

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
October 27, 2015, 340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Township

Call to Order: The October 27, 2015 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Debi Merz, Chair, at 5:02 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
Cynthia Degazon, Citizen Rep.
David Hollowell, Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
Charles LaRussa, Citizen Rep.
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Debi Merz, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep.
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep.
Michelle Roers, Citizen Rep.

Also Attending:

David Johnston, NJDYFS, DCP&P
Wendy Zoccola, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

Staff in Attendance:

Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Merz, Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the Sept. 29 minutes was made by Mr. Ken Oexle and seconded by Ms. Linda Csengeto. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – No Report

**New Jersey Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
– Wendy Zoccola**

- 600 individuals, State Wide, who are currently on the DDD Community Services Residential wait list, will be considered for residential placement. The Community Transitions Unit in our Central will head this project. Vacancies that currently exist in homes that are already open will be used for the identified individuals. Families will be contacted by representatives from the Community Transitions Unit not their current case manager.
- Elizabeth Shea, Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, has recently announced two efforts to enhance the distribution of information regarding the

implementation of the Medicaid-based, fee-for service system and the Supports Program. Details are still being finalized.

1. A Series of focus groups specifically for self-advocates and families will be held.
 2. Consumer and Family Leadership (CLF) meetings will be held monthly in Hamilton, the DDD Central Office. A core group of CLF members will include a cross-section of DDD's constituency.
- State Wide Organizational Changes also announced by Liz Shea: Thomas Papa has been appointed as the Division's Interim Deputy Division Director Christine James has been appointed and the Division's Interim Assistant Division Director
 - The Morris County DDD Office (serving Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties) is expanding. We have Additional space at our existing location in Flanders for staff who also serve the Northern Counties. State Staff from the Office of Licensing, OPIA/Office of Program Integrity and Accountability and the Special Response Unit/SRU will soon be based in Flanders. A mid-November move in date is anticipated.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Protection and Permanency – David Johnston

Morris East

Child Welfare Assessments – 28
Child Abuse Investigations - 86
Total for MELO 114

Morris West

Child Welfare Assessment - 37
Child Abuse Investigations - 99
Total for MELO 136

County Totals

Child Welfare Assessments 65
Child Abuse Investigations 185
Total for MELO 250

Further information was emailed on current RFPs and RFIs. Some discussion ensued about this.

Staff Reports –

Ms. Becker – No report

Ms. Carter –

In Congressman Frelinghuysen's response to the HSAC's letter about proposed cuts to PATH funding, he states he is a supporter of PATH and thanked the board for their view and input.

Ms. Guevara sends her regrets that she is unable to attend tonight's meeting due to an out of town commitment. She hopes to schedule a presentation with the Winds of the Spirit during the early part of next year.

At the November meeting the DCF Assistant Commissioner, Charmaine Thomas, will address the board's questions about Family Success Centers. A review of prior minutes and related correspondence will help refresh the board's memory on this topic.

The CoC Executive Committee ranked 14 projects applying for homeless funds through the Morris County Continuum of Care Program. 13 out of 14 projects were selected. Three new projects were funded and one project for child care was dropped. Applicants were informed of the committee's decision. Nov. 19 is the target date of submission for the continuum's application to HUD. If the County receives enough bonus points, there will be additional funding of about another \$1.5 million. These projects mainly focus on transitional, permanent and rapid rehousing.

Ms. Brands stated that she thinks HUD is driving towards helping families more and less money is going to the people out on the street. There are a lot of prevention type programs. Ms. Brands stated that there are services that are really needed and it is up to us to help find other funding and collaborate with agencies to help the people. Ms. Carter said we all have to work hard to make sure the money is being spent for highest priority needs. Ms. Carter stated that even though HUD has changed things not everyone is in agreement with a single point of view. We can agree to be collaborative to target services where they are most needed.

2016 HSAC advisory appointments were reviewed and discussed.

Ms. Carter mentioned various changes occurring within childcare. Ms. Roers stated that there needs to be further discussion and collaboration about these changes.

Subcommittee Reports –

Planning Child Care – Voucher System Update (Oct. 2015) – Mr. Kevin Collins

There is no waiting list for child care subsidies. Child & Family Resources, Morris County's childcare resource and referral agency, is serving all eligible applicants and receives approximately 20 new applications a week.

Currently there is one unutilized dedicated voucher at Neighborhood House and one at Jefferson Child Care. The 30 day clock is still in effect. Roxbury Day Care lost two slots. These slots were given to Little Learner Academy in Rockaway.

Youth Homelessness – Mr. Dave Johnston

The Adolescent Task Force met on November 17 at 30 Schuyler Place in Morristown. There was a presentation by Daytop on their services.

There will be state wide qualitative reviews. Mr. Johnson will participate in the review of 42 cases in the state. They are looking at folks between 18-21 with goal of long term care or independent living.

Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – Mr. David Hollowell

WIB Open Meeting

The next WIB Open Meeting will be held on October 29 at 8:30 a.m. at Centenary College. The meeting will feature a presentation on "*Pathways and Partnerships: New Jersey's Blueprint for Talent Development*". This state framework will govern policy direction, guide planning initiatives and drive investment strategies for both federal programs and state projects.

Regional WIB Designation

On October 14, WIB Chair David Hollowell and WIB Director Jack Patten attended a State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) on WIB regional designation. The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act requires regional planning of employment and training activities. The SETC offered three options for planning regions. Due to conformance with the Metropolitan Statistical Area and regional commuting patterns, MSW WIB favors Option One, which groups Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties with the populous Northern New Jersey Counties.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – No Report

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Charles LaRussa

- A Proclamation was awarded by Governor Chris Christie for Mental Health Awareness week - October 4 to October 10.
- The MHSAB was asked by DMHAS to review three proposals in response to Clinical Consultation, Support Services and Short Term Crisis Stabilization for individuals with SMI/DD RFP (Severe Mental Illness/Developmental Disabilities). The proposals reviewed were from Legacy Treatment Services, Developmental Disabilities Health Alliance and Trinitas Medical Center. The MHSAB considered DMHAS/DDD statewide requirements while focusing on the local needs of individuals served when developing the below ranked:
 - 1. Legacy Treatment Services
 - 2. Developmental Disabilities Health Alliance
 - 3. Trinitas Medical Center
- Assisted Outpatient Treatment has begun to roll out in Morris County. The program began Oct. There are three individuals that have started the program. There will be more enrollment coming up.
- The Award and Declination letters for 2016 are scheduled to go out on November 9. There are a lot of changes this year primarily due to Medicaid challenges and a few agency problems.
- The Director of Human Services, Ms. Jennifer Carpinteri, stated there are currently a lot of changes and reorganization going on within the county. There will also be a lot of changes forthcoming. She talked about some of the changes:
 - They are working on bringing direct services together. Adult Protective Services is being transitioned to OTA where there is a good connection and fit. There will also be reinvestment in the ADRC in order to outreach more seniors in the community.
 - When reorganization is complete, there will be charts explaining the changes.
 - Managed Medicaid has impacted OTA and there is a high volume of cases. Due to the increased volume OTA is behind and can't process cases for 45 days. They have communicated with Medicaid about this increased volume and are piloting a project with Xerox and utilizing them to process some of their applications in order to try to serve clients quicker. This is a six month transition/trial period.

The next MHSAB meeting will be on Nov. 12 at 5:15 p.m. at 30 Schuyler Place, Morristown. All are welcome.

Council On Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – No Report

Youth Services Advisory Council – Written Report

PRESENTATIONS

- A Home Within – an organization of volunteer clinicians who will take on one pro-bono case, this service is available for anyone with a history of being removed from their home due to abuse or neglect.
 - Contact information: Debi Rolke - droelke@ahomewithin.org
- Volunteers of America – Spoke about their parent education program, must be connected with DCP&P to access this program.
 - Contact information: Yvette L. Durrett (732) 827-2444 x202
- New Bridge - Jobs Plus/Summer Youth Employment- presented about the two programs that are funded through the YSAC

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Stephanie Iacopelli from Center for Evaluation and Counseling reported that their Comprehensive Adolescent Program (CAP) is at full capacity with pending intake. They have been doing a lot of outreach.
- Kim Johnson from Workforce wanted to remind everyone about the Federal Grant program through her office that helps youth receive vocational job training. She also let the committee know that she has moved to the Randolph office and Lee Carter is the contact person in the Morristown office
- Kristy Farber from Family Partners (FSO) handed out flyers for distribution with resources for families navigating the Juvenile Justice System.
- Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro from Family Intervention Services (FIS) announced their next session of Mending Arts, it will be focused on families and will be utilizing a drama artist and therapist. They are currently accepting referrals.
- Ted Peterson from the Future Project introduced himself to the committee, they work with families and have a contract with CMO
- Jackie Eletto from Summit Oaks announced that they would have a free CEU event on self-care on October 28.

Partnership Announcements – None

Old Business –

Mr. Hollowell stated that he went on the site review for Morristown Neighborhood House (now part of Cornerstone Family Programs). During the review he had an opportunity to talk to Mr. David Haggerty about Cornerstone Family Programs. Cornerstone recently launched some new youth programs. Mr. Hollowell recommended Cornerstone talk to the WIB since they have money to assist with youth programs. The WIB will be meeting with Cornerstone on Friday and will provide some funding for their clients.

New Business –

Mr. Hollowell stated that the Nominating Committee will meet and bring a slate of officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) before the board for the next meeting.

Public Comment - None

Adjournment –

Ms. Debi Merz stated that it has been a pleasure being Chair of this Committee. There is some great commitment and dedication here. Thanks for all you have done!! On behalf of the board Ms. Carter thanked Ms. Merz for all of her work and commitment!

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Charles LaRussa and seconded by Ken Oexle at 6:40 p.m. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide