



Committee on Aging and Independence in Warren

March 16, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: Pam Bennett-Santoro, Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Carole Harper, Virginia Lyttle, Patti Page, Gayle Pearson, Shelby Rhodes

Absent: Elaine Muller, Sibi Saenz-Williams

Guests: Jennifer Carpinteri, Kathryn DeFillippo

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00pm by Chairperson Pam Bennett-Santoro.

MEETING SUMMARY

New Member: All members and guests made introductions. Ms. Rhodes introduced herself to the committee stating that she is from Chester, is employed as a full time realtor and is a member of the Netcong Rotary. She reported that she plans to begin a new business with her husband to help women to start their own businesses and plan strategies for transition. Ms. Rhodes stated she believes that women are often overlooked by organizations that help small businesses.

Annual Report Ms. Carpinteri reported that the Annual Report will be presented by the committee at the April 12 freeholders meeting, during which time, Ms. Bennett-Santoro will also present the committee's goals for the 2017 year, including researching and advising the freeholders on issues related to women who are vets, who are homeless or who are reentering society after jail. Ms. Carpinteri explained that this conversation will piggyback on a conversation planned for the date around housing in the county. Additionally, the presence of the committee at the meeting is intended to build community liaison relationships. All members are welcome to attend.

Members have until the end of March to make recommendations to the Annual Report before it is finalized and presented to freeholders.

January 25, 2017 Freeholder Meeting Report Ms. Carpinteri reported that Ms. Muller had attended a budget forum freeholder meeting; however she was not present to provide an update on this meeting.

Ms. Lyttle reported that she was present at the January 25 meeting during which the freeholders presented a proclamation on Human Trafficking with an honorary plaque. The committee members present at this meeting were introduced to the freeholders. The proclamation is now being used as a display to spread community awareness about human trafficking. Organizations dedicated to stopping human trafficking have started multiple initiatives including:

- Handing out free soaps to hotels with the phone number for the human trafficking hotline
- Training hotel staff on what to look for and how to report suspicious activity
- Bringing photos of missing children to hotels
- A worldwide hashtag campaign

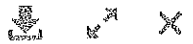
Ms. Lyttle also reported that a faith based organization will be opening a new facility in Sussex County with forty beds to provide specialized services to survivors of human trafficking.

April 6, 2017 Stakeholder Meeting Ms. Carpinteri reported that a stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for April 6 from 9:30am-1130pm focused on women vets, homeless women and women reentering society after jail with the purpose of bringing together service providers to understand what is being done and what gaps or barriers still exist in the county. Providers on the invitation list include representatives from the jail, housing providers, HIV providers, local hospitals, mental health and addictions providers, JBWS and Sexual Assault Center, soup kitchens, community relations and housing

authorities. Ms. Pearson asked if a recorder will be present for the meeting and Ms. Delcalzo-Berens recommended that coffee be provided. Ms. Pearson also asked to be provided with Point in Time numbers, including a breakdown by gender.

Ms. Pearson asked about NJ Counts 2017 Point in Time Survey. Ms. Carpinteri will follow up when results are available and will report back to Committee.

The conversation turned to a discussion of bail reform. Ms. DeFillippo and Ms. Carpinteri explained that when a person is arrested, an assessment is done to determine eligibility for release without bail based on threat to self or others or risk of flight. Bail reform will be discussed at greater length in a future meeting.



- in memory of**
Leanna Brown
- THE COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT IT WILL PLANT A TREE IN THE NAME OF LEANNA BROWN AND DO A proclamation at the time of the tree planting. In addition, the committee will present a leadership award to a woman in the county who has "planted a seed" in advocacy of women's issues. Committee members disagreed on whether the committee should be responsible for this event or if the committee should partner with others. Ms. DeFillippo stated that the freeholders will purchase the tree and that the ceremony will be held in the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Ms. Page reported she will determine a date that is special to Ms. Brown or her family members. The committee will determine criteria for the leadership award at a future meeting.
- Announcements**
- Ms. Pearson asked if the committee will be following up on its meeting with the county superintendent of schools, especially as it relates to yellow cards, or with the jail on the concerns that were raised during the committee's tour of the prison, especially the medical department. Ms. Carpinteri reported she will follow up with the superintendent and will invite the new sheriff and the warden to the next meeting. It was indicated that there may have been an increase in programs in the Morris County school system for prevention of violence to women. Ms. Pearson will contact staff at JBWS to ask if they have seen an increase in demand for their prevention programs.
 - Ms. Carpinteri reported that Human Services in partnership with law enforcement is starting a new initiative on April 3rd to equip a van, called Hope1, which will travel into the community's areas at highest risk for opioid use with a plain clothes police officer, an outreach specialist and a peer recovery coach with the purpose of reducing barriers to get people with addictions into care. Ms. Pearson asked how many beds are available to Morris County residents and, more specifically, women. Ms. DeFillippo added that Human Services is also working with establishing a relationship with the two major hospitals in Morris County, Morristown Medical Center and St. Clare's, to place a peer recovery specialist in the emergency departments. An agreement with St. Clare's has been reached while an agreement with MMC is pending. Ms. DeFillippo also reported that while the county has done education and community outreach with an opiate task force meeting monthly, there have been far too many deaths as a result of opioid addiction. She reported that in 2016, Narcan was used 122 times in Morris County with 110 resulting in lifesaving and 22 unsuccessful in preventing death; as of February 21, 2017, there have already been 10 deaths, with Narcan being used 22 times. Ms. Bennett-Santoro reported that in her volunteer work with the Compassionate Friends, a large number of family members are dealing with the loss of a young person who has died from addiction related

complications. Ms. DeFillippo stated that realtors are being trained to ensure that medications are locked away during open houses so visitors do not steal and abuse them. Ms. Rhodes reported that her organization already does this. Ms. Carpinteri highlighted the stigma-free initiative where stickers and signs are going up in communities throughout the county to educate about mental health and addiction and encourage people to seek help. Thirteen towns have already adopted the stigma-free project.

- Ms. Carpinteri reported that RFP's have gone out for the leasing of Morris View with a deadline of April 19. She stated that Human Services hopes to make a decision by mid-May with a potential completion date of October for the transition. She reported that the VA clinic will be moving into space in Morris View and the veterans' affairs department will be collocated to centralize all county veteran services. This transition is expected to take place in early summer.
- Ms. Pearson presented an article about a family justice center in San Diego that has nurses trained to do forensic nursing in onsite exam rooms. She reported that she believes this is a step to move toward for the Morris County Family Justice Center as well. Ms. Delcalzo-Berens agreed to share the article with representatives from the Sexual Assault Center and Family Justice Center.
- Ms. Pearson raised the issue of Governor Christie's veto of the Equal Pay Act that came out of the New Jersey Legislature and asked if the Committee is able to advocate for this. Ms. Carpinteri stated that advocacy is one of the roles of the committee. Ms. Delcalzo-Berens asked if there are other women's committees around the state with whom the Morris committee can partner to publish an open letter to the governor. Ms. Carpinteri will reach out to the New Jersey Association of Counties to learn about other women's committees.

The meeting was adjourned after a motion was made by Ms. Lytle at approximately 7:45pm.

ACTION ITEMS