

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

P.O. Box 900
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HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HASC)
MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2021, 5:15 pm via Webex Meetings

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Ms. Rebekka Zydel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Representative
Jeffrey Bashe, Citizen Representative
Joann Bjornson, Family Promise of Morris County NJ
Teresa Connolly, Nourish NJ
Xiomara Guevara, Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey
David Saltzman, Esq., Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources, Inc. - Chair

Board Liaisons:

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board
Lenora Humphrey, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Human Services
Shelia Carter, Human Services
Kasey Errico, Human Services Director
Anna Marie Hess, Human Services

Others in Attendance:

Karen O'Keefe, Morris County Women's Committee
Taiisa Kelly-Telesford, Monarch Housing
Victoria Bollardt, Workforce Development Board

II. CoC Foundational Information

Ms. Taiisa Kelly-Telesford, CEO, Monarch Housing

Monarch Housing is a nonprofit consulting agency that works throughout the state of New Jersey on homeless planning issues and housing development. We help nonprofits create supportive and affordable housing and homeless planning efforts in communities across the State. By organizing the annual statewide Point In Time (PIT) count, communities are able to evaluate homeless services systems and best ways to manage resources to ensure as many people as possible can access stable housing.

Monarch Housing started working with Morris County in 2010, assisting in the development of the ten-year plan to end homelessness, organizing the homeless service system and applying for Housing & Urban Development (HUD) funding through the Continuum of Care (CoC) program.

An operational review of Morris County's coordinated entry, prevention, outreach, shelter, transitional, permanent supportive and rapid-rehousing network was provided. Information related to client movement throughout this system and numbers involved was shared.

III. Chair/Vice-Chair Report – Ms. Rebekka Zydel – no report

IV. Approval of the February 23 Minutes

Motion to approve the February 23, 2021 minutes made by Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk and seconded by Ms. Jane Shivas. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

**V. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Nelson Troche – no report
Division of Developmental Disabilities – Ms. Mary Giorlando – no report**

**VI. New Jersey Department of Children and Permanency – Ms. Lenora Humphrey
Morris East**

This year: 56 cases
Last year: 108 cases

Morris West

This year: 74 cases
Last year: 143 cases

There has been an increase in cases related to teens having issues with mental health and suicide. In the last several months, we assess these issues and the relation to the

pandemic—citing isolation, lack of social connection, and in-person activities as significant factors. NJDCP is looking for programs or support groups to help with these cases. Ms. Shelia Carter stated Atlantic Health System was holding a virtual event, "How to Talk to Your Kids About Suicide," on Tuesday, March 20, 12:00 to 1:00 pm via Zoom Virtual Meeting. To register:

https://atlanticealth.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NuiGRL0nRFGq0fP3J5aGlg pre-registration is required. Ms. Amy Archer also stated that she would reach out to the Mental Health Addiction Services Board (MHASAB) for additional information and get back to her.

VII. Staff Reports – Ms. Amy Archer/Ms. Shelia Carter

Ms. Carter announced the Office on Aging, Disabilities, & Community Programming is holding a COVID-19 Wellness Event for adults age 60+ & adults with disabilities on April 12, 2021, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the County Library located at 30 East Hanover Avenue, Whippany. They will be distributing touchless tool kits, hand sanitizer, and reusable masks. Homebound residents can call 973.285.6848 to determine if delivery is available.

Ms. Archer provided an update on the Emergency Rental Assistance Grant, where Morris County received over \$14,600,000.00 to provide rental assistance to our County residents. Those in need of this program will be able to access the portal and apply for this program. Morris County and other counties have partnered with the State of NJ's Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and their vendor to administer this program for those in need of rental assistance. By partnering with the State, Morris County residents will have one portal to access the application, thus eliminating the confusion of having two separate programs. Morris County has also been advised by the State that there are additional emergency rental assistance funds that can be used for this program if Morris County residents' need exceeds the \$14,600,000.00. Morris County's Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) will continue to assist as it has in the past with short-term (1-3 months) rental assistance for eligible clients. Here is a specific link to the portal, which will be open for applications on Monday, 3/22 at 9:00 am:

<https://njdca.onlinepha.com/>

Ms. Archer stated that the Covid Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocations have been reevaluated and will be redistributed to you at the next HSAC meeting.

We have been discussing Code Blue. Unfortunately, the two municipalities with the ten documented homeless during the Point in Time count, Morristown, had declined the funding, and Dover did not respond to the County. The Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) stated that they could use some funding for motel placements after the warming center closes, but discussions will continue. More information will be provided as it is available. Discussion ensued.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports Planning – Child Care - Ms. Rebekka Zydel

In brief, Morris County's economic recovery and stability depend on childcare availability for working parents.

Child & Family Resources is working on solutions that are needed to address stabilization and infrastructure support to ensure that parents in Morris County have access to various child care options required for economic recovery and stability.

State of Child Care in Morris County

Approximate Total Number of Licensed Centers March 2020: 270

Approximate Total Number of Licensed Centers February 2021: 233

- Ten child care centers closed
- 27 school-age only programs closed

Total Number of Registered FCC Providers March 2020: 36

Total Number of Registered FCC Providers February 2021: 38

Child Care Centers reporting waiting lists with group size is still limited to 15

We are preparing for Youth Camp operation season.

NJ DHS DFD Initiatives:

Through June 2021:

- Tuition Assistance Program for families not eligible for the state subsidy program and earning no more than \$150k for children ages 5-13. For existing applicants only, not re-opening the enrollment application
- Full-Time child care subsidies for school-age children
- Subsidy supplemental payment \$300.00 full time \$150.00 part-time per child per month

Shared Services

8 Licensed Center Members and 3 Family Child Care Provider Members

- Implementing business software programs to increase revenue, track expenses, market/recruit enrollment, and reinvest in quality
- Improving business practices that boosts program revenue

Morris County Initiatives:

Sunshine Program I (Child Care for those with a disability)

- Four children currently using care

Sunshine Program II (Area 51 Planning Grant-Respite Summer Care for Grandparents)

- TBD

Grooming to Grow (GIA)

- 2 Programs (Program Administration Scale (PAS))
 - Serves as a recruitment program for GrowNJ Kids

Registered Family Child Care (GIA)

- Orientations being conducted
- Increase in recruitment

Child Care Resource & Referral (GIA)

- Increase in referrals for school-age children
- Increase in referrals for infants/toddlers

Child Care Gaps:

- School-age child care for families not eligible for the current subsidy programs
- Access to child care for CCVC families
- Access & affordability for summer camp

IX. **Advisory Committee Reports**

Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong/Ms. Victoria Bollhardt Virtual Employment and Career Services Available

Despite the challenges imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL), Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Development Board, and Morris-Sussex-Warren Employment and Training Services have continued to offer online and telephone-based jobseeker and employer services.

Remote access to employment services is available through the One-Stop Career Centers in Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties. Services include career planning, assessment of training needs, occupational skills training, job search support for unemployed adults, and dislocated workers. Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA), which assists unemployment claimants in finding work before they exhaust their benefits; career services for individuals with disabilities, including resume building, accommodating equipment and job placement; and online workshops.

For more employment information, visit <https://www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/> and select the *Find a Job* tab. Request One-on-One support by completing a virtual services request. Individuals interest in learning more about their eligibility for training and available career services visit <https://msw-jobtraining.org/>

For more information on business services, visit <https://www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/> *Business Services* tab then *Business Support*, where you will find One-on-One support by contacting a local Business Services Representative. Also, visit <https://www.mswwdb> for information on the available hiring and training funds for employers.

MSW WDB and North Jersey Partners COVID 19 NJ Endures Grant

The Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Development Board is pleased to announce the completion of its first group of 32 students in three (3) professional certifications: the

APICS CSCP, Certified Supply Chain Professional, APICS CPIM, Certified Professional in Inventory Management, and Salesforce Certified, Administrator. Certified professionals demonstrate knowledge of the essential technology, concepts, and strategies needed in today's pandemic workforce. Businesses that hire program completers are eligible for up to a \$5,000 wage match.

Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Development Board is a member of North Jersey Partners, a consortium of Workforce Development Boards in northern New Jersey providing pandemic relevant workforce certifications. The project, supported by a New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development grant, targets unemployed residents. The project offers APICS supply chain management certifications in CPIM, CSCP through the Northern NJ APICS Chapter, and Salesforce Administrator certification through William Paterson University and Camp 4. The program includes mentoring from employers and industry professionals.

The following testimonials are from the first APICS CSCP and CPIM training cohort (1/28/21 – 3/22/21).

The APICS Certified Supply Chain Professional course/instructor was highly informative and enlightening and prepared me adequately to pass the CSCP exam. I am grateful for the opportunity and very pleased to have passed the exam on the first try. I have obtained a position as Senior Buyer at Bausch Health with a salary of \$100,000 per year. *Daniel London*

The APICS Certified Production and Inventory Management instructor, Michael Ford, was great -- he was very knowledgeable and incredibly helpful in taking extra time to help us better understand the concepts and principles along with any other questions we had. I wish I had teachers like him during college! I secured a job as a Project Coordinator for Specification Lighting Sales, earning \$70,000 per year. *Arvin Autar*

Victoria Bollhardt, Director of Operations and One-Stop Operator, Employment and Training Services

Victoria started her new position in mid-March. She comes to our tri-county area with previous workforce development experience at the DOE Fund Inc., NYC and St. Paul's, Community Development Corporation Paterson, New Jersey. Most recently, Victoria held Vice President's position at Make-A-Wish® New Jersey, Monroe Township, NJ.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Bob Armstrong

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee/ EIRC (Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative) met online on Monday, March 15, at 1 pm.

