

**MORRIS COUNTY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING,  
DISABILITIES & VETERANS  
340 West Hanover Ave,  
Morris Plains 07950**

**February 13, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Barbara Anderson  
James Cavanaugh  
Thomas Mazzaccaro  
Jean Perlman  
Anthony Romano  
William Solomon  
Loretta White

**STAFF PRESENT**

Bertha Cornego  
Christine Hellyer  
Pat Petrillo  
Maria Pilone-Metz  
Maria Rosario  
Jennifer Van Natta  
Sharon Yoo  
Rhea Young

**Guest**

Carolyn Lake Interfaith Food Pantry  
Tom Mastrangelo Freeholder

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 P.M. by Christine Hellyer, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Introduction**

New staff member Rhea Young, Senior Community Worker, Nutrition Department.  
Also Carol Stoltz new role is Disability Coordinator, and Jillian Jantzen  
Assistant Social Worker Supervisor

**Orientation Packet Review**-Shawwna Bailey

**Attendance, Policies, and member responsibilities**- Christine Hellyer  
See attached.

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made and passed to accept and approve the minutes of November 14, 2019

**Motion: Anthony Romano/ Barbara Anderson**

## **Chairperson's Report- Loretta White**

**(Read)** Roles and Responsibilities of Advisory Council members. Each member is requested to sign a form and return to Maria Rosario.

Each member must fill out a Biographical Form.

The contact sheet will be passed around and members can choose 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 also annual reports from ADRC, Veterans, and Nutrition programs.

## **Staff Reports-**

### **Director of Human Services-Sharon Yoo, Esq.**

- The County will purchase 36 laptops to loan to Morris County not-for-profits and municipalities for people to use to complete the Census. The County anticipates getting the laptops by March 1. The County will also be able to purchase snacks and refreshments for Census related events as well as pay for copies of Census produced publications. In addition, the County will offer translation services for Census promotional materials. Ms. Yoo will distribute information on how to sign up to borrow the computers, obtain snacks and refreshments at a later date.
- It's extremely important to get the Community. This is how we receive our funding for our program's.
- **MAPS** vehicles will have Census advertising on them.
- The Morris County Board of Freeholders has approved 2020 funding for nonprofit-run Safe Haven program for homeless persons with severe and persistent mental illness. The program, which is a 24-year partnership between nonprofit organizations **Homeless Solutions** and the **Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris**, was at risk of closing in June when federal pass-through funds will terminate.

✓ **Tom** asked how the Council can interface with the upcoming Census.

**Sharon** We have a Complete Count Committee next week open to the public, you can attend.

And also share your suggestions at these meetings.

The Census first 2 ways of reaching the Community is cards and internet, then paper applications, then home visits.

- ✓ The rules would require more [frequent paperwork checks of people getting Social Security disability payments](#) in a process known as a "continuing disability review."

- ✓ The [proposed new rules have alarmed some advocates for people with disabilities](#), who call it a "backdoor way" to cut people from a program already under scrutiny for taking years to review disability claims and wrongly denying benefits.

Social Security Administration officials say the plan would "enhance program integrity and ensure that only those who continue to qualify for benefits will receive them."

## **Director of Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming – Christine Hellyer**

- Aging will have 2 initiatives for the upcoming Census:
  - Staff will visit Nutrition sites with laptops to assist individuals in answering and completing their forms.
  - We will have flyers for Home Delivered Clients with information for them to call us and a care manager will make home visit, and if they are uncomfortable with internet, the care manager can use their cell phones.

**Barbara** asked if visits would be made to senior housing?

**Christine** said many **Providers** are handling that area.

**Sharon** *The goal of The County is to push out resources to the Community to reach the hard to reach people.*

**Tom** asked how to get info to Veterans?

**Christine** we will discuss this next week at the Commander's Summit Meeting.

**Tom** not laptops, I meant the information about the Census.

**Tom** can we receive the lists of organizations?

**Sharon** yes.

**Jim** Flyers should be made available for the Veteran Stakeholder's Meeting, March 20, 2020 at the Brownstone in Paterson.

**Christine Ken** will be attending this and will provide flyers.

**Pat** will e-mail flyer to Council.

- Long Term Care Ombudsman is looking for volunteers in Morris County to assist nursing home residents. They currently have 9 but need 12 for the nursing homes in Morris County.
- **MAPS** The new software **Ecolane** has been successful since the launch in Dec. 2019. Our ridership is up about 20 per day.
- Social Security has a dedicated line <https://oig.ssa.gov>, to report social security related scams.

## **Annual Office Reports**

### **2019 Highlights**

### **ADRC Budget**

The Office on Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming allocated the following funds to community agencies:

- \$960,105 Area Plan Contract
- \$1,132,546 Grant in Aid

## **Milestones:**

- The Aging and Disability Art Show with Volunteer Management Center
- The Office on Aging hosted its first Educational Sessions for Caregivers entitled " Stress-Busting for Family Caregivers"
- They also completed an on-line Public Awareness Campaign for Older American's Month that put a spotlight on volunteer opportunities for Older Adults as well as providing first-hand accounts of the benefits of volunteering from those in the Morris County community.
- Several Veteran's events were hosted including Commander's Summits, their first Munch- and- Learn and the Veterans Legal Clinic.
- Morris County Adult Protective Services worked in conjunction with the NJ Office of the Attorney General to support and participate in the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event in Trenton.

## **Nutrition Project**

The Morris County Nutrition Project provides hot nutritious meals, and offers educational, recreational and social support to seniors through three components: Congregate Meals (served in a community setting), Home Delivered Meals and Weekend Meals.

### Level of Service

With a staff of 35 full time employees and 21 part-time employees, the Nutrition Project served 358,712 meals in 2019 as follows:

87,567	Congregate Meals
250,468	Home Delivered Meals
19,683	Weekend Meals
994	Shelf Stable Meals

### Budget

The Nutrition Project receives \$3,669,430 in funding from federal, state and county government to supplement the costs of meals. Grant off set includes:

\$ 883,015	Older Americans Act Funding
\$ 279,816	Nutrition Services Incentive Program (Formerly USDA)

### Milestones

In 2019, the Nutrition Project participated in various projects and outreach efforts. They include:

- Farmers Market Vouchers-distributed \$29,975 in farmer's produce vouchers to seniors in the community
- Shelf Stable Meals were distributed in preparation for the winter months of 2019 to seniors to be utilized in the event of an emergency.
- Outreach was completed at all Nutrition Sites by the Office on Aging to make Congregate members aware of other services offered in the County.

- Interfaith Food Pantry-supplied additional food bags to approximately 35 households.

### 2020 Goals

- Farmers Market Vouchers develop initiatives to make Farmer Markets more accessible to seniors.
- Increase Interfaith Food Pantry supplemental food bags.
- Coordinate with Aging; case managers to provide information and assistance to clients at nutrition congregate sites.

### **Veterans**

The Morris County Veterans Services Office functions as a resource for understanding and navigating the Department of Veterans Affairs (the VA) system of benefits available to any discharged military servicemen or women and their families. The office also assists in enrolling veterans into the Veterans Administration Health Care System; filing service connected disability compensation claims and non-service connected pensions for veterans and surviving spouses. The office also directs veterans to the right department and/or person within the VA system, as well as to Morris County services, and non-profit veterans' assistance organizations. The Veterans Services Office also distributes over 25,000 American Flags annually to veteran's organizations to decorate veterans' graves within Morris County.

### Level of Service

The Veterans Services Office is staffed by one (1) Veterans Service Officer (VSO), trained and accredited by the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers and the VA. This accreditation allows the veteran service officer to represent veterans and surviving spouses in any matter involving VA benefits, upon the veteran's and surviving spouse's request. The VSO assists veterans who are homeless or about to be homeless in contacting organizations that will provide shelter or housing for veterans and their families. The VSO also assists veterans in enrolling in the VA Health Care System, as well as assisting in finding employment opportunities, discharge upgrades, correction of military records, retrieval of military records and obtaining military medals, citations, and ribbons, which veterans are entitled to but did not receive.

A Veterans Services Clerk (VSC) also staffs the Veterans Services Office. The VSC supports the VSO with the day- to- day operations of the Veterans Services Office:

- Call and message taking while the VSO is working with a veteran
- Assisting with correspondence, distribution of American flags for veterans graves
- Enter monthly data entry of newly deceased Morris County veterans' grave locations
- Enter data into the Veterans Database for new and on-going cases
- Assist and transport of veterans up to and back down from the VA outpatient clinic.

A Veterans Services Ambassador (VSA) also staffs the Veterans Services Office.

- The VSA's duties are to greet each veteran as they arrive inside the Veterans Services entrance, ensure those veterans that are going to the VA outpatient clinic sign and take a VA badge, and ascertain if the veteran will need wheelchair transport up to and back down from the clinic. If so, the VSA then transports the veteran to the VA outpatient clinic reception area.
- Upon completion of the veteran's clinic visit, the VSA transports the veteran back down to the lobby, and assists them to their vehicle if necessary.
- The VSA also takes phone messages if the VSO and the VSC are not available.

#### Milestones-

In 2019, the Morris County Veterans Services Office began a new program to enhance communication with Morris County Veterans organizations. The program is called Commanders Summits. The Commander Summits are periodic meetings in which the leadership of Morris County Veterans Posts meet at our facility. At each Commander Summit, a representative of a veterans service organization, usually a non-profit, give a brief presentation to the group, and after any new business is addressed, the floor is opened to the Post Commanders and personnel to discuss any issues or concerns their membership have.

Another new program is the "Munch and Learns". These are informational events in which representatives of various veterans groups give an in depth presentation about what services their organization can provide for veterans. These organizations have included and will include VA Healthcare, VA Vet Center (counseling for combat veterans with PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma victims, and their families), New Jersey Department of Labor Morris One Stop, Community Hope, Catholic Charities, and many others.

True North, an Atlantic Healthcare sponsored program, is currently utilizing the Veterans Services conference room to assist veterans with mental health issues who cannot get help from the VA. Representatives of True North are present one day a week to take walk-ins, and set up counseling sessions at their facilities.

The Veterans Services entry area has a coffee mess, where veterans can enjoy coffee or tea, can sit and relax if they so desire and speak with other veterans.

The Veterans Services Office holds semi-annual medal ceremonies to present the Morris County Freeholders Distinguished Military Service Medal to honorably discharged military veterans who are current or former Morris County residents.

The Veterans Services Office conducts home visits for disabled and/or elderly veterans who are homebound and in need of assistance with VA claims, etc.

In 2019, personnel of the Morris County Veterans Services Office have participated in several events for veterans throughout Morris County:

- Washington Township Memorial Day Ceremony
- Veterans Summer Fest in Mt. Olive
- Morris Hills High School Veterans Recognition event
- Zufall "Smiles for Heroes" event
- Rockaway Senior Day

- United States Marine Corps Veterans Resources Event
- Veterans Services are also working with many non-profit veterans organizations networking to get veterans the help that they need when they need it.

**Tom Mastrangelo** thanked volunteers for their support of this Council.

**Tom Mazzaccaro** asked him to help us get members for this Council.

### **Community Relations – Jean Perlman**

The Community Relations Committee met on Thursday, December 12, 2019 to discuss ACADV issues/concerns which should be shared with the public.

- The 2020 Census is expected to announce new population counts by December 31, 2020.
- The **2020** population will shape how political power ( number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives) and federal dollars are shared in the U.S. over the next ten years
- The 2020 count will be the first one to allow U.S. households to respond online.
- Paper forms will still be available, and for the first time, you can call 1-800 numbers to give responses over the phone.
- Census worker will make home visits in rural areas
- Households in the U.S. that don't respond themselves by early April may start receiving visits from door knockers trained to conduct census interviews and collect responses using smart phones.
- Every person living in the U.S. is included in the census count.
- Attached are similar questions that the 2020 Census will ask.

#### **The following questions will be asked:**

- ❖ The number of people living or staying in a home April 1, 2020.
- ❖ Whether the home is owned with or without a mortgage, rented or occupied without rent.
- ❖ A phone number for a person in a home.
- ❖ The name, sex, age, date of birth and race of each person in the home.
- ❖ Whether each person is of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin
- ❖ The relationship of each person to a central person in the home.

#### **HSAC- Tom Mazzaccaro**

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promotional materials. Ms. Yoo will distribute information on how to sign up to borrow the computers, obtain snacks and refreshments at a later date.

- Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) funding was approved. JDAI is an alternative to juvenile detention and allows the monitoring of juvenile via a phone application. This will enable the youth to continue to participate in sports and other activities without being stigmatized. The County hopes to kick this program off in March.
  - The New Jersey Department of Human Services is giving \$7.8 million to county jails to provide opioid treatment. They are also providing free Naloxone (Narcan), a medication used to block the effects of opioids, to police and libraries.
- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. On April 24, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families will host a Provider Information Session/breakfast from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 201 Littleton Rd., Morris Plains.

### **Planning/Program Review-Loretta White**

The subcommittee met on December 12, 2019 and discussed the completed 2020 Survey of Priority Needs. The committee approved it, and, as a result, copies will be made and distributed to the providers, care managers and nutrition sites, to be distributed to the consumers for their input.

***Motion:Tom Mazzaccar/Barbara Anderson***

### ***New Business:***

Tom Pappas resigned from Council due to health reasons.

Jim added March 20, 2020 9a-12p Veterans Stakeholders Meeting at the Brownstone, Paterson, NJ

Shawna added **September 2, 2020** marks **September 2, 2020** marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the End of World War II; a war that took the lives of over 405,000 U.S. military personnel. Our Memorial Day event in May will honor any WWII vets at our medal ceremony with that have not received a County medal. Please let Ken know. Tom asked if they have to be in attendance? Also, can the VFW or American Legion present them for the County.

Christine said that is a great suggestion.

Christine deceased veteran family members can accept the medal for them.

Shawna we would like them to be in attendance.

Tom asked if they can visit their homes?

Shawna give their info to Ken.

Tom asked if all war veterans can receive medals?

Christine Yes. We have two medal ceremonies one in May and one in November.



Jean asked how homeless will be accounted for in the Census?

Sharon they will reach out to homeless shelters.

Carolyn (IFP) added that they are being asked if they know where to locate the homeless. The Census data also assists my agency and other Providers with where in Morris County we can offer our services to the community.

**Tom** asked if there is any update on the citizenship question on the Census application?

**Shawwna** they are not including that on the application.

**Carolyn Lake**, Executive Director of Interfaith Food Pantry, thanked the Council for allowing her to attend the meeting.

I wanted to share this letter we received from a Morris County resident. She read article in neighborhood paper, before Thanksgiving. My rent has increased, doctor bills, prescriptions, and my social security goes up very little. I could use some help. She had no phone, so our home coordinator packed bags of food and went to her home. She also received a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal that she was very grateful for, and she is now a regular client of ours.

**Barbara** said she recently moved to public housing and said the residents know nothing about our Nutrition project congregate sites and home delivered meals. The County has to promote what they provide to the Community.

**Christine** said this was brought to my attention by Pat that the delivery of the menus had stopped. But we will start mailing them out again.

**Navigating Hope** is visiting senior housing and we will have an Aging are manager on board.

**Adjournment: 1:50 pm**

**Motion: Tom Mazzaccaro/Barbara Anderson**

