

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 900
Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0900

Board of County Commissioners

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HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 25, 2022

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Ms. Rebecca Sherrod called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Representative
Jeffrey Bashe, Citizen Representative
Joann Bjornson, Family Promise of Morris County
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
David Johnson, Deirdre O'Brien Child Advocacy Center
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, North Jersey Health Collaborative
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative – Vice Chair
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey
David Saltzman, Esq., Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources – Chair
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

Board Liaisons:

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board
Kevin Belli, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Lenora Humphrey, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Sean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Christine Rivera, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Nelson Troche, New Jersey Department of Human Services

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Morris County Department of Human Services
Shelia Carter, Morris County Department of Human Services
Kasey Errico, Morris County Director of Human Services
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Department of Human Services

II. Nominating Committee – Ms. Jane Shivas

Ms. Shivas stated that the slate of nominees presented at our November meeting was Ms. Rebecca Sherrod for Chair and Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk for Vice-Chair. No other nominees were presented to the committee. Ms. Bjornson made a motion to accept Ms. Sherrod as Chair and Mr. Pawelczyk as Vice-Chair. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

III. Chair/Vice-Chair Report

Ms. Sherrod stated that we do not have updates on the Needs Assessment or the Homeless Trust Fund.

IV. Approval of the November 23, 2021, Minutes

Motion to approve November 23, 2021, meeting minutes as submitted was made by Ms. Shivas and seconded by Mr. Pawelczyk. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions. Motion carried.

V. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Nelson Troche

Mr. Troche reported that the State is on Phase II of its return to work plan. Due to a surge in COVID cases, state workers were working from home and returning to the office tomorrow.

Due to the COVID surge, the state is expediting approvals for emergency hires.

NJ Family Care will cover up to eight COVID tests over the counter at participating pharmacies.

Ms. Sarah Adelman has been appointed as the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

**VI. New Jersey Department of Children and Families
Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Morris West - December 2021: Ms. Christine Rivera**

CWS: 8

CPS: 83

RI: 15

Out of the above-mentioned cases, there were:

SPRU: 16

New: 45

Active: 13 (RIs/CWS/CPS)

Reopens Intake: 39
Reopens Perm: 6
60 day Reopens: 10
90 Day Reopens: 1
DV: 27
SU: 24
Homelessness: 0
Youth Homelessness: 0
Spanish Speaking: 8
Safe Care: 3

Morris East – December 2021: Mr. Kevin Belli

Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old: 0
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care: 1
New: 31
Reopens: 38
Active: 8
CPS: 64
CWS: 13
R&I: 0
DV: 10
SA: 7
Homelessness: 0
SPRU: 7
Spanish Speaking: 11
< 90 Day Re-opens: 7

VII. Staff Reports – Ms. Amy Archer & Ms. Shelia Carter

Ms. Carter announced that the state of New Jersey would launch the Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance Program. This is a federally funded program for homeowners who the COVID-19 Pandemic has negatively impacted. Applicants may receive up to \$35,000.00 per household to cover:

- Mortgage reinstatement assistance
- Other eligible housing-related costs
 - Escrow shortages
 - Delinquent property taxes
 - Municipal or tax liens
 - Up to four future mortgage payments, inclusive of principal, interest, taxes, and homeowner's insurance

Please see the website for FAQ and additional information <https://www.njerma.com/> or call 855.647.7700.

Tomorrow, January 26, 2022, will begin Morris County Point In Time count of the homeless that are sheltered and unsheltered. This count satisfies a federal mandate from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In 2020, the Morris County Continuum of Care was awarded over \$2 million for Permanent Supportive and Rapid Rehousing

vouchers and other programs targeted to help the homeless. This count is part of a competitive application.

The NJ Department of Human Services and Rutgers Institute for Families is sponsoring ICARE - Inclusion, Courtesy, Awareness, Respect, and Education for the LGBTQ+ Training in February and March. This is a no-cost four-hour Zoom training that focuses on developing knowledge, skills, and best practices to serve the LGBTQ+ community. Social Work Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available. For more information and to register, <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/xDDm7sx/ICARERegistration>.

Ms. Archer announced that the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) applications have been received for PY2022. HSAC puts together a subcommittee to review these applications and make recommendations every year. This year the review will take place on Friday, February 18th, and will be held virtually. An email will be sent to HSAC voting members with additional information.

Our Orientation for new and returning voting members will be held during our February meeting.

VIII. Subcommittee Report

Planning Child Care – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod

State of Child Care in Morris County

- 22 childcare centers permanently closed since March 2020
- Total Number of Registered FCC Providers January 2022: 35

NJ DHS DFD Initiatives:

With the announcement of this new funding, Governor Murphy and Human Services will have invested more than \$1 billion in childcare throughout the administration, after more than a decade of the childcare industry receiving no new increases.

The initiative relies mainly on American Rescue Plan funding allocated to Human Services by the Federal Administration for Children & Families and includes the following key areas:

- Supporting Children and Families by reducing childcare costs and putting dollars back into the pockets of New Jersey Families.
 - They continue to help eligible families by covering the additional amount they may owe for fees or the difference between what the state pays and the provider charges. This assistance began in September and is now extended to December 2023. These additional payments provide up to \$300 for full-time care, or \$150 for part-time care, per eligible child, per month on top of the childcare assistance rate paid by the state on behalf of the family.
 - Waiving co-payments in the state's childcare subsidy.
 - Implementing financial incentives to increase the number of childcare providers that offer non-traditional evening and weekend hours.
- Recruiting and Supporting Child Care Workers
 - To increase childcare capacity, \$1,000 bonuses will be provided beginning this winter to help providers recruit new childcare employees and retain current

- childcare staff.
 - Funding for additional compensation will be provided in summer 2022.
 - The bonuses will be partly funded from the Child Care Revitalization Fund signed into law by Governor Murphy that provides \$30 million to Human Services for childcare workforce assistance.
- Supporting Child Care Providers
 - Childcare providers will be eligible for two new rounds of pandemic stabilization grants to help stabilize and sustain their operations.
 - For licensed childcare centers, grant availability will range from \$20,000 to \$120,000 in the first round, depending on the number of children they serve. The grants will be \$2,000 for family childcare providers.
 - Providers can use these dollars to support their operating expenses such as wages and benefits, rent and utilities, cleaning and sanitizing, facilities maintenance, and improvements.
- Grants will also again be made available for summer youth camp providers in 2022 and 2023 to help cover COVID-19 related costs and assist families with paying for summer camp.

IX. Advisory Committee Reports
Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong

PY21 – 2nd Qtr. ETS Training Enrollments WIOA & WFNJ
YTD (July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021)

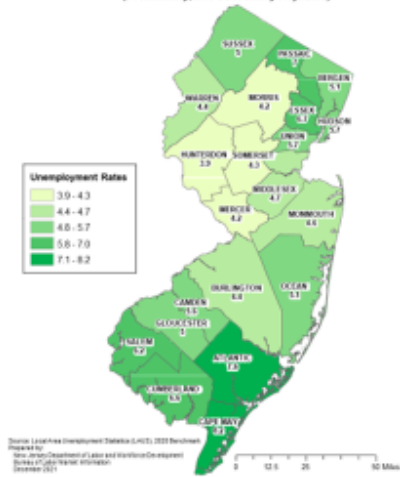
Dislocated Workers Enrolled	Adults Enrolled	Youth Enrolled	On-the-Job Training Enrolled
67	27	16	2

Dislocated Workers Completed	Adults Completed	Youth Completed	On-the-Job Training Completed
88	17	0	4

Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)	Workforce Learning Link	Metrix On-Line Training	Tuition Waiver	WFNJ Work Readiness*	Youth Work Experience
0	27	10	0	26	78

() DHS/DFD has suspended in-person WFNJ Work Readiness. For individuals seeking support voluntarily, ETS provides virtual career services to this public-assistance population. Enrollments reflect several WFNJ individuals actively engaged in ETS virtual career services training.
 (**) Includes new and carry-over*

**New Jersey Counties
Unemployment Rates - November 2021**
(Preliminary, Not Seasonally Adjusted)

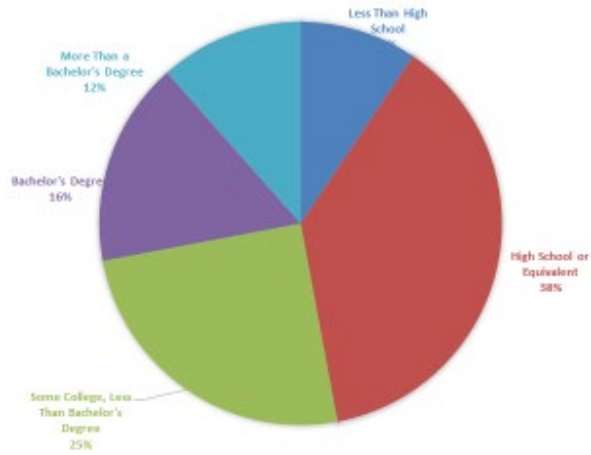


Morris-Sussex-Warren November 2021

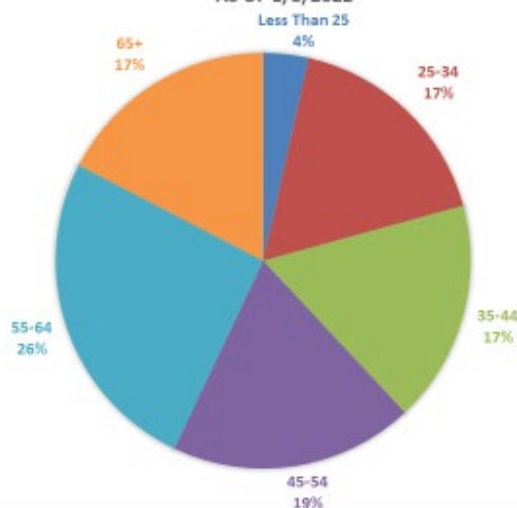
Unemployment rates are getting closer to the pre-pandemic levels, only 1% higher than in Jan 2020

Nov 2021 at 4.4% vs 7.4% in Nov 2020

**MORRIS-SUSSEX-WARREN
UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMANTS BY EDUCATION
AS OF 1/8/2022**



MORRIS-SUSSEX-WARREN
UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMANTS BY AGE GROUP
AS OF 1/8/2022



NJDOL State Pathways to Recovery Award to Employment Horizons

The MSW WDB MSW ETS and Employment Horizons submitted a proposal to offer training and employment services to those impacted by the opioid epidemic. Employment Horizons was awarded \$525,000 to support the collaboration. Funding will be used to support case management, supportive services, career readiness, training, job placement, temporary work experience, intensive job coaching, and long-term follow-up. In addition, employers will receive training and guidance to support employee retention. Grant programs are estimated to begin by March, and the program will run for one year with a possible extension.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Bob Armstrong

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee and the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) met on December 13, 2021, and January 24, 2022. These two organizations meet together as an HIV consortium. The Morris County Commissioners create the Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee. The Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) is made by HRSA's Ryan White Part A program.

EIRC's mission is to measure the success of HIV related activities, to develop recommendations and strategies to improve HIV systems of care to ensure a comprehensive continuum of service that includes education, outreach, testing and diagnosis of HIV, access to medical care, risk reduction, counseling, treatment adherence, and coordination of care.

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee/EIRC meetings are being held online on the 4th Monday of every other month at 1 PM. The 2022 schedule is: 1/24; 3/28; 5/23; 7/25; 9/26; and 11/28.

The 2022 Chair for The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee is Kelly Martin, and the 2022 Vice-Chair is Sarah Walker.

The committee's four subgroups are the Executive Committee, Provider Advisory Board, Community Action Board, and Needs Assessment Committee.

The four HIV Providers in Morris County are Catholic Charities Hope House, Dover; Family Health Center of Morristown Medical Center, Morristown; EDGE New Jersey, Morris Plains and Denville; and Zufall Health Center, Dover.

The Committee By-laws were updated in 2021 and accepted at the January 24th meeting.

The Lived Experience Project is a new program focusing on education and training for consumers intended for empowerment. Topics include self-advocating, HIV basics, active listening/conflict resolution, stigma/bias issues, Ryan White legislation, End the HIV Epidemic (EHE), and Community Action Board (CAB) essentials. The Lived Experience Project is scheduled every other week beginning February 7, running for eight sessions with a cohort of 5-6 people. All four Morris County HIV providers are participating.

The HIV Advisory Committee focuses on ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE). This initiative has three levels: national, state and county.

Ending the HIV Epidemic: New Jersey Strategic Plan for Essex and Hudson Counties, 2020-2030. (This serves as a supplemental document to NJ's statewide plan, *New Jersey Ends the HIV Epidemic: A Strategic Plan, 2019-2025.*)

Note: Essex County is the HIV epicenter of Morris County's geographical region regarding HIV issues, known as the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (NEMA) determined by Ryan White legislation. NEMA includes Morris, Essex, Union, Sussex, and Warren counties.

There are four Pillars of action:

Diagnose all people as early as possible.

Goal: 100% of persons living with HIV/AIDS know their status

Treat people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression.

Goal: Increase linkage to care and viral load suppression (VLS) to 90%

Prevent new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs (SSPs)

Goal: Reduce the number of new HIV infections by 75%

Respond quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them.

Goal: Respond to Cluster Detection Activities

National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States 2022 – 2025 issued by the White House

Goal 1: Prevent New HIV Infections

Goal 2: Improve HIV-Related Health Outcomes of People with HIV

Goal 3: Reduce HIV-Related Disparities and Health Inequities

Goal 4: Achieve Integrated, Coordinated Efforts That Address the HIV Epidemic among All Partners and Interested Parties

Indicator 1: Increase status knowledge to 95% from a 2017 baseline of 85.8%.

Indicator 2: Reduce new HIV infections by 75% from a 2017 baseline of 37,000.

Indicator 3: Reduce new HIV diagnoses by 75% from a 2017 baseline of 38,351.

Indicator 4: Increase PrEP coverage to 50% from a 2017 baseline of 13.2%.

Indicator 5: Increase linkage to care within one month of diagnosis to 95% from a 2017 baseline of 77.8%.

Indicator 6: Increase viral suppression among people with diagnosed HIV to 95% from a 2017 baseline of 63.1%.

The next meeting of the Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee/EIRC will be held virtually on March 28 at 1 pm.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Ms. Linda Csengeto

Nominating Committee – Ms. Barbara Ward reported that current chair, Chris Chernick, and current co-chair, Cheryl Garodnick, have agreed to remain on as Chair and Co-chair.

There was a presentation by Ms. Meg Fisher, DOH, on COVID19. She encouraged vaccines for all and stressed the importance of booster shots.

There was a presentation by Ms. Rose Brown, MHA (note name change), on the programs the County of Morris funds, including:

- Mental Health First Aid
- Hope One Van
- Community Case Mgr. (for those not eligible for ICMS)
- Edna's Haven
- Case Mgr. for Forensic Services
- Beds at Safe Haven at Homeless Solutions
- Peer to Peer Line
- In-Home therapy for Seniors
- Suicide Prevention Program
- Veteran and Family Support Program

State Liaison Report: DMHAS – Ms. Eileen Alexander reported. See DMHAS website for RFP's, etc.

The NJ Dept. of Health has now made it possible to get free, at-home test kits for NJ residents. See <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nj/>

Funding - In the closed session, there was a discussion on MHASAB's review of state contracts.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Mr. David Johnston

The organizational meeting will be held in February 2022.

Families struggle to find beds in St. Clare's Children's Crisis Intervention Unit (CCIU). This facility is in Morris County and services nine counties. The CCIU has been full for the past two years. It has been reported that families are waiting days once their children are diagnosed with needing inpatient care. This is a statewide issue.

Advisory Committee of Women – Ms. Joann Bjornson

Overview: The agenda focused on membership, the Seeds of Change Award, and the committee's strategic focus for the next three years, 2022-2024.

Strategic Focus: The purpose of a Strategic Focus is to understand the impact on women in a critical relevant focus area, support local leaders and initiatives that address this focus, and advocate for responsible solutions. Our concentration is on Housing as Healthcare. This incorporates potential sub-focus areas such as employment, education, transportation, and childcare. The Covid effects on women and national and local emergent needs for safe housing, coupled with the unprecedented amount of federal, state, and local funding available, make this an impactful priority.

Sub-committee updates

- Membership Development Committee – actively inviting women *and men* representing diversity in age, race, ethnicity, LGBTQ
 - One new member joined us from Legal Services of Northwest NJ, and one new member is going through the approval process by the Board of Commissioner from Pro Bono Partnership
 - Membership application
<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/Advisory-Committee-on-Women>
- Seeds of Change Award Committee – we have selected an award recipient; please join us in March 2022 for a presentation at one of the March Commissioner Meetings TBD.

Homeless Trust Fund

Jeff Bashe, Community Advocate, on the Homeless Trust Fund (HTF), we had a presentation. The committee voted unanimously to support the HTF and write and submit a support letter to the Board of Commissioners.

Next meeting- February 16, 2022

X. Partnership Report

Continuum of Care (CoC) – Mr. David Saltzman

A planning meeting was held this morning for the CY 2022.

The homeless Prevention Committee faces the court's reopening, so they work with residents to get them the financial help they need through organizations that still have funds available. The NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was ended on December 15, 2021.

The next CoC meeting is via WebEx on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 10:00 am.

XI. Old Business – no comment

XII. New Business

Ms. Sherrod stated that they are working on a presentation calendar and or Agency spotlights; please provide the names of the agencies or programs we would like to have come to our meetings. Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis, North Jersey Health Collaborative, is tasked with doing the Community Health Improvement Plan in Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties. Thanked the Human Services department for their continued support. For more information or to get involved, please contact Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis at fittogo@optonline.net. Mr. Bashe stated he would be interested in hearing more about this group. Ms. Roers stated she would be interested in collaborating with Ms. Sherrod in a presentation about the landscape of childcare in Morris County.

Ms. Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey, announced that they are provided free tax preparation this year beginning February 1, 2022. Please visit the website for additional information <https://www.unitedwaynj.org/tax-preparation>.

XIII. Public Comment – no comment

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Johnston at 6:30 pm and seconded by Ms. Shivas. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II