Wesley McWhite from Hyacinth Foundation presented New Jersey State legislation in the works that impact people living with HIV (PWH) or sub-populations, such as IV substance users. Bills discussed:

Bill #	Summary
A 1039,	Dispense HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis medication (PrEP) without prescription
S 3009,	Add harm reduction (including syringe exchange) facilities
S 3065,	Ability to send syringe and harm reduction supplies via mail for COVID safety
S 3491,	Ability to administer NARCAN without existing legal repercussions
S 3493,	Expunge syringe possession charges

All agencies that offer services to HIV clients are now receiving in-person visits in addition to communication online.

A Community Action Board (CAB) for HIV clients and advocates had their first meeting and will meet bi-monthly.

The AIDS Educational and Training Center (AETC), NJ Health (DOH), and Rutgers University are hosting the annual HIV Case Study Day virtually on March 30 at 12:45 pm. See flyer for registration details.

EDGE NJ (formerly NJ AIDS Services) Pride Center, in conjunction with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, is hosting a Transgender Day of Visibility Virtual Celebration on Wednesday, March 31, from 6 – 7:30 pm. See flyer for details.

AIDSWatch is currently underway (March 22-24) virtually. AIDSWatch brings together HIV advocates, many of whom are HIV+, from across the country to speak to Congress members and the Biden-Harris administration. A group from Morris County is participating with the assistance of the Hyacinth Foundation.

The next meeting of the HIV Advisory Committee will be held virtually on May 17 at 1 pm.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board – Ms. Jane Shivas – no report

Women's Committee – Ms. Joann Bjornson

Ms. Bjornson introduced Ms. Karen O'Keefe, new Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee. Ms. O'Keefe thanked Ms. Kasey Errico for suggesting that she attend this meeting. Ms. O'Keefe stated that she is a staff attorney at Legal Services and is looking forward to seeing the needs assessment so the Women's Committee can get focused on the gaps in service and move forward.

Overview: The committee met on February 16, 2021. The agenda focused on three main areas: Women's History Month, the process for acquiring new members, and the committee's goals going forward.

Women's History Month: There was a discussion of building awareness in the county about the Women's Advisory Committee during Women's History Month. We will be working with Commissioner DeFillippo, and the county to write up a committee description and solicit membership to be submitted to the Morris County Newsletter.

Membership: Establishing a process for bringing new members onto the committee was discussed. The committee's inquiry to the Commissioners regarding women's consideration for members who work but do not live in Morris County was received positively. It will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Prospective members will be invited to attend a meeting to assess their fit and interest in joining the committee. We actively solicit 2-4 new members representing diversity in race/ethnicity, LGBTQ status, socio-economic status, age, and skill area.

Goals: The committee is interested in aligning its focus and goals in areas with an identified need. In this effort, the committee requested a presentation from HSAC regarding the Needs Assessment and the United Way regarding the ALICE population. The committee also agreed to continue to host the Seeds of Change award and plan a process focusing on awarding a recipient in March of 2022 during Women's History Month.

The next meeting is on April 20, 2021.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Mr. David Johnson PRESENTATIONS

Jen and Amanda from goodness cakes - National Charity started in CA. Bake birthday and celebration cakes for underserved youth. Both founders are social workers. October 2020 launched in North Jersey. Recruiting agencies to sign up and request cakes, a volunteer will sign up to bake and deliver cake to the agency, which the agency gives to the child. Volunteers take a food safety course beforehand. They are working with Family Promise and CASA so far. Over 120 volunteers for baking. All on secure software agencies request on software, and volunteers pick cakes on there. Website: forgoodnesscakes.org Insta: [@forgoodnesscakesnj](https://www.instagram.com/forgoodnesscakesnj)

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Barbara Kaufman Prevention Is Key
 - ACES 5 part series Next one March 31
 - April 7 statewide legislative forum about SBIRT
- Jackie Looby Neighborhood House - 9 part series - nutrition series open to all teens
- Theresa Alonzo - Headstart accepting applications for Dover and Morris Plains for the 2021 school year.
- Dave Johnston- Deirdre's house
 - They will be hosting a wine tasting fundraiser
 - The Game of life virtually for two days at Parsippany high school, they had just under 500 youth attend.

X. Partnership Announcements

Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Terry Connolly

The next meeting is Thursday, March 25, and we will be discussing the types of programs that we will be accepting applications for this year.

XI. Old Business

Homeless Trust Fund – Mr. Jeff Bashe - PowerPoint presentation attached

XII. New Business

Ms. Shivas asked, "How is the FEMA funding being coordinated in this area?" Mr. Bashe replied, "Ms. Jodi Miciak at the United Way is coordinating it."

XIII. Public Comment – no comment

XIV. Adjournment

Ms. Zydel adjourned the meeting at 6:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II