

**MORRIS COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING, DISABILITIES &
VETERANS
Morris Township
virtual
February 4, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rebecca Abenante
Barbara Anderson
Emerson Crooks
Kyra Faison-Gardner
Tom Mazzaccaro
Loretta White
Fawn Zwickel

STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Bailey
Kasey Errico
Christine Hellyer
Pat Petrillo
Maria Rosario
Jen Van Natta
Michael Williams
Rhea Young

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm by *Tom Mazzaccaro*, the 2021 Chairman of the Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Christine announced that the meeting is being recorded.

The staff introduced themselves, followed by *Christine* introducing the *Council* members.

Also, *Jim Cavanaugh* resigned from the Council.

The *November 5, 2020* minutes were accepted and approved.

Tom requested that the members take the time to read the minutes, they are a summation of the Staff and Council members activities.

Motion: B.A./E.C.

Chairperson's Report-Tom Mazzaccaro

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

(this form is in the Orientation package and was sent electronically).

Each member must fill out a Biographical form. (annually)

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

Motion: All members agreed unanimously.

Tom suggested all the information in the Orientation packet is important reading for members.

Maria requested the responsibility form and biographical form be signed and returned to her.

ACADV folder on the left includes the Orientation information for the members.

ACADV folder on the right side includes a list of the Aging Department Annual reports for ADRC (Aging, Disability, Resource Connection), Nutrition, and Veterans.

Advisory Council meeting dates, sub-committee meeting dates and a list of sub-committee members, minutes from November 5, 2020 and the Council list of members phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

A hard copy of the above was mailed out on February 17, 2021.

Rebecca requested meeting dates be given to the members

Tom replied they are in the packet.

Staff Reports-

Director of Human Services-Katharine Errico

Please call me *Kasey*, I am here for about three months, and I'm excited to be here for the *ACADV* orientation meeting. I previously was the Director of the *Behavioral Health and Youth Services* twenty years ago.

Director of Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming

Christine Hellyer

Christine thanked *Tom* for encouraging fellow *Council* members to review the packet.

Our offices were closed *Monday* and *Tuesday* due the storm

Nutrition –

- We make provisions Emergency Preparedness providing shelf stable meals to our clients in the event of a storm
- We make weekly wellness calls to our clients, and also make sure they still have shelf stable meals.
- The home delivered receive a total of five meals, and on Friday one *COVID* meal. This is because seniors don't want to go out, grocery shop less often, order take-out, family members visiting less often, so we provide that extra meal. The *CARES* funding allows us to do so until March/April.
- *Congregate* sites are still closed, realistically looking at mid spring. The clients that were *Congregate* are now pick up meals or home delivered.
- New Jersey dining capacity is at 35%.

MAPS

- For our new members our *PARATRANSIT* provides transportation for seniors, disabled, and residents of rural areas throughout Morris County. It is a curb-to-curb service and trips are served ahead of time. We will accept same-day requests when we can, especially *COVID* vaccine appointments. We realize appointments for this are made at 7pm the night before for next morning appointment.

- Our vehicles are operating at 50% capacity. We do not deny trips, maybe changing times.
- Employment Horizons Shelter Workshop is a morning/afternoon run is our big trip generator and they are at 50% capacity also.
- Our grocery shopping trips are very successful.
- We are prioritizing COVID vaccine trips for the aged, disabled and rural residents, and we are also referring clients to Atlantic Private Care (a Transportation Aging provider) they provide home health aide to assist during transport.
- The AGING department funds the transportation provider, Atlantic Private Care, and we have teamed up with them to provide transportation when we aren't able to. They offer evening and week-end service.

VETERANS

Michael Veteran Service Officer added that Morris County veterans can receive the COVID vaccine at:

- Morris County VA Clinic
- East Orange
- Lyons

The only requirement is they must be registered in the VA Healthcare System.

The **Aging** department after our last meeting in November provided our Providers and their participants the following with CARES funding 400 KITS:

Providers kits:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 100 surgical masks | 10-4oz hand sanitizer bottles |
| 2-32oz hand sanitizer bottles | Alcohol wipes 100 |
| | 1 Disinfectant Spray |
| Infrared Thermometer | 1 Windex all purpose spray |

Participant Kits

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 10 surgical masks | 3-4oz hand sanitizer bottles |
| Alcohol wipes 100 wipes | Seven day pill box |
| Coloring book, colored pencils | |
| Reusable bag | |

Our office is still closed to the public. All our services are virtual or over the phone. All our services are virtual or over the phone, Face to face service is available if needed with the PPE we have available, particularly APS (Adult Protective Services).

Tom asked what the County is doing about the COVID vaccine appointment dilemma for the most vulnerable population to assist them with reservation/appointment? Christine said last week she learned that 100,000 shots were available for the whole State of New Jersey. Our office doesn't have accessibility for appointments, and

because of that it has been a difficult process. She also stated the seniors are being told the vaccine will become more readily available when more are medically approved and will have more accessibility.

Christine asked Rebecca to update us on this:

Rebecca hears our frustration we are feeling, added that last spring accessing appointments for the COVID test was also challenging.

Atlantic Health System mega-site at the Rockaway mall, once you receive an appointment, its painless. If you are a patient/physician is of AHS (Atlantic Health System) you have access to MyChart (electronic medical record), where you can register to be notified of available appointments.

Some members mentioned how persons under 65 years of age that they know of have received appointments before the most vulnerable population.

Rebecca replied that the eligibility requirements have opened up for people under 65, with chronic health issues, and it is self-identifying.

The State web-site will provide a number soon with live human beings to assist with appointments.

Morris County has many health care workers, nursing facilities, hospitals compared to other Counties in NJ. And so, it is all about the vaccine supply, when they are received, appointments will be released.

Kasey added we are supposed to have revamped distribution of COVID vaccines soon for Morris County statistically in getting vaccine administered.

Tom added the other hope we have is that the seriousness of COVID will become like a normal influenza.

Rhea added that she has learned on her visits to Madison and Morristown senior housing units, that the residents will have vaccines administered there.

The number for the State hotline is: 855-568-0545.

Tom suggested sending the Council members information discussed here today, so they can share it within the Community. (it will be attached with the minutes)

Emerson added there is a waiting list for persons that don't show up for their vaccines, but you have to be there early.

Fawn added her frustration has reached an all-time high, because of the fact that she is one of many with an underlying condition, and can't receive the vaccine.

Tom asked Christine if the Council members would want to meet in person with the Aging staff, would it be possible?

Christine replied our Office is closed to the public and we encourage virtual meetings or phone calls. But if there is an extenuating circumstance, I will take that into consideration.

Announcements-

Rebecca noted that beginning February 12, 2021, Atlantic Health System will be Opening a "caregiver Training Lab", at their Geriatric Assessment center, to assist Caregivers enhance their skills for caring for their loved ones, appointments are available: 973-971-5839. Flyers attached

- The Healthy Aging program
- Caregiver Consults
- Geriatric Assessment Center
- Gerry's Apartment

Christine asked the Council members to e-mail Pat/Maria anything they would like to share at the next meeting, and they will include it in the meeting packet.

Rebecca appreciated Tom's idea to help spread the information throughout the Community.

Barbara suggested supplying flyers to Senior Housing units and Public Health nurses' offices.

Tom asked if Christine is looking for someone to fill Jim Cavanaugh's position on the Council?

Christine answered she has a couple of people that had applied, but she is always open to recruiting new members.

Tom added on a personal note he is very proud of Christine and her staff, and that is the reason he serves on the Council. Emerson agreed.

Meeting adjournment 1:12pm

Motion: E.C./B.A.

Next meeting April 1, 2021

FYI

To anyone who may need this

The US Postal Service is now hiring Veterans and family members

<https://www.redlakenationnews.com/story/2021/03/18/jobs/the-us-postal-service-is-hiring-veterans/96647.html>