

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
June 25, 2013
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The June 25 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Rebekka Zydell, Chair at 5:35 p.m.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Rep., Liaison MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep./United Way of NNJ
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep./Liaison Legislative Committee (arrived at 5:55 p.m.)
Chris Carey, Citizen Rep.
Linda Csengeto, OTA Rep./CEAS/CoC Rep.
Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep. (departed at 7:05 p.m.)
Hank Lyon, Freeholder Liaison (arrived at 6:00 p.m./departed at 7:00 p.m.)
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep. (departed at 6:40 p.m.)
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep./Liaison Planning Committee
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep./Liaison Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans
Michelle Roers, United Way of NNJ
Rebekka Zydell, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Blair Bravo, Morris Habitat for Humanity
David Hollowell, MSW/WIB (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)
David Johnston, Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Jodi Miciak, United Way of NNJ
Katie Rotondi, Filmmaker – “Positively Aging”
Sabine VonAulock, M.C. Office of Community Development

Staff in attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS
Frank Pinto, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Rebekka Zydell, Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Guest Presentation: United Way Housing Alliance – Jodi Miciak

In New Jersey there is a huge need for affordable housing. The Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed (ALICE) Report shows that 1/4 households in Morris County are struggling to survive. Morris County has a very high cost of living and there is a tremendous need for more affordable housing.

For Renter

- New Jersey is the fifth most expensive state in the U.S. for renters.
- In order to afford the fair market rent of \$1,279 for a two bedroom apartment, a household would need to earn at least \$51,160 annual – that's 135 hours per week at minimum wage.

For Homeowners

- It takes an annual income of at least \$120,000 to support the \$416,700 median home price in Morris County – this is 20 percent higher than the area's median household income.
- Foreclosure rates in Morris County have risen 75 percent in the last four years. Because many homeowners took on large mortgages in the past, nearly 200 homes in our communities are in pre-foreclosure every month.

What is “Affordable Housing”?

Affordable housing is defined as housing expenses – rent or mortgage, insurance, taxes, utilities – that cost no more than 30 percent of a household's annual income. Housing that is fully affordable means that families and individuals are not forced to choose between housing and other basic needs, like food, clothing, and health care. In Morris County, one out of three homeowners spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

As part of United Way's of Northern New Jersey's mission of advancing the common good, the United Way Housing Alliance strives to make housing that is affordable for all families and individuals in Morris County. The United Way Housing Alliance is composed of public, private and nonprofit agencies.

There are so few low income housing units available. The State law and COAH mandates a certain amount of affordable housing be available but the towns may also take further action. The United Way works with the federal government to develop plans to end homelessness in our local communities and distribute emergency funds to families and individuals who need it most.

Discussion ensued about the need for affordable housing and the need for advocacy for affordable housing. Some members expressed they feel the economy and loss of jobs has made the housing situation even more difficult.

The mission of the United Way Housing for All is to create a well-informed public to the need and issues related to homelessness; create opportunities for public and private organizations to work together to address Northern New Jersey's housing challenges; and to advocate for the adoption of public policy and legislation that fosters affordable housing solutions.

United Way Housing for All's goals are:

- To end homeless in northern New Jersey.
- To increase affordable housing opportunities in Morris County.
- To spread the message that northern New Jersey needs housing for all.

- To increase public knowledge about the affordable housing crisis in Morris County and beyond.
- To influence public policy, locally and statewide.

For further information on the United Way Housing Alliance, please contact Jodi Miciak at (973) 993-1160 or visit www.UnitedWayNNJ.org/HousingForAll

Approval of May 28 Minutes –

The motion to approve the May minutes was made by Debi Merz and seconded by Mary Jane Melo. All were in favor with one abstention and no opposition.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – Frank Pinto

Municipal Trust Funds – counties must have spent their money by July 7.

Mr. Bashe asked what happens when the counties didn't spend down their Municipal Trust Funds. Ms. Roers stated as of July 7 they have lost the Municipal Trust Fund money that is not spent; however, the municipality is still obligated to build the housing. Some further discussion ensued.

