

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

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HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, via Webex Meeting

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Ms. Rebecca Sherrod called the meeting to order at 5:15 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
Terry Connolly, Nourish NJ
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
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 Services – Chair

Board Liaisons:

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board (Morris, Sussex, Warren)
Shawna Bailey, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance
Lenora Humphrey, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Sean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Christine Rivera, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency

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
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Department of Human Services

II. Approval of January 25, 2022, Minutes

Motion to approve January 25, 2022, meeting minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Pawelczyk, Vice-Chair, and seconded by Mr. Bashe. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion Carried.

III. Committee Orientation

Ms. Sherrod, Chair, gave a PowerPoint presentation related to HSAC orientation. This PowerPoint will be posted on the County website shortly <https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/Human-Services-Advisory-Council>.

**IV. New Jersey Department of Human Services – no report
Division of Developmental Disabilities – no report**

**V. New Jersey Department of Children and Families
Division of Child Protection & Permanency – Ms. Christine Rivera, Morris West, and Mr. Sean McGinnis, Morris East**

Morris West LO DCPD Stats

January 2022:

CWS: 9
CPS: 103
RI: 29 (Both on New cases and Active Cases)
Out of the above-mentioned cases, there were:
SPRU: 30
New: 50
Active: 26 (RIs/CWS/CPS)
Reopens Intake: 47
Reopens Perm: 6
60 day Reopens: 9
90 Day Reopens: 1
DV: 32
SU: 32
Homelessness: 0
Youth Homelessness: 0
Spanish Speaking: 15
Safe Care: 2

Morris East DCPD Stats

January 2022:

Children <5-years old, Mother <30 - years old 2
Substance abuse affected newborn cases, aka Safe Care 4
New 46
Reopens 36
Active 3
CPS 75
CWS 10
R&I
DV 16
SA 17
Homelessness 0
SPRU
Spanish Speaking < 90 Day Re-opens 5

VI. Staff Reports

Ms. Archer reported that the county would receive \$95,000 of Code Blue funding for this season. The grant does not have to go to just the municipalities with ten registered homeless people or more. We contacted Mayors and OEM Coordinators of 15 towns (Dover, Butler, Denville, Boonton, Hanover, Jefferson, Lincoln Park, Morris Plains, Morris Township, Morristown, Mt. Lakes, Parsippany, Rockaway Borough, Rockaway Township, and Wharton) that had reported a homeless population during the 2021 Point-In-Time count. If interested, the municipalities were asked to provide a budget detailing Code Blue costs by March 11, 2022.

Ms. Archer announced the Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) is tasked with creating a County Comprehensive Plan (CCP), which will address how the County will handle Addictions over the next four years. They will need to put together focus groups with providers and citizen representatives to evaluate the current plan and provide feedback about gaps in services. In late Spring and early summer, the HSAC could be called upon to participate in the CCP.

The Funding Subcommittee met on February 18, 2022, to review the Emergency Solutions Grant Applications, and their recommendations will be presented to the Committee tonight during a closed session.

Ms. Shelia Carter is retiring; Monday, February 28, 2022, will be her last day. Thank you for everything you have done for the County, Providers, and Residents over the years. You will be greatly missed.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

Planning – Child Care/Voucher System Update – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod, Chair
State of Child Care in Morris County

- 22 Childcare centers permanently closed since March 2020
- Total number of Registered Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Providers as of February is 34

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. It includes the following key areas:

- Supporting Children and Families by reducing childcare costs and putting dollars back into the pockets of New Jersey Families.
- Continuing 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 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
- The bonuses will partly be funded from the Child Care Revitalization Fund signed into law by Governor Murphy that provides \$30 million to Human Services for childcare workforce assistance. Recruiting and supporting childcare workers.
- Childcare Providers will be eligible for two new 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, maintenance, and improvements.
- Grants will also be made available for summer youth camp providers in 2022 and 2023 to help cover COVID-related costs and assist families with paying for summer camp.

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong Process Improvement Project

In 2020, the Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Development Board (MSW WDB) approved the selection of a consultant to review current practices and provide workforce process improvement recommendations. A series of meetings held in 2020-2021 with workforce partners to map our current processes gave rise to the following suggestions:

1. Increase communication across the local teams, WDB, One-Stops, BSRs, ETS, DVRs, and DOL, mainly when using the hybrid model (virtual and in-person).
 - a. Optimize the use of a collaborative workspace such as MS Teams, configure such platform by project, not local area, for instance, recruitment events, information sessions, engage by cell, etc.
 - i. This recommendation has been successfully implemented
 - b. Hold bi-weekly or monthly cross-team meetings; standing agenda items can include employer developments, market/industry trends, pending employer events, changes to technology/systems, marketing projects
 - i. In progress, some success with implementations
2. Increasing Job Seeker and Employer Awareness and Service Utilization.
 - a. Establish one-name/one brand; increase the use of the “A proud partner of the American Job Center Network, for instance, the “**MSW NAME**,” serving all job seekers residing in Morris, Warren, and Sussex counties. Also, rebrand “**labor-Xchange**,” using a name that indicates, more clearly, (in employer benefit terms) the service benefits to employers. Identify a name that is also SEO optimal (what employers would use to access services)

- i. In Progress
 - b. Develop a formal “MWS Name” marketing plan to include action items, who’s responsible, and timelines as well as board involvement as to relates to relationship building, community development, and revenue diversification
 - i. In progress
- 3. Increase Service Accessibility
 - a. Ultimately and as requested by the job seeking customer, ensure customers receive a professional and ATS ready resume or, at minimum, continue to provide instructions on how to write an ATS resume professionally
 - i. In progress.
 - b. Evaluate and, where possible, further streamline and standardize messaging relating to all programs, phone numbers to determine eligibility, and next steps. Streamlining/enhancing this system point-of-entry will facilitate increasing service awareness and utilization
 - i. In progress
- 4. Streamline Reporting/Expand Purpose of Reporting.
 - a. Develop a centralized and shared database to generate and store all data and corresponding monthly reports required by the WDB, County, DOL, and DVRs. It was determined that much of the data currently needed is being captured and stored; much of it is determined that much of the information presently required is being captured and stored; much of it is in AOSOS, although look to develop a more accessible and streamlined way to generate the following monthly reports and look to not create additional reports but rather, where possible, use and combine existing reports
 - i. Scheduled for 2022

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

We did not meet in February. Our next meeting will be Monday, March 28, 2022, at 1:00 pm, and it will be held virtually.

Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) – Ms. Linda Csengeto
Member Orientation took place during the February 10, 2022 meeting.

Check the NJ Department of Human Services (<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/>) website for reimbursement opportunities for COVID-19 related expenses, COVID-19 resources are still available, and the Helpline is 833.223.0011.

Mr. Tom Rosamilia is the interim CEO at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital.

A list of area colleges and universities with BSW and MSW programs for agencies to recruit employees to the social work field.

Council on Aging Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Shawna Bailey

Aging

Our staff is still on a hybrid schedule.

The New Jersey Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance Program (EMRA) provides financial assistance for eligible homeowners who have experienced a significant decrease in income or increase in expenses due to COVID-19 and have been unable to remain current with their mortgage payment. Application and information can be found at <https://www.njerma.com/>.

The Small Business Grant Program began accepting online applications at 8:00 am, February 14, 2022, to aid small companies, entrepreneurs, and non-profits impacted by the pandemic. Details at https://solixconsulting.force.com/MorrisCountySBG/s/?language=en_US.

Nutrition

All seniors are receiving the Home Delivered Meals. Pick-up is available to clients that congregated participants before the shutdown. The Congregate sites were closed for January and February 2022 due to the COVID-19 increase. We anticipate the following areas to reopen on March 1, 2022:

- Butler
- Denville
- Long Hill
- Madison
- Morris Plains
- Roxbury

MAPS

It is currently operating at 75% capacity and will increase to 100% on March 1, 2022. MAPS has also started a pilot program with Trans Options to offer LYFT rides to some MAPS consumers. The requirements are:

- Registered MAPS riders only (seniors, disabled adults)
- Must be ambulatory: no wheelchairs must be able to get in and out of the vehicle unassisted
- Must have a cell phone with text message ability
- Riders cannot request this service
- It is offered if MAPS is unable to provide the services

Advisory Committee on Women's – Ms. Joann Bjornson

The committee focused on the Seeds of Change Award, support for the Homeless Trust Fund, and preparing for Women's History Month.

A strategic focus aims 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 for Healthcare. This incorporates potential sub-focus areas such as employment, education, transportation, and childcare. The COVID-19 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.

March is Women's History Month, and we are happy to present the Committee's Annual Report to the Board of Commissioners. It is the perfect time for the Seeds of Change Award, honoring a local woman who has contributed so much to our community.

Sub-Committee Updates:

- Membership Development Committee
 - Actively inviting women and men representing diversity in age, race, ethnicity, & LGBTQ
 - We had one new member join us appointed through the Board of Commissioners, and we have one member still pending action
 - Membership application
(<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/Advisory-Committee-onWomen>)
- Seeds of Change Award Committee
 - We have selected an award recipient, Mary Ledyard
 - Please join for presentation at the March 9th Board of County Commissioners Meeting at 4:30 pm, virtually or in person. We will also be honoring a retired member, Carol Harper. Many of us plan to attend in person; if you would like to, please reach out to Liz Kisatsky for more information and parking instructions.

Homeless Trust Fund

The committee is writing a support letter to the Board of Commissioners to present with other Advisory Committees in the upcoming months.

Our next meeting is on March 16, 2022.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – no report

IX. Partnership Announcements

Continuum of Care – Mr. David Saltzman, Esq.

Our last meeting was on January 27, 2022. We held a membership orientation for new and returning members. A discussion about what the year would look like, the allocations timeline, and a vote on the CoC Strategic Plan.

X. Old Business

Mr. Bashe stated that the Homeless Trust Fund used to be a standing item on the HSAC meeting agenda and has seemed to have fallen off. He would like to see this item returned.

XI. New Business – no comment

XII. Public Comment – no comment

**XIII. Action Item: Closed Session – Vote
Program Review Subcommittee Report 2022 Emergency Solutions Grant Funding
Recommendations**

Ms. Sherrod, Chair, asked that anyone in conflict with Grant Funding and anyone from the public leave the call. Ms. Jane Armstrong, Ms. Shawna Bailey, Ms. Lenora Humphrey, Mr. Sean McGinnis, and Ms. Christine Rivera left the call. Motion to close the general meeting made by Ms. Bjornson and seconded by Ms. Csengeto. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting under P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 6:30 pm.

Return to Meeting

The meeting was reopened at 6:40 pm. No one reentered the call.

Action Resulting from Closed Session

Ms. Sherrod, Chair, stated the Program Review Subcommittee met, reviewed, and provided recommendations for the 2022 Emergency Solution Grant. The record reflects that the board voted to approve the funding recommendations presented in the closed session. We need a motion in an open session of the same.

Mr. Armstrong motioned to approve the recommendations as discussed in the closed session. Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Csengeto. Mr. Pawelczyk seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II