The Morris/Sussex/Warren Workforce Development Board is working with New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program (NJMEP) to recruit candidates for training leading to a Technical Sales Representative credential. NJMEP is collaborating with 29 local manufacturers who have committed to employing program completers. The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development funds the training through the Workforce Development Opportunity Partnership Training Grant (OPG) program to assist displaced/dislocated workers secure employment by providing occupational training in industry-valued credential areas that employers have identified as a requirement of the job. The Randolph One Stop Career Center at 13 Emery Avenue is hosting an information session from 9 am to noon on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

David Hollowell has unanimously been re-elected Chair of the WDB, 2 year term.

Morris, Sussex, Warren (MSW) HIV/AIDS Advisory – Mr. Bob Armstrong (written report submitted)

On Jan. 16, the MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee (Tri-County) met concurrently with the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) at Zufall Health Center in Morristown. EIRC is an initiative of the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area HIV Health Services Planning Council (NEMA Planning Council).

In 2018, consumers will be taking a greater leadership role in the Consumers Advisory Board (CAB) and will be working with the Needs Assessment Sub-committee on identifying consumer needs. Needs Assessment goals and purposes were discussed. Consumers who attended raised several issues to be explored: 1) lapses in medical coverage; 2) maintaining stability of home while in the hospital and rehabilitation facilities; and 3) greater need for transitional housing.

The HIV Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) is scheduled to meet at 11:00 a.m. on Jan. 23 at the Zufall Wellness Center. The Needs Assessment Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Jan. 23 following the CAB meeting at the same location.

Morris Co. Dept. of Human Services orientation packets were distributed to members and contents were reviewed.

The Lunch and Learn Project met at Zufall, Morristown, on Jan. 16 focusing on HIV and Obesity. The next Lunch and Learn is scheduled for March with the topic of criminal backgrounds and HIV.

The next Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Feb. 20 at New Jersey AIDS Services, 1 Executive Dr., Morris Plains.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board – Ms. Melo (written report submitted)

- Sheriff Gannon gave a presentation on Hope One at the January meeting. There are three components.
 - Hope One mobile outreach – this program involves a van that started going out into the community in April 2017. The van goes to locations throughout the county such as the soup kitchen, community events, strip malls, etc. and helps bring addictions services and education to potential clients, family, others. The van was an old SWAT team vehicle. The Sheriff's Office removed the police logos and government plates to make the van more friendly and approachable. In the van is staffed by a Sheriff's Officer, a certified peer recovery specialist (from CARES) and a representative from the Mental Health Assoc. of Essex and Morris. With the help of this team, they have connected with about 2,403 people. The van enables clients, friends and family to have an opportunity to have a cup of coffee, talk and get connected with services.
 - Hope Wing – Located in the jail, this is a program where inmates participate in recovery services along with employment and education community resources. Human Services is working with Sheriff Office staff to create the program. There are classes on anger management, coping skills, trust, etc. The program has a large faith based component.
 - Identification program – those between the ages of 18 – 54 are no longer able to get a County ID through the County Clerk's office. The county is only giving IDs to those that are veterans or those over 55. To fill this gap, the Sheriff's office

began providing IDs in June 2017. They have provided about 126 IDs since the start of the program.

- Ms. LaJuan Tucker of the Prosecutor's office talked about the Veteran's Diversion Plan for Veterans with MI. Per the NJ Attorney General's office, every Prosecutor's office was asked to have a program in place for eligible service members and those in the National Guard that are currently serving or have served and/or are honorably discharged. The focus is on mental health. There are various reasons the veteran may not be eligible for the program. The program is not for first or second-degree crimes it is for those with minor offenses. The Prosecutor's Office is making plans to implement this program as directed with no additional funding. The veteran does not have to plead guilty if they agree to the program's conditions and participate in what is to be a 6 month to 2-year program. If they do what what is required, their charges can be dismissed. Morris already has a small mental health program, so the Prosecutor's Office is exploring how to build upon this program to meet State requirements.
- Ms. Carpinteri reported on Code Blue. The County is implementing this new legislation although it came with no funding. There is a mandate that municipalities with nine or more homeless people open up a warming station when the weather is very cold. Morristown has opened up a warming station. This is a good start. We must work together to make Code Blue work for individuals who are homeless and on the streets during the coldest days of winter.

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

The Legislative Review Committee met on October 12, 2017.

The members reviewed the following bills and recommend the endorsement of the ACADV:

Assembly No. 771- Permits qualified person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder to obtain handicapped parking placard.

Assembly No. 2698 – Limits rent increases for certain senior citizens.

Assembly No. 4096 – Allows full and equal access to housing for persons with disabilities who retain their retired service or guide dog as a pet.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Ms. Mondino (written report submitted)

PRESENTATIONS

Jeena Williams presented Nacie Arnold (Department of Human Services) and Kaatya (Mobile Response) with plaques as "thank you" for the great trainings they hosted for DCP&P resource parents in 2017.

ACTION ITEMS

The committee voted to reappoint Maria Augustowicz and David Haggerty as Chair and Co-chair.

STATE AND COUNTY REPORTS

Jeena Williams reported that there are the following RFPS and RFQS

- RFQ for providers of interpreter services
- RFQ for psychologists for forensic evaluations
- RFP for crisis stabilization and assessment services for ages 11-15 I/DD
- More information on the DCF website

Nacie Arnold reported that she has held 32 Nurtured Heart Training events, training 538 community members.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christie Farber from FSO announced that they have a 6 week Spanish only Nurtured Heart training in Dover starting on February 6, it will be Tuesdays from 11-1
- DCP&P talked a little bit about project self-sufficiently, which will work with 25 families, split between Morris and Sussex. There are 25 housing vouchers and supportive services. This is for homeless families. Very new program, will report on it when they program gets up and running.

Partnership Announcements – Continuum of Care – Mr. Bashe

Received the CoC grant awards for FY17. The awards are the same as last year. This \$1.7 million of funding distributed directly to several agencies. They applied for the bonus and did not get it. They are working hard to keep the score high. They need a high rating to try to get more money.

The big thing in the community is the Coordinated Entry. They had to reconfigure how to deal with the homeless in the community using a common assessment tool. This system will support serving the most critically homeless. The team has been working on this for 2 ½ years with Ms. Joanne Bjornson leading them. Monarch has been heavily involved as our advisors. This is a collaborative effort in the community. OTA is heavily engaged. There has been a lot of work in HMIS done by Our Promise in Morristown and Edna's Haven in Dover. NJ 211 is the common entry point. This is a big change in our homeless system. The Coordinated Entry soft start up is this month.

Old Business – None

New Business –

Ms. Carter asked all to complete the biographical form in their orientation packets and return to her. She also asked the board to review the information in their packets and note the meeting dates for the year. All meetings in 2018 will be at 1 Medical Drive.

Mr. Johnston said that he recently heard from a young man of 22 that got in a lot of trouble when he was age 17. He ended up at the youth shelter. They worked with him and his family. They helped him get a room and a job and taught him a lot. He visited the shelter last week to thank them for all they did for him. He currently owns businesses and wants to give back to the community.

Mr. Bashe asked about the Morris County Strategic Plan and what impact it would have on the community. Ms. Becker stated that it would be a trickle out effect. All information will be shared and the Plan will be a public document. Ms. Roers attended at this meeting. She shared information and things the strategic plan would include:

- Strategies and practices
- Human services issues
- Aging population

- How can the county increase supports
- List of strategies to work on
- Key stresses in the community
- Opioid epidemic
- Access to better information
- Etc.

They also talked about the many directories available. Perhaps some of these directories are duplicate efforts. She mentioned the N.J. Health Collaborative and several of the subjects they are focused on. Perhaps the board would like a presentation from them to learn about their work.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment –

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Tom Pepe at 7:43 p.m. Mr. Bob Armstrong seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide