

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

April 2, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

Barbara Anderson
James Cavanaugh
Joseph Leal
Thomas Mazzaccaro
Anthony Romano
Loretta White

STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Bailey
Christine Hellyer
Pat Petrillo
Maria Rosario

Call to Order

The meeting was held via conference call.

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 P.M. by Loretta White.

Anthony Romano led the Council with the pledge of allegiance.

Christine called for a moment of silence for two of our Council members that recently passed: William Solomon and Jean Perlman.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and passed to accept and approve the minutes of February 13, 2020

Motion: Tom Mazzaccaro/Joseph Leal

Director of Aging, Disabilities, and Community

Programming – Christine Hellyer

- The Older American's Act 2020 through 2024 was re-authorized.
This is positive it insures the funding for the programs we provide such as caregiver, care management,
The Older Americans Act (OAA) connects older adults and their caregivers to services that help older adults age with health, dignity and independence in their homes and communities—where they want to be! In 2020, Congress must reauthorize this vital federal program that serves every community in the country.

- The Public Hearing scheduled for this month, has been postponed due to the COVID19 crisis. The date to be determined.
- The sub-committee meeting low attendance, moving forward we suggest combining the three Community Relations, Legislative, and Planning/Program Review into one.

The conflict of interest will still be in effect with the Planning program Review meeting.

Tom suggested to try it out, and see how it works on a temporary basis.

Motion: Tom Mazzaccaro/Barbara Anderson

- **The Office on Aging** consists of: **Aging, MAPS, Veterans and Nutrition**. Although our building is closed to the public, no walk-ins for Aging or Veterans. we are still providing services, but the office is staffed minimally, and others working remotely from home.

AGING

- Care managers, Disability Coordinator and Caregiver Coordinator reach out to their clients that are the most needy, every three days with a wellness call. We are still accepting care management referrals through our ADRC line.

NUTRITION

- The Nutrition department is still delivering meals. We deliver three frozen meals on Monday and three on Thursday. And participants additionally received 2 shelf stable meals. This allows the client to still receive meals for each day and minimizing the health risk of the staff members. We are not entering the homes of disabled individuals at this time but we are making one bulk drop-off of frozen and shelf stable meals every two weeks.
 - Congregate sites are **all closed** at this time, except for those that are also residential senior buildings. They have become **grab and go** (pick up meal and return to their apartment) for clients.
 - We have shelf stable meals for emergency senior clients for those that can't go to the grocery store and need food for a stock gap.
 - We have received many additional requests to receive home delivered meals. It takes at least 7 to 10 days to get on the roster, because of delivery schedule, but the staff knows to ask if it's an emergency situation.

VETERANS

- *Ken and Bertha* are working remotely still processing claims for veterans, returning calls for services. They do go to office on an alternating basis. **Tom** asked if the Veteran clinic is closed, what is Ken is doing at this time handling calls for clinic clients?

Christine reported that there is a very clear distinction between the responsibilities of Ken, clinic and the VA medical does. Ken assist veterans enrolling into the programs, his largest job responsibilities is to process VA claims for financial and medical benefits for veterans. He is very busy even

though the clinic is closed. He and Bertha receive calls for mental health, care management and long term care facility services, and they bridge those gaps with resources. Although Carol McNeil did escort veterans to and from the clinic, this had little to do with the duties of our Veteran Service Office.

MAPS staff are doing life sustaining and essential employment trips: Chemotherapy, dialysis, wound care, radiation. Due to the State executive order we have to ask our riders if they have another means of transportation. This is because of many family members are home now. This keeps our driver's safe and healthy.

- One common call we are receiving now is **volunteer grocery shopping** for clients that can't get out to stores at this time, this is not readily available at this time. I know it is a need in the community. I put this out to our Providers yesterday at their meeting. Local municipalities, churches and our Interfaith Food Pantry are the options. Every senior in need of a meal will receive it at this time.

Tom questioned if the budget will have to be reviewed as a result of COVID 19 because of the Nutrition Department providing additional meals and services during this time.

Christine replied At the Federal level there is additional funding for Areas on Aging throughout the State, including Nutrition. And there is no issue with the Nutrition department's additional meal delivery.

Providers Christine Hellyer

Cornerstone Adult Day Care sites are buildings are closed but are remotely connecting to their clients. They are also providing daily meals when needed. Caregivers are also getting emotional support from the staff.

Child and Family Resources although the program we fund is closed (single parent child-care) they are providing day care for any essential employees.

Dawncil working remotely with their services. And, they have partnered with our office to call Register Ready clients phone wellness checks.

Interfaith Food Pantry business as usual. The only change is self-shopping is not available. Their staff will do the shopping and meet the client in the parking lot to pick up their groceries, grab and go. Also delivering fresh- bagged groceries to some of our homebound clients.

Employment Horizons is closed. Remotely outreach to individuals, wellness checks.

Also their website has a complete list of their current services.

United Way NNJ is closed, remotely reaching contacts and outreach clients.

Jewish Family Services their primary services are phone contact only, support groups cancelled, but video conferences will be available.

Visiting Nurse Association still providing their services in the Community (home health aides if available) and telehealth services.

Morris County Office on Hispanic Affairs limited transportation available.

New Bridge care management and telehealth for mental health patients via phone.

Mental Health Association *mental health counseling remotely.*

NORWESCAP **All social programs cancelled.** Friendly visitor phone calls and Telephone reassurance and Money management program are remotely working.

Zufall remotely providing services.

Project Lifesaver is fully functional, essential service supplying transmitters for clients that wander. They are currently looking to support caregivers at this time because they are home at this time, if they have a wander at home.

Hope House not operating project fix it.

Planning /Program Review Shawna Bailey

The subcommittee met on March 5, 2020 and discussed about “The 2020 Needs Assessment Survey” for the funding priorities. Three thousand copies were distributed to providers, care managers and nutrition sites. The Public Hearing was scheduled for April 17 it was cancelled due to COVID19 crisis.

New Business

We received additional funding, monies leftover from previous year, from the State to give to our Providers, we have four modification requests that we will review and you will be asked to vote on at this time.

Adjournment 1:03pm

Motion: Joe Leal/Tom Mazzacarro

Our next meeting is June 4, 2020. If we are unable to meet in person we will let you know.