The Housing Alliance bus tour will be held on July 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the bus will leave from Morris View Healthcare Center. The bus will tour some of the affordable housing in Morris County. There are still about twenty seats available. For further information or to make a reservation for the bus tour, call Jodi Miciak at (973) 993-1160.

Updates to 2010 Census – Information was passed out on the U.S. Census Update. On June 13, 2013 the U. S. Census Bureau released new county level statistics as part of a set of annual population estimates by race, Hispanic origin, age and sex, comparing recent changes for the period running from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012. The Census Bureau also released municipal level population estimates for the same period on May 23, 2013.

Mr. Pinto stated that the Census Update shows population is rising and Morris County continues to age, with median age increasing. Older people are staying in their homes longer. This makes less housing available and thus it is more difficult for younger people to get into the community. In Morris County there is a 7.3% increase in the number of aging folks (65 and older) and more aging services will be needed. This will affect the meals on wheels program, transportation, day care and other services in the community.

Ms. Roers stated that it is very difficult for the elderly as taxes go up and expenses rise. Despite this, many seniors are hesitant to leave their homes. Sometimes seniors are able to get rebates that help them.

Mr. Pinto introduced Hank Lyon, the Freeholder Liaison to this advisory board. Mr. Lyon has been in this role for about six months and is enjoying his position. He works with the Department of Human Services and non profit agencies. The elected officials represent about ½ million people and they rely on these advisory boards to get

input and advice. If you have a chance, please attend the Freeholder's meetings and let your voice be heard. The Freeholder board appreciates your input and wants to hear from you.

Introductions were again made since more guests arrived.

County of Morris Planning and Development/Division of Community Development - Sabine VonAulock

Revised Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Recommendation - vote required

They are expecting a 5% reduction in funding. This is going to be challenging since this is a lot of money. Ms. Becker asked if the agencies are aware of these cuts.

Ms. VonAulock stated that agencies are aware of the cuts. Agencies will all need to look at things more carefully and be more creative. They need a consensus from the committee to notify the public of these cuts. Ms. VonAulock stated that the Home Program is being cut by 30% and the Community Block Grant is being cut by 30%. These agencies are going to have difficulty.

Ms. VonAulock passed out the subcommittee's funding recommendations. Discussion ensued on concerns over one agency.

Ms. VonAulock stated of the six agencies that applied all were all recommended for funding. These agencies were Jersey Battered Women's Service (JBWS), Homeless Solutions, Inc., Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance, Roots & Wings, Family Promise and Our Place, Inc.

Ms. Carter stated that people are staying in shelters longer since there is no housing available. The shelters provide food, shelter and supportive services to the folks staying there. All the shelters are full and have waiting lists. Ms. Becker stated that perhaps the board can do some more advocacy. Ms. Zydel stated she would like to see more advocacy to HUD.

Ms. Zydel asked the board if they were in agreement with the subcommittees funding recommendations for ESG and the contingency plan should the county receive more money. Ms. Merz made a motion to approve the subcommittees funding recommendations and contingency plan. Ms. Melo seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention.

New Jersey Department of Human Services – No Report

Division of Developmental Disabilities - report provided by Ms. Zoccola (read by Ms. Mocarski)

At the last meeting the board was interested in knowing when new group homes are opening. There is one home in Roxbury and one home in Parsippany that should open soon. Each home will welcome four individuals.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) – Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) – Dave Johnston

Morris East –

Total: 107
CWS intakes: 25
CPS intakes: 82

Morris West –

Total: 150
CWS intakes: 36
CPS intakes: 114

Top Municipalities for Referrals

- 1) Morristown: 24
- 2) Dover: 21
- 3) Parsippany & Mt. Olive: 19

See www.state.nj.us/dcf/ for further information and RFP/RFQ notices.

Staff Report – Ms. Laurie Becker

A letter was received from the Freeholders regarding concern expressed by family members about their loved ones being sent to hospitals far away such as Meadowview in Secaucus instead of being sent Greystone in Morris Plains. As a result, family members must travel a distance to visit their loved ones. In addition, individuals discharged from county hospitals are also less likely to be eligible for many of the intensive community supports available to individuals leaving State hospitals. This is related to the Olmstead Settlement. Ms. Becker has been asked to provide a response to this letter. The MHSAAAB has been looking into this problem. There are about 28 Morris County residents in Meadowview. Many Morris County residents are not being allowed to go to Greystone. Greystone has a higher census than usual. This is due to the closure of Hagedorn and the Olmstead Settlement. Ms. Becker stated that the every county pays 15% of hospital fees whether the individual is in the state or county hospital.

Ms. Brands stated that there is a problem trying to place the people coming out of the hospitals. There is no place to put these people. Ms. Becker stated that she was at a meeting in Trenton yesterday and this is a systemic problem all over. Ms. Brands stated there is a need to find other resources and explore alternatives.

Staff Report – Ms. Carter

It is that time of year again when site visits to funded agencies will be scheduled for the summer. Ms. Carter distributed sign up sheets for board members to participate in annual agency monitorings.

The 2014 Request for Funding Application (RFA) letters went out on May 10. All applications are due back to the county by 4:30 p.m. on June 28, 2013. Information on the 2014 RFA may be found on the county website at www.morrishumanservices.org

The Notice of Intent for HUD CoC funding is due to go out on July 5. The return date is August 2. Agencies will come in with their proposals on August 19.

Subcommittee Reports –

CEAS/COC – Linda Csengeto

Continuum of Care Performance Standards – Committees need to look at the homeless system and create performance standards on how to operate.

HUD standards have to include: average length of stay in programs; re-entry into the system; 5 percent or 20 percent reduction from previous reduction from previous years; steps – emergency shelter, long term shelter, transitional, etc; decreasing first time homeless; overall number of homeless (from point in time count);

Programs should be striving towards common goals; i.e. decreasing length of homelessness, decrease length of stay in shelters, decrease recidivism (i.e. leaving one shelter to go to another), must leave shelter for positive destination. There followed a discussion on Morris County lacking what is needed to make people successful, i.e. affordable housing.

Planning Subcommittee – Ken Oexle

The subcommittee reviewed applications sent for the Continuum of Care (CoC). Some changes were made and incorporated. Monarch has reviewed these changes. The new application will go out in July. This will be the basis for HUD funding.

Childcare Update – report provided by Rebekka Zydel

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served and they receive approximately 20 new applications a week.

Dover Child Care has one unutilized Dedicated Voucher. The 30 day clock is still in effect.

Ms. Zydel stated that the State has realigned things using e-child care. This has worked out better for all since now there is no wait list. The families can now earn more money and there are now more eligible people.

Program Review Subcommittee – Cynthia Degazon

The Program Review Subcommittee reviewed by email and submitted the 2013 Notice of Intent document which was emailed to the board. This document will be used to request projects interested in being funded by HUD through the Morris County Continuum of Care Program for Homeless Services.

The notice is scheduled to be presented to the public on July 5 with a return date of August 2 to the Morris County Department of Human Services. Agencies that submit the notice will make an oral presentation to the Program Review Committee on August 19.

Recommendations related to projects will be presented at the August 27 meeting of this committee.

Advisory Committee Reports

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee – written report submitted by Robert Armstrong with one update regarding the meeting at Zufall today

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee met this morning at the Zufall Health Center in Dover.

As an outcome of the recent HIV Information Roundtable the committee has scheduled a presentation of HIV case studies to the Cross Systems Review Committee on August 7 at 2:00 p.m. The focus will be finding ways to improve collaborative service planning for HIV+ clients who are unaware of their HIV status and also those who have been in treatment but have been lost to care. The current estimate is that over 20% of those infected with HIV are unaware that they are infected. The committee seeks to improve awareness of available HIV services to mental health and substance abuse providers in particular as both mental health and substance abuse issues have significant impact on anti-viral medication adherence.

The committee is entering the percent allocation process for services to HIV clients of the Ryan White Part A program for the Morris-Sussex-Warren county region. To date not all the epidemiological and service utilization data is available. Therefore the committee will be working right up until July 25 when the committee will make a presentation to the HIV Health Services Planning Council in Newark.

The Planning Council is expecting a 10% reduction in funding for this fiscal year due to sequestration cutbacks and also due to a recalculation by HRSA for funding to the Newark EMA. There has been discussion around the impact of the Affordable Care Act on The Ryan White Part A program. It is expected that 50% to 70% of the clients currently receiving Ryan White funded services will soon be eligible for Medicaid managed care making the future of the Ryan White program uncertain. Supportive service categories such as HIV/AIDS case management will not be covered by Medicaid in the new system so the Ryan White program is still very much needed.

The Morris-Sussex-Warren AIDS Advisory Committee will meet on July 16 at 11:00 a.m. Hope House in Dover and on July 23 at 11:00 a.m. at New Jersey AIDS Services in Morris Plains.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – written report submitted by Jessica Mondino

Meeting of May 16, 2013

- The Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Award letter was received, signed by the Freeholders and returned to the JJC for signatures from the Attorney General's office.

- Jeena Williams reported that an RFP for a Youth Advisory Board has been released; it will be closing on June 6. More information can be found at www.nj.gov providers and notices.
- Sylvia Lippe passed out two fliers for Family Services of Morris County - one of an adolescent social anxiety group and one about their services. For further information see their website at www.cornerstonefamilyprograms.org.
- Linda Wok from Daytop handed out pamphlets for their Day School. For more information on Daytop see www.daytopnj.org.

The next YSC meeting will be held on June 20, 2013.

Morris/Sussex/Essex Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – written report submitted by David Hollowell

Under a waiver granted to New Jersey by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), the WIB and Morris/Sussex/Warren Employment Training services will fund On-the-Job Training (OJT) for 16-21 year olds. The OJT program provides employer-developed training to new employees while the employer is reimbursed for extraordinary training costs. Previously, OJT was limited to adult customers, 21 and older.

- On June 18, the WIB commented on proposed performance measures for Program Year 2013, which begins July 1, 2013. The comments, addressed to the USDOL, note that New Jersey's proposed metrics are 20% or higher than national standards and that New Jersey's unemployment rate of 8.4 are more than 10% above the national average.
- The WIB continues to advocate for a transparent, open process for determining high school equivalency testing instruments and providers to be used in January 2014. A current dearth of information on future tests has prevented teachers, test takers and testing centers from planning adequately for 2014. The WIB has suggested an equivalency testing workshop to be held in September at the Garden State Employment and Training Association Conference.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Charles LaRussa

The annual MHSAAB Consumer and Family Forum was held in June. It was very well attended. Mr. Pinto and Ms. Becker were in attendance as well as over 100 other folks. Ms. Becker will provide the summary report to us.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – No Report

Partnership Announcements – None

Old Business –

At the last meeting the Morris County Family Success Center made a presentation. After the presentation the board decided they wanted to write a letter thanking the Family Success Center for their presentation and outlining some concerns. Ms. Zydel offered to draft this letter. Ms. Zydel passed out copies of the letter she drafted on behalf of the board to the Family Success Center. The letter expressed some of the

board's concerns and offered to help them facilitate partnerships with other organizations. Mr. Pinto stated that is was a well written letter. Ms. Zydel asked if there was any feedback on the letter. As there were no comments, Ms. Zydel said she would move forward with sending the letter on behalf of the board to the Family Success Center.

There were copies of the Call to Action Item passed around. Tomorrow the House Committee on Appropriations is scheduled to mark up a Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (HUD) bill that would deeply cut rental assistance for the lowest income households. The bill would result in the loss of more than 10,000 vouchers, underfund project-based rental contracts and cut public housing funding. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen serves on the House Committee on Appropriations. He is your Representative and needs to speak out against these cuts! Ms. Zydel talked about the importance of taking action. Please call Rep. Frelinghuysen prior to 10:30 a.m. tomorrow morning. Your voice can make a difference.

New Business

Ms. Brands stated that she thinks that getting the reports ahead of the meeting is good idea. However, she would like to see some further discussion about the reports. Mr. Pinto stated that it would be good to have more open discussion. Ms. Zydel would also like more dialogue to happen. However, since this is a something new it is a process. Hopefully in time more open dialogue will happen. Mr. Pinto stated that maybe someone could ask questions about the reports to get the conversation going. Mr. Pinto also suggested that before the meeting one committee could bring up items they want to discuss. Ms. Roers stated that since there is more free time at meetings perhaps this is a good opportunity for the board to do more advocacy.

Adjournment –

Ms. Roers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide