

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
July 28, 2015, 340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Township

Call to Order: The July 28, 2015 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Debi Merz, Chair, at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep., Liaison CoC Executive Committee
Marcia Brands, Vice Chair, Citizen Rep., Liaison Legislative Subcommittee
Linda Csengeto, Liaison OTA
David Hollowell, Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pepe, Citizen Rep.

Also Attending:

Jennifer Boyer, Volunteers of America
David Johnston, NJ Division of Youth & Family Services (DYFS)

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Jennifer Carpinteri, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Debi Merz, Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Volunteers of American (VOA) – Jennifer Boyer – Presentation

At Volunteers of America, their commitment is to help those in need rebuild their lives and reach their full potential. Their ministry of service has touched the mind, body, heart and ultimately the spirit of those they serve. They have various programs two which she highlighted:

Independent Living Program - Each year hundreds of children age out of the NJ foster care system. Without the life skills or supports systems they need to successfully transition to adulthood, nearly fifty percent become homeless. VOA is committed to preventing these young people from falling through the cracks. This program helps them define and attain their personal goals through intensive, skill teaching, supportive counseling, practical guidance and development, and supervised apartment living. Although they don't have housing in Morris they will serve youth in Morris County.

In-Home Parenting Skills Partnership Program Goals – Provides a foster, adoptive and kinship care parents program with an individualized strength based approach to assist and support

children and their families with their individual needs and challenges. The parent educators work with the families in their homes and are able to accommodate the family's schedules.

Some discussion ensued about these services. Ms. Boyer doesn't think the county has used VOA before but they are trying to get the word out to expand the areas they serve. They get some referrals from DCP&P and they can take referrals from other agencies.

Ms. Brands asked when people age out at 22 if they are not ready to go out on their own do they have any other resources available or do they just make them leave. Ms. Boyer stated they have a list of other resources available for referral.

Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the June 23 minutes was made by Mr. Tom Pappas and seconded by Mr. Ken Oexle. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. The motion carried.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – Ms. Jennifer Carpinteri

There are some changes coming forth you will soon be hearing about. Ms. Theresa Davis, Division Director for Aging, Disabilities & Veterans is retiring this week.

The County of Morris Department of Human Services is combining the divisions of Aging, Disabilities and Veterans Services to create the Division of Community Assistance and Resources. The merging of the divisions into one entity will improve services to the public by providing a one door approach and comprehensive continuum of care for better access to temporary and long term services.

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities – No Report

New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Dave Johnston June 2015 Stats for DCP&P –

Morris West -

95 child protection services investigations

44 child welfare assessments

Morris East

75 child protective services investigations

21 child welfare assessments

Total

170 child protective services investigations

65 child welfare assessments

235 Total responses for the County

There is a new Acting Area Director, Valencia Coleman who began on July 13, 2015.

The previous Area Director, Suzanne Alvino took a leave of absence to accept a promotion to DCF's Chief of Staff. If her schedule permits, Ms. Coleman will come to next HSAC meeting.

Staff Reports –

Ms. Becker –

There is a big change in DMHAS as Assistant Commissioner Lynn Kovich is leaving. Valerie Mielke is taking over the Assistant Commissioner position. Ms. Mielke appreciates the local advisory boards and the human services staff and is accessible and responsive. This is good news.

On Sept. 2 the Mental Health Association of Morris County (MHAMC) rolled out the Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) Program in Morris County. This is in the last tier and there is a lot of work involved. The IOC program is for someone deemed in danger of hurting themselves in the foreseeable future. This is offered at a commitment hearing and by the judge's order for the person to get outpatient therapy. The program is currently available in four counties. Morris is one of the last counties to get on board. The MHAMC received \$670,000 to do this program in both Morris and Sussex County.

Ms. Carter –

Throughout July and August agency monitoring have been scheduled. So far ten agencies have been visited including thirteen programs. There are eleven more agencies to go. Ms. Carter thanked everyone for their help with the monitoring's this year.

The HSAC Program Review Committee will meet the first week in September to review 2016 Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) and Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Funding Applications. Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) has been moved to a different cycle. The review will be held on Sept. 2 and Sept. 3 at 10 a.m. in the Blue Rm., 30 Schuyler Place, 3rd Floor in Morristown. There are a total of 29 application for the committee to review; two CAP and 29 GIA. GIA is in a new funding cycle and the applications are 10 pages each. In a renewal year the applications are much shorter. Three new applications were submitted. Anyone with a conflict of interest may not be in attendance. Applications will be forwarded to members on the Program Review Committee who are not in conflict.

Subcommittee Reports

Planning Child Care – Dedicated Voucher System Update – Kevin Collins

July 2015

Child Care Report

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served. Child & Family Resources receive approximately 20 new applications a week.

There are seven unutilized dedicated vouchers at Dover Child Care, one at Salvation Army, and one at Parsippany Child Care. The 30 day clock is in effect.

This month two slots were re-allocated to El Primer Paso in Dover.

Youth Homelessness – Dave Johnston

Their next meeting will be Sept. 15. They will try to schedule Volunteers of America to give a presentation on their Residential Programs.

Workforce Investment Board – David Hollowell WIB Budget

From June 25 to July 10, WIB members reviewed and voted to approve the proposed budget for Program Year 2015 (7/15 - 6/16). The \$5.4 million budget includes funds from the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), Workforce Learning Link and Work First New Jersey programs. Over 60% of total WIOA funds are reserved for direct customer training, exceeding the WIOA guideline of 50%.

Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Service Requirements

The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act requires that 75% of youth funds be spent on out-of-school-youth. The WIB must submit a plan to the State Employment and Training Commission on meeting this requirement. Historically, MSW WIB has served significantly more out-of-school youth than in-school youth, so the new spending metric will not require major adjustment. However, the WIB welcomes suggestions for serving additional out-of-school youth and requests that they be sent to WIB Director Jack Patten at jpatten@co.morris.nj.us

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Charles LaRussa

2016 Funding applications were received. There were 49 applications for the MHSAAAB's review (relating to mental health and addictions). There were several new applicants. The MHSAAAB funding review committee will meet on August 20 to review and rank the applications. The MHSAAAB will review and vote on the subcommittee's recommendations at their September 10 board meeting.

Chatham Municipal Alliance gave a presentation on the various activities they perform in an effort to reach out to teenagers and high school students.

- Installed a friendship bench that is the first friendship bench in New Jersey.
- Educational presentations at the schools.
- Sponsor middle school dances and activities.
- Sponsor intergenerational program for youth and seniors.
- Host Natural High events and support DARE programs.
- Held a Rock festival and helped pay for and distributed shirts at the event with positive slogans such as "Make Good Choices – Be Drug Free".
- Work with the community and the Parent Teacher Organizations and provide educational pamphlets and co-sponsor many events.

Chatham Alliance has a \$21,000 grant to help with all this work.

The Opiate Task force met on July 21 at CARES in Rockaway. The Daily Record had an article featuring their meeting on July 27. Work groups met outside of this meeting to work on action plans developed by the full task force. For further information on the task force contact Ms. Jacobson at (973) 285-6867.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans

Ms. Davis announced that Advisory Council Together representatives went to Trenton on May 5 to advocate for senior issues including transportation and Meals on Wheels.

There was a presentation about Medicare Preventative Services by NORWESCAP. The Division on Aging is part of the distribution for informational brochures. NORWESCAP will be giving talks at the Nutrition Sites all summer long.

Lauren Burd, Director of MAPS (Morris Area Paratransit System), spoke to the committee about the decrease in funding for the program. MAPS provides transportation for Senior Citizens and people with Disabilities. Funding is based on Casino Revenue funds of which para-transit programs receives 8.5%. As Casino Revenue decreases, so does program funding, leading to reduced funding for transportation. Paratransit supporters are asking Governor Christie to put a \$6,000,000 subsidy aside for transportation for paratransit programs. Petitions are being signed and delivered in person to the Governor's Office. ACADV members were invited to sign a petition/postcard.

Theresa Davis announced that a proclamation supporting the Re- Authorization of the Older Americans Act went through at the June 10, 2015 Freeholders Meeting.

Youth Services Advisory Council Report (YSAC) – Written Report

A Special meeting was called to approve the following items.

- 2016 Grant in Aid Funding Recommendations
- 2016 Juvenile Justice Funding Recommendations
 - *Family Court*
 - *State/Community Partnership*
- 2016 Comprehensive County Youth Service Plan Update
- 2016 Juvenile Justice Commission Funding Application

All were unanimously approved.

Partnership Announcements – Continuum of Care (CoC) – Jeff Bashe

The committee is working on updating the by-laws. They will have some membership openings once the updated by-laws are completed. They are trying to get new members and want to work on some type of job description.

They are currently waiting for HUD's SuperNOFA to be published so the committee can meet and review the Notices of Intent received. They are thinking this should be sometime around the second week of August. The next full Executive Committee meeting will be held in September.

Old Business -

Question asked about whether we reached out to the Family Success Center. Ms. Becker said that we should advocate for more things like this and that the local voice is important.

Ms. Carpinteri stated that we are waiting to see where the state is on this and Ms. Carter is working on this.

Ms. Carpinteri stated that 1100 petitions were submitted by Morris County residents in support of MAPS. She is not sure if this passed yet but the advocacy for MAPS continues.

Public Comment - None

Adjournment –

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Jeff Bashe at 6:05 p.m. Ken Oexle seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide