

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
September 24, 2013
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Twp.

The September 24, 2013 meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council was called to order by Ms. Rebekka Zydell, Chair at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Rep./United Way of NNJ
Marcia Brands, Citizen Rep./Liaison Legislative Committee (departed at 6:47 p.m.)
Linda Csengeto, OTA Rep./CEAS/CoC Rep.
Cynthia DeGazon, Citizen Rep. (departed 7:05 p.m.)
Nancy Delaney, Citizen Rep.
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Rep.
Ken Oexle, Citizen Rep./Liaison Planning Committee
Tom Pappas, Citizen Rep./Liaison Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans
Michelle Roers, United Way of NNJ (arrived at 5:37 p.m./departed at 6:47 p.m.)
David Walker, Citizen Rep.
Rebekka Zydell, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Donna Buchanan, M/S/W Employment & Training Services (departed at 6:07 p.m.)
David Johnston, Division of Child Protection and Permanency
David Hollowell – WIB (arrived at 5:54 p.m./left at 7:05 p.m.)
Wendy Zoccola – DDD

Staff in Attendance:

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

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Rebekka Zydell, Chair

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

Guest Presentation – Donna Buchanan – Overview of Employment & Training Services

Ms. Buchanan went over various services available through this office. Ms. Buchanan handed out materials on the Morris County One-Stop Career Center and fliers on the Morris County Free Job Search Series. There are several classes to be held at the Morris County Library that are a free series to help individuals to “job search”. For further information on these free classes call (973) 285-6969.

The mission is to get people employed through training and coaching to help them find jobs. Services available are:

Career development and employment services are provided to the following individuals:

- Dislocated / Unemployed / Underemployed
- WorkFirst New Jersey
- General Assistance (GA) Services / Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP) / Food Stamps

Core Services

- Orientation and enrollment into the One Stop System
- Job Search/Job Matching, Employment Orientations
- Soft Skills, including job readiness, dealing with employer conflict, negotiating a salary, dress for success, phone skills, responding to a job offer and workplace readiness

Intensive Services

- One-on-one career counseling and planning.
- Development of an Individual Employment Plan (IEP).
- Extensive Barrier Assessment: This specialized testing assesses barriers that will affect the client's success. Results of the testing is discussed with the client to develop an agreed upon strategy for success.
- Ancillary Supportive Services to include housing referrals, substance abuse assistance and referrals for those customers physically or mentally challenged.
- Additional assistance can be provided to special needs populations such as:
 - non-English speaking
 - WorkFirst NJ/welfare recipients (General Assistance/GA, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/TANF and Food Stamps/SNAP)
 - basic skills deficiency
 - older workers

All of these services are available to any person visiting the One-Stop Career Center / Employment & Training Services Office.

In Morristown there is a public access resource room with computers, fax, copier etc. Individuals can find work there and use the computers. Individuals can get guidance, counseling, feedback, referrals, as well. There is funding available for vocational training – up to \$4,000 per individual.

Ms. Delaney mentioned Employment Horizons and the wonderful job they do for special needs people.

Further discussion ensued about changes in employment in recent times and how people need to be more creative in job searches.

For more information, call a One-Stop Career Center/Employment & Training Services office near you.

Morristown: (800) 870-3478 / (973) 285-6880

Dover: (973) 361-9050 / (973) 328-1935

Newton: (973) 383-2775 / (973) 383-1049

Franklin: (973) 209-6726

Phillipsburg: (908) 859-0400 / (908) 859-3220

Mr. Pinto stated the Employment and Training office ranked no. 1 or no. 2 no. in client work participation rate statewide building a stronger community.

Approval of August 27, 2013 Minutes –

The motion to approve the August 27 minutes was made by Michelle Roers and seconded by Ken Oexle. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – Frank Pinto

The Affordable Care Act will begin on Oct. 1. Registration will begin at that time. This is the expansion of Medicaid. There are 35,000 people in Morris County are eligible for this. The current case load in Morris County is 16,000 non long term care individuals eligible for Medicaid. Currently there is staff of only 24 people at the Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) to take care of these cases. There is a potential increase in cases and a lot more people coming through the door at OTA already. These folks are trying to find out if they are eligible for other services through the Affordable Care Act. The office has some vacancies they are trying to fill. However, there are no more desks or work stations. There are a lot of youth that may not apply and no one is sure what will happen. If people wait until after April to sign up they will be penalized.

Dave Johnston stated that any youth that were involved with DYFS even if their case was closed can get a Medicaid extension from the age of 21 to 26. They are looking to help the youth with this program.

Mr. Pinto stated that the census at Morris View Healthcare Center is increased. There are 283 licensed beds and 279 beds are now occupied. There is a waiting list. Other facilities have room but don't have the quality of care. There is a new bright blue sign up on West Hanover Avenue for Morris View Healthcare Center. They have a 5 star rating and provide premier health care. Things internally at Morris View are going very well – they are now in the Horizon Blue network. Employees can go there if they need to go to a rehabilitation facility. They are still looking into possibly leasing the upstairs in order to increase revenue.

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Department of Human Services – No report

**Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Dave Johnston
Statistics**

Morris East Local Office

Total Referrals - 61
CPS - 50
CWS - 11
Top Municipalities:
Parsippany/Morristown – 13
Morris Plains/Pequannock – 5

Morris West Local Office

Total Referrals - 108
CPS - 75
CWS - 33
Top Municipalities:
Roxbury - 15
Dover - 14
Wharton/Jefferson Twp. – 10

County Totals - 169
CPS - 125
CWS - 44
Top Municipalities in County:
Roxbury - 15
Dover - 14
Wharton/Jefferson Twp. – 10

New Jersey Department of Children & Family Updates

Follow up to August question by the HSAC about the Polaris Project and if materials are available in Spanish. Materials are available in Spanish. On their webpage see www.polarisproject.org and go to the resources tab and Awareness material link.

Interviews are going on for the Manager in the Morris West Local Office.

The office staff completed two day training in the Safe and Together Model addressing Domestic Violence. Funding is being provided by DCF to all 21 counties to set up their own training as they see necessary.

Mr. Johnston handed out information addressing Human Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States. This was discussed at the last meeting and information will be emailed with the meeting notice.

Division of Developmental Disabilities – Wendy Zoccola

Elizabeth M. Shea has been appointed to serve as Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Shea has served as Policy Advisor since 2011, when

she came to the Division from the Arc of New Jersey. Dawn Apgar is the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Human Services.

Group Home Development Progress – (to meet the needs of individuals moving from a developmental center, a location outside of NJ, an emergency situation such as imminent peril or from the exiting CW wait list.)

Open:

1. Randolph, Zander Lane, 4 individuals
2. Parsippany, Hiawatha Blvd., 4 individuals
3. Parsippany, Beverwyck Rd., 4 individuals
4. Roxbury, Mapledale Ave., 4 individuals
5. Washington Township Mission Rd., Washington Township, 4 individuals
6. Roxbury-Chase Street, 4 individuals
7. Washington Township – Pleasant Grove Avenue, 4 individuals

Medicaid eligibility is required for services and supports including respite programs.

Some discussion ensued about the long waiting list for these homes. Ms. Zoccola stated that she believes a few have come off the waiting list. However, emergency placements are first considered. Folks must meet Medicaid requirements and there are strict criteria and an assessment tool that is used. Many folks will not be able to be served since they aren't Medicaid eligible.

Ms. Delaney stated that parents and family members of disabled adults need to make a plan. The waiting list is very long and parents/family members should get together with other families and see if they can purchase a home or apartment for their disabled loved ones.

Staff Report – Ms. Becker

Our Division has had some changes and additions. Since Sabine VonAulock's retirement, we now have the Community Development team as part of our Division. Mr. Pinto stated that there have been some other Divisions with changes as well. Mr. Bashe suggested that it would be a good idea for the HSAC to learn more about what Community Development does.

Ms. Becker discussed the HUD Continuum of Care changes in infrastructure. The changes are based on HEARTH requirements that maximize the potential to maintain or increase the \$1.8 million in HUD homeless service funding that comes into the community. There was a meeting with CEAS leadership last week and they discussed what needs to be done quickly to restructure the HUD Continuum of Care. They are looking at the following areas:

1. Developing an Executive Committee.
2. Transitioning the CEAS to HUD CoC committee.
3. Developing by-laws.

CEAS leadership agreed to transition the infrastructure with the new by-laws. The Executive Committee will be nominated and the HSAC will be invited to be involved. The new committee will be an independent body with County Human Services continuing as the lead agency. The current CEAS will transform to the HUD CoC committee with CEAS members invited to join the new group. This information will be presented to CEAS committee at the October 8 meeting at 1:00 p.m. at 340 W. Hanover Avenue in Morris Township. There is a need to get this done quickly to show HUD that our county is trying to conform to HEARTH requirements.

The County did get a letter from HUD stating the Morris' CoC application scored higher than was originally announced; therefore, Morris County CoC funding is increased by \$330,000 for housing vouchers and planning.

Ms. Becker stated that since the HEARTH act requires moving away from CEAS and becoming a more independent body, the board will have to review their by laws and amend them. It is important that the HSAC stays involved. It would be good to have a board member be a liaison to this new committee.

Ms. Carter –

In the email sent out with meeting notice was a template for subcommittee and advisory committees to use for their reporting. Please review and provide comments and suggestions.

**Subcommittee Reports -
CEAS/COC – Linda Csengeto**

In member's folders is information on the County of Morris – Continuum of Care System with a flow chart of information on supportive services and agencies that provide these services.

There was a focus group meeting working on the Continuum of Care (CoC) process, i.e. Performance Standards for the community.

It was discussed that HUD regulations state that the community must set Performance Standards and monitor same and ensure that we are improving services for homeless. It was discussed that if we don't meet a standard that we set, we would explain why and what our plan is to meet the standard in the future.

There are several Categories of HUD standards:

- Reduction in overall number of homeless in community, as seen by PIT count; HMIS and AHAR;
- Reducing the length of homelessness (as longer homeless means more trauma);
- Reduction in Recidivism rates (people re-entering the system within 2 years);
- Movement from Transitional Housing to Permanent Housing – 65% goal;
- Stability in permanent housing (at least six months);
- Number of people leaving programs with employment income – 35% goal;
- Connection to main stream benefits

It was discussed that a Gaps Analysis is needed yearly.

It was discussed that we need to establish criteria defining success. It is possible that discharging to a rehab program is “success”.

It was discussed that an Assessment Tool is still being developed.

Planning Subcommittee – Ken Oexle

At the federal level Child Care Development Block Grant funds vouchers. The feds are rewriting some of the regulations. They will require finger printing of all staff and background checks. These centers need to increase their safety. Some of these changes are good.

Funding – Closed Session – 2014 Funding Recommendations – CLOSED SESSION

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act and per the board’s normal resolution language, and voted to conduct the closed session at 6:10 p.m. All those in conflict with any Child Abuse Prevention (CAP), Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) and Grant-in-Aid (GIA) were asked to leave the meeting.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting returned to the public at 6:35 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Ms. DeGazon stated that the subcommittee met and reviewed and discussed all funding applications. The subcommittee recommends that the HSAC approve all the funding recommendations as discussed and distributed in closed session. On motion of Marcia Brands seconded by Cynthia DeGazon, the 2014 funding recommendations for CAP, SSH and GIA are approved. There was no opposition and 5 abstentions. The motion was carried.

Legislative – No Report

Nominating/ByLaws – No Report

Advisory Committee Reports –

Morris, Sussex, Warren (MSW) HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee – No Report

Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) –

The YSAC approved the 2014 State/Community Partnership, Family Court, Juvenile Accountability Block Grant and Grant-in-Aid funding recommendations as well as the 2014 Juvenile Justice Plan Update and Application.

Workforce Investment Board (WIB) – David Hollowell

A free Job Search Workshop series, sponsored by the Morris County Library, Morris-Sussex-Warren Employment and Training Services, and the Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Investment Board, and hosted by the Library, will be held every Monday from September 23 to November 4, with the exception of Columbus Day, October 14. A different topic will be covered each week, including: self-discovery, resume development, networking, company research, interviewing, and market research/job leads. Each session will run from 9:30 a.m. until noon in the library's Public Meeting Room.

This series will also help those individuals recently laid off from work, the long-term unemployed, and displaced homemakers looking to reenter the job market.

Sessions will be facilitated by Marie Betlow of Job Search Central.

Registration is required for each session; all registrations will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals can register online at www.mclib under "Calendar" or by calling the Morris County Library at (973) 285-6969. Alternatively, those interested can contact Donna Buchanan with questions at (973) 285-6875.

The Morris County Library is located at 30 Hanover Avenue in Whippany.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Charles LaRussa

- There was a presentation by Julian Hill Jr., Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office on the Morris County Drug Court Program. Morris County is one of several counties in New Jersey with a Drug Court Program. Drug Court is a collaborative effort between the Judge, Public Defender, Assistant Prosecutor, Court Staff and treatment service providers to deal effectively with drug addicted clients. Drug Court is essentially a program where the state works with defense attorneys to help non-violent, addicted drug offenders by facilitating their road to recovery, as opposed to imposing a harsher sentence, such as fines and jail time. Drug court requires that an offender be (1) employed and (2) under intense supervision, which includes random and frequent drug testing and court appearances. Additionally, a court will impose any counseling and drug treatment programs which they deem most beneficial. The amount of time that the probationary period lasts varies from case to case. The goal of drug court is to positively impact the lives of drug users in Morris County.
- 2014 funding recommendations were presented to the MHSAAB Advisory Board for Grant-in-Aid (Mental Health and Addictions services) and Chapter 51 for approval. All 2014 funding recommendations were approved by the board and will go to the Freeholders for approval in September/October.
- The annual Consumer Forum Executive Summary report was completed. The annual Forum was held on June 11, 2013.
 - The high service priorities areas are consistent to last year:
 - Transportation – in western Morris, for veterans, on weekends, for work and education.

- Affordable supportive housing and increased congregate group home options.
- Medical and psychiatric services. It is very hard to find M.D.'s who accept Medicaid or when there is no insurance.

New priorities:

- Mental health and other services for families of young children.
- Respite type programs. They do not exist in the county since the CARES Program closed.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Tom Pappas

- A public meeting is scheduled for Oct 3, 2013 at 2:00 p.m., in the large conference room, at the Human Services Building; to discuss the spending plan for the 2014 Area Plan Contract.
- There is a news article on the West Nile Virus. A senior in Morris County contracted the disease and passed away.
- Obama Care vs. Medicare. Continue to sign-up for Medicare, as usual, in the autumn. Open enrollment for Medicare is Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, 2013. If you're already covered under Medicare, you don't need to enroll for Obama Care.
- Casino revenue is what helps fund the Morris Area Paratransit System (MAPS) program, however, Atlantic City revenue is down. There are about \$150,000 in losses and cuts to the program. MAPS is seeking other ways to bring in revenues.

Partnership Announcements – None

Old Business –

Ms. Zydel provided copies of the letter prepared in response to the discussion at the last board meeting addressing Commissioner Velez in regard to “e-child care” system. The letter is asking the Commissioner to consider a request to increase the current state rate for programs that currently accept vouchers, be they “dedicated” to the previously contracted CBC centers, or “private for profit” centers. Ms. Zydel asked if the board approved sending this letter. Mr. Oexle made a motion to send the letter to Commissioner Velez and Ms. Melo seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion was carried.

New Business – None

Public Comment – None

Adjournment – Mr. Bashe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Patricia MocarSKI
Program Development Aide