

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
April 28, 2020 Minutes
Meeting Held via ZOOM

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting opened at 5:15 p.m. by Ms. Rebekka Zydel. Ms. Zydel asked Ms. Hess to do a roll call. Roll call as listed below:

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, HIV/AIDS Advisory Liaison – Vice Chair
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative
Joann Bjornson, Family Promise
Terry Connolly, Nourish NJ, CoC Liaison
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Maria Fodali, OTA
Xiomara Guevara, Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs-Dover
McEniry, Joann, NJAS
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, North Jersey Health Collaborative
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey – Morristown
David Saltzman, Esq., Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources, Inc. – Chair

MC Staff in Attendance:

Amy Archer, MCDHS
Jane Armstrong, MC Workforce Development Board
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Christine Hellyer, MC Division on Aging, Disabilities, & Veterans
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS
Sharon Yoo, Esq., MCDHS

II. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed.

III. Approval of March 24, 2020 Minutes

Motion to approve the March 24 meeting minutes made by Mr. Joe Pawelczyk and seconded by Mr. Jeff Bashe. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

IV. County of Morris Department of Human Services – Ms. Sharon Yoo

Human Services has been busy since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Morris County has leased out four hand-washing stations in Dover and Morristown. With Homeless Solutions open 24 hours a day, to offer a warming station, a shower was installed in an extended space to accommodate those in need. The warming center will be open until May 31, 2020.

There have been improvements made to the homes on Ruth Davis Drive, so they are habitable. The County is working with several providers to accommodate the need for isolation. At this time, Market Street Mission, Homeless Solutions, and Community Hope have clients staying in 6 homes. These providers are using this space for different reasons, but mainly to keep their main shelters safe and open.

A motel is being used to house those that tested positive for COVID-19 and that are homeless.

Freeholder DeFillippo is coordinating with provides to supply them with masks. Many have been donated and distributed. Additionally, the Freeholders are working with our soup kitchens and food pantries to provide them with additional grant money and food needed to supply the increase in demand.

The County is still working on our Census efforts, coming up with creative ways to get the word out to the community. One of the ideas is to purchase pantry foods and label them with census information and have our food pantries deliver them to municipalities that are low in reporting.

- Mr. Bashe asked, if those staying at Ruth Davis Drive, have tested positive for the coronavirus. Ms. Yoo stated that it is a mix. The providers are using the houses as they see fit to keep their shelter safe and healthy.
- How is the County receiving information about the needs or gaps of services of the community and if this information is coming from NJ 2-1-1? Ms. Yoo stated that the County is receiving data from NJ 2-1-1, Office of Temporary Assistance, county committees (CoC and CAS), and outreach.
- Ms. Laura O'Reilly asked if the County has to report anything to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Arc and other organizations are having difficulties with direct support staffing. Is the DDD going to release any additional funding to the disabled community to support their need for health insurance premiums and the employment of temporary workers? Ms. Yoo is unaware of what DDD is doing at this time. The County is aware of the difficulties Arc is facing and is working with them.
- Ms. Michelle Roers asked if the homes on Ruth Davis Drive were available to all homeless providers. Ms. Yoo stated the decision was made quickly, and providers are those the County has worked with in the past.
- Ms. Linda Csengeto asked how Morris View is doing. Ms. Yoo stated that she is aware they had a large number of positive cases, and there have been resident deaths, but since Morris view is privately operated, the County does not have all of the numbers.

**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 Families
Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Ms. Maria Ojeda** no report

VII. **Staff Reports – Ms. Amy Archer and Ms. Shelia Carter**

Ms. Amy Archer stated the department has been in contact with all Grant-In-Aid (GIA) providers concerning grant modifications. The modification requests that were received have been granted.

Mental Health and Addiction resources have been updated and posted on the County website.

Ms. Shelia Carter reported the State Human Services Advisory Council met this past Friday. New Jersey Department of Children and Families is committed to moving the HSAC Needs Assessment process forward. A meeting with Mr. Armstrong and Ms. Zydel is scheduled next week to discuss ideas put together pre-pandemic and how to proceed.

The 2020 site monitoring process is being reviewed. A combination desk and video conferencing process is being considered as social distancing remains in place. There will be more to report at next month's meeting.

VIII. **Subcommittee Reports**

Planning – Child Care – Ms. Rebekka Zydel
Emergency Child Care for Essential Workers

Effective April 1, 2020, Governor Murphy closed all licensed child care centers except for Registered Family Child Care Providers and licensed centers who were serving/willing to help essential workers. Authorized child care centers were required to submit an application to the office of licensing seeking authorization and certification as an Emergency Child Care Center.

The Office of Licensing maintains the list of approved Emergency Child Care Centers, which is posted on their website.

The Governor also implements the Emergency Child Care Program for essential workers. All essential workers in need of child care, regardless of income, must apply online at www.childcarenj.gov/Emergency. Emergency child care funding is available through the end of April.

Below is how much the state will pay per week for one child.

INFANT	\$450.35
TODDLER	\$415.70
PRESCHOOL	\$415.70
SCHOOL-AGE	\$336.00

Emergency Child Care in Morris County

As of April 23, 2020

of Morris County Applications: 185
of Approved Applications: 92
of Families Being Served: 87
of Children In Care: 123
of Approved Child Care Centers Serving Children: 17
of Registered Family Child Care Providers Serving Children: 10

- Cleaning and Sanitizing Grants available to providers by the Division of Family Development to assist with maintaining healthy and safe environments.
- Child & Family Resources continues to provide technical assistance, training, and support to the child care community on topics such as:
 - COVID-19 Health & Safety Practices
 - Financial Resources/Business Practices
 - Social and Emotional Health
 - Grooming to Grow
 - 2 Programs (Program Administration Scale (PAS)- GIA Funded)
 - Serves as a recruitment program for GrowNJ Kids
 - Registered Family Child Care
 - Orientations being conducted remotely
 - Child Care Resource & Referral
 - Referrals for Emergency Child Care

IX. Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong

As of April 17, over 800,000 unemployment claims have been filed. About 1/3 of those claims have been processed, and there is about a five-week waiting time for payments. Due to the CARES Act, self-employed and contract workers are now eligible for unemployment benefits. The New Jersey unemployment system was not designed to handle this type of claim, improvements have been made to the system to accommodate these claims, but payouts have not happened yet.

One-Stop Career Center office locations in Randolph, Newton, and Phillipsburg are closed and may reopen on May 17.

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

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee (MSW HIV Advisory), in conjunction with the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC), also known as the HIV Collaborative, last met on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and has not met in April.

Due to COVID-19 concerns:

- Hope House in Dover has canceled all support groups and one-to-one interactions. All case managers are working from home, calling and checking in on clients. Hope House is also providing transportation for clients to medical appointments, unless medical facilities are canceling.
- Family Health Center of Morristown is closed to the public. Staff will offer support to patients via telephone and videophone when available.

- EDGE NJ (formerly New Jersey AIDS Services/NJAS): the office in Morris Plains is closed. All case managers are available to handle case management needs remotely, and schedule rides with Logisticare and ride-sharing on a case-by-case basis. The HIV+ Gay Men's group is being held via Zoom technology. The CAN Community Health and EDGE Wellness Center in Denville is closed for in-person appointments. Medical services to HIV clients are being offered through the Telehealth patient portal program.
- Zufall Health Center is seeing patients on a limited basis. Other medical services are being delivered through Tele-med technology or by phone.
- The Zufall dental clinic is closed for all non-urgent dental visits. Some dental patients are being seen on an emergency basis only. Ancillary staff members are working from home. The staff is sending people who present with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to the emergency department.
- Screening for HIV testing is being offered through a hotline: 862-260-3199.
- People living with HIV generally utilize increased medical and other services than the average person. Virtual visits that deliver services via video or phone technology have been a lifeline during the Coronavirus pandemic. Mental health services are also available by phone and are being widely utilized. It is hard to conceive how the services could be delivered without this technology.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m., Tuesday, May 19, at Zufall Wellness Center, Morristown.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Ms. Jane Shivas

Due to technical difficulties, there is no formal report.

- Ms. Zydel asked if there is any status on the Mental Health of the community in general. Ms. Archer stated at this time, the community is not reaching out, but it is expected when the state reopens, there will be a need for Mental Health services.

Council on Aging Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Christine Hellyer

The Office on Aging consists of Aging, MAPS, Veterans, and Nutrition, although our building is closed to the public, no walk-ins for Aging or Veterans. We are still providing services, but the office is staffed minimally, and others working remotely from home.

AGING

Care managers, Disability Coordinator, and Caregiver Coordinator reach out to their clients that are the neediest, every three days with a wellness call. We are still accepting care management referrals through our ADRC line.

NUTRITION

The Nutrition department is still delivering meals to service the seniors and protect our staff. We provide three frozen meals on Monday and three on Thursday. Also, participants additionally received two shelf-stable meals, allowing the clients to still receive meals for each day and minimizing the health of the staff members. We are not

entering the homes of disabled individuals at this time, but we are making one bulk drop-off of frozen and shelf-stable meals every two weeks.

- Congregate sites are **all closed** at this time, except for those that are also senior residential buildings. They have become **grab and go** (pick up meal and return to their apartment) for clients.
- We have shelf-stable meals for senior emergency clients for those that cannot go to the grocery store and need food for a stock gap.
- We have received many additional requests to receive home-delivered meals. It takes at least 7 to 10 days to get on the roster because of the delivery schedule, but the staff knows to ask if it is an emergency.

VETERANS

The Veteran's Department is working remotely, processing claims for veterans, and returning calls for service. The staff goes to the office on a rotating bases.

MAPS staff are making life-sustaining and essential employment trips: Chemotherapy, dialysis, wound care, radiation. Due to the State executive order, we have to ask our riders if they have another means of transportation, because of many family members that are home now.

One typical call we are receiving now is for volunteers. Grocery shopping for clients that cannot get out to stores at this time, this is not readily available at this time. I know it is a need in the community at this time. I put this out to our Providers yesterday at their meeting. Local municipalities, churches, and our Interfaith Food Pantry are the options. Every senior in need of a meal will receive it at this time.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Mr. Dave Johnston

Most YSAC and youth providers are providing services virtually. All YSAC funded programs have made modifications to their programs to continue serving their populations during this time.

The education partnership is planning to host a virtual training for schools on May 8 to inform them of the different services that are available and how to access them.

Deirdre's House remains closed other than joint DCP&P Prosecutor's Office investigations. Therapy continues for active clients via online, HIPAA compliant platforms. No new intakes at this time. However, if you know of an exigent circumstance, please reach out to Dave Johnston.

X. Partnership Announcements

Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Terry Connolly

Because of COVID-19, the CoC has extended the amount of time providers are being given to complete funding applications to 10 weeks, and on-site program monitoring has been changed to desk monitoring only. If Congress and HUD advise that there will not be a competitive process this year, we will notify all providers. If the process continues as anticipated, we will review applications in June and July and submit our application to HUD in the fall.

Understanding the need for continuity of service at this time, and our providers' need for stable funding; program types that were intended to be excluded from funding availability this year, including service only and transitional living programs, have been invited to apply for one more year.

As HUD has advised, we continue to prioritize housing first, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, joint timely rehousing transitional living, and coordinated entry programs.

Priority populations include those experiencing chronic homelessness, homeless youth, and veterans and survivors of domestic violence. Within these populations, we have identified a need for additional programs to help youth experiencing homelessness.

Barriers to helping clients achieve permanent housing include the limited availability of affordable housing in Morris County, and the need for intensive supportive services for the chronically homeless and homeless youth populations.

XI. Old Business

Homeless Trust Fund – Mr. Jeff Bashe – nothing new to report

XII. New Business

Ms. Zydell asked the group what barriers or gaps in services they have been seeing.

- Ms. Roers stated that low-income families do not have a computer or access to the internet for their children to do school work from home. Ms. Csengeto stated the Union School system provided a device to the children that needed one. Ms. Shivas stated that Project Self Sufficiency has seen the same issue and has provided their client with a device.
- Ms. Yoo expressed concern about the township of Dover. Ms. Roers responded that there is a group called Connecting Dover that meets regularly. Their next meeting is on May 6 at 2:00 p.m.
- United Way Tax Prep program is running virtually. ALICE Recovery Fund is now exacting applications. Ms. Csengeto asked if that is the money donated by the Jets. Ms. Roers responded, yes, a portion of the money for this fund was from the Jets, but we have received many donations from other organizations for this fund.

XIII. Public Comment

Ms. Joann Bjornson asked what the County is doing with laptops and money received from the Census Grant since the events and activities have been canceled. She would like to see the money and laptops available to agencies to help offset the costs of additional staff.

XIV. Adjournment

Ms. Zydel adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II