

**MORRIS COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING, DISABILITIES &
VETERANS
340 West Hanover Avenue, Ground Floor, Morris
Township
Minutes, ACADV**

November 14, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matthew Adamczyk
James Cavanaugh
Erika Moreno
Richard Nyquist
Tom Pappas
Bruce Patterson
Jeannette Perlman
Anthony Romano

STAFF PRESENT

Ken Brenzel
Tammi Brown
Fay Campbell
Christine Hellyer
Pat Petrillo
Maria Rosario
Jennifer Van Natta

Guests

Wendy Long, St. Clare's Health

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:20pm, by Richard Nyquist, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and passed to accept and approve the minutes of September 13, 2018.

Motion: T.P. & J.P.

Chairperson's Report- Rich Nyquist

On October 12, 2018 the nominating committee met via phone, and the following were recommended and appointed Matt Adamczyk and Co- chairman Barbara Anderson.

Staff Reports-

Director of Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming-

Christine Hellyer

Our Department has the following staffing changes:

- Kathleen McHugh, has joined us as a nutrition clerk.
- Marisol Heredia, Assistant Supervisor of Social Case Work assisting Shawanna Bailey with Case Management and Adult Protective Services.
- Karen Webster, Caregiver Coordinator is retiring the end of this month.

Our Department submitted our Area Plan Contract to the State for review. We also completed our 3rd Quarter reports to the State.

Office Reports-

ADRC

Information & Assistance and Case Management phone calls for September and October 2018 totaled 555 calls. Monthly calls listed below:

September: 249

October: 306

Veterans- Ken Brenzel

The following activity for the period September 1-October 31, 2018:

570 veteran related telephone calls made/received.

1,027 veteran issue related emails & faxes sent/received.

68 Office visits with veterans, re: VA Claims, various social issues/problems.

52 VA Claims or Intent to File Claims, VA forms, records requests submitted.

11 referrals made.

11 Off-Site: Training, meetings (committee, event, vet organization), out-reach.

7 Home Visits.

1 Hospital Visit.

181 veterans assisted up to the VA outpatient clinic.

399 Individual veterans assisted.

Nutrition- Tammi Brown

The Nutrition Project provided the following number of meals:

Sept:

Congregate Meals	6,306
Home Delivered Meal	19,091
Weekend Meals	1,824
Total	27,221

Oct:

Congregate Meals	7,571
Home Delivered Meals	23,104
Weekend Meals	1,824
Total	32,499

The Nutrition Project will be receiving its first shipment of shelf stable meals on November 15th which will be delivered to sites. These meals are distributed in the event that there is a snow emergency and Nutrition drivers are unable to deliver meals.

Committee Reports

Community Relations- Jean Perlman

The Community Relations Committee met on Thursday October 12, 2018 to discuss ACADV issues/concerns, which should be shared with the public.

The Committee Relations discussed the following topics:

- Home Energy Assistance
- Medicare Open Enrollment
- Interfaith Food Pantry Thanksgiving baskets and dinners for needy families

The Committee agreed that information about the above topics be shared with the public. Flyers were distributed to Senior Housing Facilities, Nutrition Sites and Veterans Offices.

Jean Perlman asked if any other members have been receiving phone calls recently about energy assistance, and if it's a fraud.

Bruce Patterson asked where they were sent for Veteran's.

Pat Petrillo said to VFW's and American Legion's in Morris County.

Legislative Review- Ken Brenzel

The Committee met on Thursday October 11, 2018 and reviewed the following bills and recommend the endorsement of the ACADV:

Assembly No. 124 – Clarifies that persons unable to write because of disability may execute legal signatures using fingerprint or other identifying mark.

Assembly No. 306- Creates exemption from certain MVC fees for prisoners of war.

Assembly No. 976- Establishes "Seniors Helping Seniors who are Blind or Visually Impaired Demonstration Program" in DHS; appropriates \$360,000.

Rich Nyquist requested letters to Assemblymen be sent to show their endorsement and support

Motion: M.A. & J.P.

MCCoOPo- Richard Nyquist

September- Program by Joel Farkas, a docent at Washington Headquarters, speaking on many facets of the Revolutionary War.

October- Becky Rutkowski of Bright and Beautiful Dogs brought her therapy dog Chloe, and described the pre-therapy dog training and some visits she and her dog have made.

MCCoOPO also held its annual luncheon and dance.

Providers- Christine Hellyer

- The Provider's had no current updates at their agencies.
- At our ADRC meeting we discussed topics that we would like to discuss at future meetings. In this discussion, we determined that the issues we highlight in our meetings may not have been related to the disabled community. Many of the topics brought to the table effects both disabled and aged. We are going to send out a survey to the Providers, and we will pick 2 topics to be discussed. We are hoping to share our connections with each other to improve services for the disabled and aged residents of Morris County.

Planning Program Review- Matt Adamczyk

The subcommittee met on October 10, 2018 and discussed what tool the agency should use in determining the priorities for 2018. A survey was recommended, samples of survey was given to the members committee will make a decision on the next meeting.

New Business- Maria Rosario

Maria then passed out a report to the members to review. These will be returned to Maria at the end of the discussion.

- The subcommittee met on October 10, 2018 and discussed what tool the agency should use in determining the priorities for 2018. A survey was recommended, samples of survey was given to the members committee will make a decision on the next meeting.

There are two adjustments to the GIA funding that were approved since the last meeting:

➤ *Mental Health Assoc. Of Essex and Morris*

Original amount was **\$49,989** from the ACADV GIA funding, **\$21,942** from GIA Unified funding, and an additional **\$14,727** from Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board (MHASAB). **Final award is \$86,658.**

Christine Hellyer clarified at our original Committee meeting in August meeting this Advisory Board approved \$49,989, and in our September meeting we discussed the additional unified funds given to the County, provided by Unified funding of \$21,942.

In addition to this, another Committee, the Mental Health board also funded \$14,727. And instead of 2 different grants from the same County funds we combined it with our grant.

Prior to leasing Morris View, the County was obligated by the State to provide match dollars for Peer Grouping funding, and historically \$80,311 has been budgeted to support Adult Protective Services. Based on the ADV RFA Review Process, yielding the highest scores for the below unfunded programs. The funds were equally divided and will now support the following:

➤ **Employment Horizons \$40,155**
Employment Training Program

Commercial Cleaning Training and High Wage Employment Program for disabled adults.

➤ **NewBridge Services \$40,156**

At Home Counseling for Seniors

In-home counseling for individuals 60 and over. Providing trauma informed Counseling/supports to achieve wellness and recovery. Focus on relieving mental health symptoms and divert hospitalization to remain safe in the community.

Public Comment-

Bruce Patterson announced he will be leaving the Council as of this meeting.

He also voiced his concern about the VA Clinic move from this building to Morris View. In Ken's report today, he stated his department assisted 181 veterans to the VA Clinic. I don't know if they are escorted when they leave.

As we know the VA clinic was moved earlier this year from this building to Morris View and unfortunately the facility wasn't ready for that move. The Veterans were not told of the move, the VA wanted the move, but veterans know what they want too. In the beginning the escort to the clinic wasn't available to the veterans. I know some have decided to go to other facilities, and I know some improvements were made, but doesn't compare to the clinic that was here. It's disappointing, and I know this Council is responsible for the Veterans, and it should have been discussed at their meetings and maybe a tour of the facility before it opened. The veterans were not given any input about the move of the clinic.

One of the major concerns is that from the entrance door it is about 125-150 yards to elevator, and then when they arrive on the 2nd floor another 100 yards to the clinic. Christine Hellyer responded that she attended that meeting, and Ken has been a big part of the remediation process and was unable to attend. We learned from that meeting that more communication was necessary at that time between the Advisory Council, VFW's, and the County. I can't fix that problem that happened then, but there are now new players at the table, including myself and we are very committed to building more of the communications. That is what I heard.

I heard we were not communicating to the veterans directly and they felt they weren't be heard at our end on their issues, Ken has done a fantastic job bringing the points to the administration so we can remediate, such as parking being an issue. The parking spaces for the veterans, another communication issue.

Bruce adamantly stated again the facility wasn't ready to open, it just wasn't ready. He urged members of the council to visit the facility to see how much of a walk there is.

I have been a member of this Council for a year and it was never discussed.

Christine stated, I am not a veteran's clinic person, I am stating what I learned from that meeting, because I wasn't at the previous meetings. They have the ability to have more services available because there are areas for improvement. We are committed to making these improvements, starting with the Ambassador program.

The clinic is there and how do we build bridges to make the clinic better.

Adjournment: 1:30 pm

Motion: Jeannette P

Matthew A.

Next Meeting:

February 14, 2019

Human Services Building

340 West Hanover Ave

Morris Township, NJ 07950