MEMBERS PRESENT
Christina Brino
Debra Eckert-Casha
Emerson Crooks
Tom Mazzaccaro

Staff Present
Shawnna Bailey
Patricia Petrillo
Maria Rosario
Jessica Tomalo
Maria Salazar
Carmen Kenny

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 pm by *Tom Mazzaccaro*, the 2022 Chairman of the Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The November 5, 2021 minutes were accepted and approved.
Motion: D.C./C.B.

Tom asked *Maria Rosario* to do a roll call for the members.

The *Staff* members introduced themselves.

Each member was e-mailed the packet for today's meeting. It was labelled left side/right side to make it easier to follow being the meeting was virtual. But it did cause confusion

Chairperson's Report-Tom Mazzacarro
(Read) Roles and Responsibilities of *Advisory Council* members. Each member is requested to sign a form. *Christine* read them.

Each member must fill out a Biographical Form.

We need your approval to share contact information with other committee members.

ACADV folder includes a list of *Advisory Council* meeting dates, sub-committee meeting dates and a list of sub-committee members. And, annual reports from *ADRC*, *Veterans*, and *Nutrition* programs. The *ACADV* folder will be sent to all members at a later date.
(Mailed March 4, 2022)
Christine requested all members to fill out biographical form and mail it to Maria Rosario.
Debra asked if the biographical form has to be filled out every year?

Christine we do ask to re-submit yearly.

We are also sending out an e-mail to each member of *Council* for their approval to share their contact information with one another.

Tom suggested to ensure all members of *Council* attend upcoming meeting phone calls should be made to them. He asked *Maria* for assistance.

Staff Reports
Director of Human Services-Katherine Errico
New Jersey Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (**ERMA**) provides financial assistance to eligible homeowners who have experienced a significant decrease of income or increase of expenses due to COVID-19 and have been unable to remain current with their mortgage payment. Application and more information are available at *njerma.com.*
It also will assist in delinquent property taxes, and other housing cost delinquencies.
Kasey Errico added that the income guidelines for ERMA are accessible for Morris County homeowners.

Small Business Grant Program will begin ***accepting on-line applications*** at **9a.m. February14, 2022,** to aid local small companies, entrepreneurs, and non-profits impacted by the pandemic.
Details: may be found at ***morriscountysmallbusinessgrant.com*** on eligibility
guidelines, supporting documents required to submit an application and more.

Director of Aging- Christine Hellyer
I want to explain the evolution of how the *ACADV* meetings work. The last three and half years the meetings were done the same way:
Previously
- All reports are prepared by the Office staff and assigned to a member of the sub-committee to read, and this caused confusion.
- The *Chairpersons'* report is only available to the Chairperson and Maria Rosario. It should be reviewed before the meeting and information can be added by the Chairperson as needed.
- The *Advisory Sub Committee's* members were assigned by the *Office* staff. Originally the three Sub Committees were separate meetings: *Legislative Review, Community Relations*, and the *Planning Program Review*. And then last year the low attendance rate, and we decided to combine the three. That didn't work well either, because they didn't stay focused on the meeting topics and became mini-Advisory Council meetings.

Going forward so the meetings can run more smoothly:
- We are going back to three separate sub-committee meetings
- We have a sign-up sheet so the members can volunteer for a committee they want to serve on. Because we have only seven Council members, we ask you to sign up for more than one committee.
- The Office staff will still prepare a portion of all reports, the Chairperson of each subcommittee will read at the meeting. And members can also add any useful information from the Community that pertains to that Committee.

I also want to note that in the past the Legislative Review sub-committee was viewed as a Veteran based committee, it is not. The Veteran Service Officer hosted the meeting, and the members were always veterans. Last year we re-focused on introducing bills that pertained to seniors and disabled in addition to veterans bills to discuss.

This year we are removing the Veteran Service Staff, and Carmen Kenny will head that committee.

Should you feel that we need a Veteran subcommittee and the three committees in our by-laws:

Community Relations, Planning Program Review and Legislative Review are being attended. We do have an ability to add a new committee, and or change our by-laws.

NUTRITION

Nutrition Congregate sites for *January* and *February* were closed due to *COVID 19* increases. We are anticipating the following sites to re-open by *March 1, 2022*:

Long Hill, Roxbury, Butler, Denville, Madison, Morris Mews Montville, and Mt. Olive. The other sites either the hosts or the congregate participants is low.

We hope to open at 75% capacity by the summer.

The Home Delivered Meals clients are receiving their meals. Pick-up/grab and go is also available at the sites, for those that don't wish to be in a Congregate setting.

We also have a pilot program at two Nutrition sites: Butler and Mt. Olive offering breakfast meal once a week. These will be frozen shelf stable meals. If successful we will offer to all nutrition sites in April

The *Department of Human Services* received *1,000 COVID* at home test kits, distributing them to several partnerships.   The Nutrition program will deliver them to the State week-end clients this Saturday, 200 participants. Interfaith Food Pantry received 140 kits also distributed this week to their Home Delivered Program clients.

MAPS

MAPS is currently operating at 75% capacity. And hopefully, March 1, 2022, it will be 100% capacity.

MAPS has started a pilot program. They partnered with Trans Options to offer Lyft rides to some **MAPS** consumers.

The requirements are:

Registered *MAPS* riders (seniors, or adults with a disability), must be ambulatory (no wheelchairs, and must be able to get in and out of a vehicle unassisted and must have a cell phone with text message capability for confirmation of ride.

This is not a requested service. MAPS makes the decision and offers it.

Available currently *Monday to Friday*, 6:30am-5pm. Riders ***cannot*** request this service, if a ride ***cannot*** be completed by *MAPS*, then they will be offered to use form of transportation.

We look to expand to holidays and weekend in the next phase, in the next quarter.

ANNUAL REPORTS
attached

Debra added that the information in the Annual Reports is priceless, and we should make this available to the Community.

Tom asked when the *Veteran Service Office* will reopen? And if the VSO's are available to visit VFW's posts?

Christine replied currently they are refocusing on the backlogged claims as their first priority. We are looking to have them available early April, for outreach programs.

Christine added that *Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris County* will be offering a *Veteran and Family Support Program* soon. It will be offered at Morris View Nursing Home, where the Commander's Summit meetings were held.

Emerson added that the "Moving Wall". a half size replica of the one in Washington, DC, is going to be at the County College. He asked the Veteran's Office to donate flags for this presentation.

(The Moving Wall, since 1984, pays tribute to more than 58,000 men and women who lost their lives in the war, which started in 1961 and ended in 1975 for the U.S).

Christine said just let me know how many you will need.

Adjournment: 1:21pm
Motion:C.B./D.C.

Next Meeting:
April 7, 2022
We are hoping this meeting will be Hybrid, if COVID numbers continue to decrease