The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm by Tom Mazzaccaro, the 2021 Chairman of the Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The April 9, 2021 minutes were accepted and approved with the request to correct the date. **Motion: L.W./R. A.**

**Tom Mazzaccaro**
Tom welcomed new members Christina Brino and Debra Eckert-Casha, and they introduced themselves, with their background.
He also reminded members of the link for “This Week in Morris County”, is a Morris County publication, and encouraged them to sign up for it. The Aging Department staff uses this publication to distribute pertinent information. He also requested the link to be e-mailed again to Council members.
https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/a077p7C/signup

Tom also requested the staff to resend the May 4, 2021 2022-2024 Public Hearing booklet to Council members. It contained the ACADV mission statement and an inclusive description of what we do as a Department and as an Advisory Council. He said we should be very proud of it.
Chairperson’s Report-Tom Mazzacarro

The Division on Aging Disabilities & Community Programming staff will be conducting the 2021 virtual monitoring visits. It is mandatory that each Advisory Council member participate in at least one virtual monitoring visit.

Please sign up for at least one visit.

Tom asked Christine to explain the monitoring procedure to the members.

Christine added that this year the Monitoring is being scheduled later than usual, early fall, dates will follow. We meet with our Providers, that we provide funding to, and review their program aspects. This allows us see what’s going well and if any adjustments need to made to any services. The staff also reviews the submissions of their claims.

The monitoring visits are helpful for Council members for when you are asked to make recommendations for funding streams.

Tom asked if there is a possibility we would be able to these in person? Christine replied no, because this year is a full funding year for APC (Area Plan Contract) and GIA (Grant-in-Aid) and my staff’s time is limited.

And we learned last year at the virtual monitoring we accomplished more and was very successful.

Maybe next year we can do a mixed method of scheduling.

On May 4, 2021 the Aging Department held the annual Public Hearing for 2022 funding. The purpose of the meeting is to let us learn what the population needs and priorities in our services are, and what areas are being served well for the input for our 2022 funding.

And if there are any areas in our continuum that we need growth in because of the pandemic; or are there any gaps in services. Also included was the “Mission Statement”.

Staff Reports
Director of Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming
Christine Hellyer

I want to thank Tom for joining me at the earlier in May, for the proclamation plaque honoring Older American’s Month, that was presented to us.

He also had many nice things to say about the programs and our staff that provide the services.

Shawnna also headed a Facebook campaign honoring our Providers, highlighting their agency.

On April 12, 2021, from 10am to 1pm, the County and Aging Department held drive-thru event at the Morris County Library, COVID-19 Wellness Event. The weather was rainy and we only had 65 participants.

It was a with a wellness kit, it was for adults 60 years of age plus adults with disabilities. It also contained informational pamphlets (from St. Clare’s, Morris County Sheriff’s Office) on keeping yourself healthy and vaccination information.

It is for seniors 60 years of age plus adults with disabilities. The weather was rainy and we only had 65 participants.
• Touchless tool kit
• Hand sanitizer
• Reusable mask, and a lanyard
• Hands-free door opener
• Jar opener (from St. Clare’s)

Between Providers, Senior Housing, and Nutrition Department, Home Delivered Meals we distributed a total of 2500 kits.

This week myself and my staff put together a mini program, “Social Isolation Program” internally for 60 + clients only, funded by our Older American’s monies. We allowed our Providers, contracted by us, to identify seniors who may benefit from items to combat isolation. We purchased and provided items up to $40.00 per person such as: CD player, paint by numbers kits, decks of cards, books, novels.

We are very proud that we received 32 responses and we fulfilled 29 requests.

We also had a campaign for “Public Awareness” campaign, that was successful. In May, we celebrate “Older Americans Month”. This year’ theme is “Communities of Strength”. We sent seniors/disabled a letter reminding them that we still exist, making connections with one another. It included a prepaid postcard for them to connect with others.

The 2022 funding applications are now out. There are three applications this year, made available May 28th, on two separate websites.

• The first is the Grant-in-Aid funding application, is due back by June 25th, to the Department of Human Services. This is a paper application available on Human Services web-site, to be downloaded and typed in.

• Area Plan Contract application is due back to the Purchasing Agent by June 29th. This is an RFP (Request for Proposal), Competitive Contract through our Purchasing Agent, and is only available directly downloaded on Bid-Net Direct.

  This is a separate paper with questions answered.

• The Title IIIID Evidence-Based Programming this year is a separate application through our Purchasing Department, also, on Bid-Net Direct and is due on June 29th.

We will be holding the annual 2022 Funding review and scoring of applications, will be held on August 10 and 11. This meeting is when the Advisory Council members review and score application requests for funding of programs the Providers provide. We hope to have these in person. I don’t have an okay from the County as of yet. Please let Maria Rosario know if you can attend.

We will scan the full applications to the Council members, for review. We will also provide hard copies upon request.

We will also include summary sheets for each application, which is a snapshot of the application: Provider, what they provide, and if they provided the services before, and what they will provide with this contract in the coming year.

Rebecca added there is a lot to be learned about each Provider and what services they provide.

MAPS Paratransit is still operating at 75% capacity. We are looking forward to increasing to 100% capacity by late summer, early fall.
Veteran’s Service Office has recently undergone a re-mapping to make it more social service oriented, and the Commissioners approved two new Veteran’s Service Officers, one having a clinician background and one is a veteran. We feel they will complement each other and their start dates are June 21 and July 19, 2021. They will be attending the next Advisory Council meeting on September 3, 2021. Tom asked if they will receive bios on them? Christine: yes.

Nutrition Department will continue to provide the additional meal weekly to the Home-Delivered clients through additional funding our Department received. The Congregate sites still remain closed, we are currently discussing opening options. I also received information from Public Media, that 80% of residents in Morris County 65 and older have been vaccinated, and 70% of adults also.

Staff Reports
ADRC-Maria Rosario
Information & Assistance and Case Management phone calls for April and May 2021 totaled 569 calls. Monthly calls listed below:

- April: 311
- May: 258

Tom asked Maria for clarification on what the ADRC (Aging, Disability Resource Connection) does? And are the calls categorized, and what type of calls are received? Shawnna replied it is disability and aging. She also explained that the ADRC is the main number at our Department, and it is one stop shop. We receive call from consumers, hospitals, physicians’ offices. We provide information and assistance to consumers for themselves and/or loved ones. If the call is more complex, we then provide a Care Management referral, that will be assigned to a screener. The results from that screen will trigger that the client needs case management in certain areas. The calls are by topic category: care management, Medicaid, transportation, home health services, and then we connect them to services. And age and disability are identified, is also collected with that phone call. We don’t include that in this report, but we do have that availability. The report could confuse because sometimes one client could have several topics discussed with one phone call. Tom feels the topics would be more helpful than just the amount of calls. Barbara agreed with Tom.

Christine said we will take that into consideration. Christina asked Maria if the calls include disability, veterans and aging calls. Shawnna replied they are a combination of disability and aging calls. We don’t have veteran’s report this month.
Nutrition - Rhea Young

The Nutrition Project provided the following number of meals:

**APRIL:**
- Congregate Meals
- Home Delivered Meals 30,967
- Weekend Meals 1,568
- **Total** 32,325

**MAY:**
- Congregate Meals
- Home Delivered Meals 29,982
- Weekend Meals 2,052
- **Total** 32,034

**HIGHLIGHTS**
- **4/20/21** - Partnered with non-profit called POWER to offer one-time food boxed delivery to our most vulnerable seniors, and they are week-end Home Delivered Meals recipients.
- **5/10/21** - Distributed COVID Wellness kits to all consumers
- **5/24/21** - Distributed Memorial Day themed crossword puzzle
- **5/24/21** - Distributed Reopening Survey to gauge responses on congregate dining
- **5/24/21** - To Celebrate Older Americans Month, seniors received 1300 greeting cards from a non-profit called “Bring Smiles to Seniors”.

Also, each year we are involved in the “Seniors’ Farmer’s Market Voucher Program”, where the client receives a voucher for $30, to be used at approved famers market. This service historically provides 1200 vouchers.

This year we will be piloting a new program, offering produce pre-filled bags partnering with “Ort Farms”. They will also receive $30 voucher for their purchase, as of today, we have confirmed 139 bags in July and 138 bags in August to be delivered for residents of six senior housing buildings. We feel this is an effective way to bring the farm to those not able to get out.

*Debra* asked “are the housing units you selected are they throughout the County or is it in one locale”?

*Rhea* replied that the senior buildings chosen were several of the largest senior housing facilities in **Morris County: Pleasant View in Randolph, Butler Senior Housing, Morris Mews, Mount Olive Manor and Jefferson and India Brook**.

*Barbara* asked how recipients chosen?

*Rhea* : Eligibility: 60 years of age; with an income of $1,968 gross monthly income for single and $2,658 gross monthly income for a couple.

*Emerson* asked how do they know about this program?

*Christine* replied we have 2 programs this year. The voucher program, that we have had for years, *provides vouchers $20-$30 to 1200 senior clients*. In previous years we realized vouchers weren’t being redeemed, due to the inability of seniors are unable to physically visit the farms. We teamed with the fifteen senior housing units to assist in getting the word out and distributing them.
The pilot program provides 140 pre-filled bags, so the homebound can redeem their vouchers.
Christine: asked if the pre-filled bag vouchers are still available?
Christine: No, that is now closed. If this proves to be successful, there are ways to grow these events.
Rebecca asked if they are also eligible for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits?
Christine: Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS
The Committee Reports include topics discussed for each Committee at the Coordinators meeting. The staff then prepares a report to be read at the Advisory Council meeting by individuals that are assigned to each Committee.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS-Fawn Zwickel
It appears more people are being vaccinated, but some are still reluctant to remove masks. Paranoia and fear are still residual in the Community.
I think it’s best to spread the word vaccinations are a good thing.

The Committee met on May 6, 2021 and discussed the following:
COVID-19 pandemic updates from Gov. Phil Murphy April 28, 2021
As of Wednesday morning, 6,834,212 total doses have been administered statewide and 2,915,754 New Jersey residents were fully vaccinated – 62% to the state’s goal of 4.7 million fully vaccinated individuals by June 30.
Vaccine update in nursing homes
CVS and Walgreens recently completed their last rounds of vaccination clinics in 1,193 long-term care facilities:
145,775 doses administered to residents
127,643 doses administered to staff

The Governor set May 10 as the date when the capacity for outdoor gatherings climbs to 500.
The governor also increased capacity limits for large outdoor sports and entertainment venues to 50% and altered the definition of “large” from 2,500 fixed seats to 1,000 starting May 10.
The maximum capacity at catered indoor events such as proms and weddings will increase to 50% with as many as 250 people allowed.
American Sign Language Interpreters available at COVID 19 Vaccine Mega-sites
• (TRENTON) – The Murphy Administration today announced that deaf and hard of hearing individuals are able to ask for an American Sign Language interpreter when receiving a COVID-19 vaccine at the state’s six vaccine mega-sites to assist with communication access during the vaccination process.
Alert: Postcard Disguised as Official OCR Communication
• OCR has been made aware of postcards being sent to health care organizations informing the recipients that they are required to participate in a “Required Security Risk Assessment” and they are directed to send their risk assessment to
Christine explained to the new members that the Committee reports are generated from the Sub-Coordinator’s meeting.

Kyra added she didn’t realize at the last Advisory Council meeting that she was going to be asked to read a Committee report, and she panicked. She advised Fawn that in the packet sent to the members there are attachments with reports assigned to Council members, that they are requested to read at this meeting.

Fawn said she received that.

Tom asked if Fawn would be appropriate to speak to a staff member prior to the meeting to see what’s going on and what is relevant to the meeting?

Christine: That is what the sub-committee meeting is for, to bring the sub-committee highlights to the whole Council at this meeting.

Tom: how are the disabled population receiving their vaccine?

Christine: there are several groups working on that.

They have not posted demographics for disabled recipients.

We feel homebound is homebound, 18 or older, disabled or not we will provide the service.

We have vaccinated 130 clients with our Homebound vaccination program.

Kasey added Atlantic Health has a three-part series to address the process of understanding what we all have been through during the pandemic.

After the meeting it was forwarded to the Council Members. It will also be attached to the minutes.

**LEGISLATIVE REVIEW-Rebecca Abenante**

The following bills were discussed at the Coordinator’s meeting May 6, 2021, and the Advisory Council is asked to endorse.

**Legislative Review**

- **Senate Bill No. 1049.** Establishes standard medical expense deduction under SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) for certain senior citizens.
- **Senate Bill No. 2232.** Establishes “Senior Citizen Home Repair and Modification Program”; appropriates $10 million.

**Motion: NOT SUPPORTED BY COMMITTEE as is; but if changes are made we will revisit. It also has only one sponsor.**

Emerson commented that seniors want to stay in their homes, but cannot afford the minor repairs to keep it habitable; but this Bill needs more explanations.

Tom added that we previously supported a bill similar to this, assistance with ramps, safety rails in bathrooms, etc.

Rebecca added there are many administrative challenges.

Barbara also agreed.

Rebecca asked if we can request modifications or changes?

Shawnna replied that our Department only sends letters out if the Council endorses/supports the Bills presented to them. But if the members of the Council would like to draft a letter to the Sponsor of the Bill, with your recommendations; we could circulate it among the ACADV members and then have it sent out to the legislators from the ACADV Council directly.
Emerson also said that he met with Senator Rice about S-2232 he sponsored. His response to my concern the 4-family housing being an investment. I told him I felt that shouldn’t fit with this bill, and taxpayers should not have to support this bill. His response was his constituency that have single units to 4-family housing units not collecting rents due to COVID 19. I pointed out that is not a permanent condition. And based on that left I said if he doesn’t amend it, I will not support that bill.

Tom did we support that?
Tom he is not willing to amend it?
Emerson no.

Senate Bill No. 3296. Establishing veterans’ affordable housing preference; authorizing bonus fair share credit for veterans’ affordable housing.

Planning Program Review- Kyra Faison-Gardner
The subcommittee met on May 6, 2021 and discussed briefly the 2021 needs assessments survey, hard copies and online. Also, a Modification Request from DAWN Center for Independent Living was presented, and approved by the committee.

Announcements
Fawn added she recently met with Senator Bucco, to bring bill S-2821 to the Committee, requires Adjutant General of DMV (Division of Military and Veterans Affairs) create a program for veterans to receive evaluation and treatment for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), total brain injury, or traumatic brain injury.

Emerson added the VA Hospital has fully opened. Lyons and Morris County medical clinics have appointments available.

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Tom did we support that?
Rebecca no we wanted more information. We also felt there were
Tom he is not willing to amend it?
Emerson no.

Rebecca advised members caregiver training is still available on the web, Atlantic Health System, “Gerry’s Apartment”.

Christine added having reserved the large conference room here in our building, and is trying to get the County’s permission to hold the future Advisory Council meetings. Emerson said for future Advisory Council meetings, hybrid would be a good choice. Christine added that is her plan.
Rebecca added that Karl Klingener has been incredibly helpful to one of our patients when he was making appointments for in-home visit vaccinations.

Christina asked about joining sub-committees.  
Christine: Maria will reach out to you and Debra for a virtual orientation next week.  
(It was held on June, 10, 2021.)

Christine also next week sometime you will receive an e-mail in regards to a Provider modification. We didn’t have time to prepare.

Christina added she previously lived in Passaic County and the services were horrible, and she is very happy to be in Morris County.

Debra thanked everyone, saying she has learned so much today from the meeting today.  
She also suggested that County College has a television program and maybe a program can be dedicated to the “Aged and Disabled”. Seniors watch a lot of television.  
Barbara agreed that is a good idea.

Shawnna added the State level has a “Caregiver Task Force” survey. If you want more information Pat or Maria will forward it upon request.

Meeting adjournment 2:48pm  
Motion: E.C./B.A.  
Next meeting September 3, 2021