

**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

*Director*  
Stephen H. Shaw

*Deputy Director*  
Deborah Smith

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John Krickus  
Thomas J. Mastrangelo  
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*County Administrator*  
John Bonanni

*Department Director*  
Katharine A. Errico  
973.285.6863

*Deputy Director*  
Gary L. Denamen  
973326.7240

*Division Director*  
Amy Archer  
973-285-6852

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, February 23, 2021, Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Held via Webex Meetings**

**I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

Ms. Rebekka Zydel 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  
Teresa Connolly, Nourish NJ  
Maria, Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Xiomara Guevara, Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs  
David Johnston, Citizen Representative  
Joann McEniry, EDGE NJ – Vice Chair  
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative  
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey  
David Saltzman, Esq., Legal Services of Northwest Jersey  
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency  
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources – Chair

**Board Liaisons:**

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board – Morris, Sussex, Warren  
Christine Hellyer, Council on Aging Disabilities & Veterans

**Morris County Staff:**

Amy Archer, Human Services  
Shelia Carter, Human Services  
Kasey Errico, Human Services Director  
Anna Marie Hess, Human Services

**II. Chair/Vice-Chair Report – Ms. Rebekka Zydel & Ms. Joann McEniry**

If there are any agenda items, topics for discussion, or presentations you would like to see, please contact Ms. McEniry or me via email ([j.mceniry@edgenj.org](mailto:j.mceniry@edgenj.org) & [rzydel@cfrmorris.org](mailto:rzydel@cfrmorris.org)) directly before the meeting.

In December 2020, data gathered by the Needs Assessment Committee from focus groups, and the key informant interviews were submitted to the State. We are waiting on the State's approval to publish the results. Once we have the permission, the Needs Assessment Committee will reconvene to review the State Report and bring it back to the HSAC Advisory.

Thank you to those members who signed up for our subcommittees. You will be contacted to see if you would like to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair of the committee.

A Women's Committee representative contacted me to discuss what the HSAC sees as a priority or areas that align with the Women's Committee's work. Ms. Joann Bjornson will represent the Women's Committee during our meeting and report for them. Ms. Errico attended the last Women's Committee meeting. They are looking at the needs of women across the county.

**III. Approval of the January 26, 2021 Minutes**

Motion to approve the January 26, 2021 minutes made by Mr. Pawelczyk and seconded by Ms. Connelly. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

**IV. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Nelson Troche – no report  
Division of Developmental Disabilities – Ms. Mary Giorlando – no report**

**V. New Jersey Department of Children and Families  
Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Ms. Lenora Humphrey**

**Morris West**

CWS: 9

CPS: 88

R&I: 31(Both on New cases and  
Active Cases)

Out of the cases mentioned above,  
there were:

SPRU: 23

New: 40

Active: 18

Reopens Intake: 45

Reopens Perm: 2

60 day Reopens: 6

90 Day Reopens: 3

DV: 15

SA: 27

Homelessness: 4

Youth Homelessness: 1

Spanish Speaking: 14

Safe Care: 5

**Morris East**

5 CWS

64 CPS= 69 intakes

Out of 64 Child protection cases:

55 were for neglect which included

12 for DV, 27 for Substance and Alcohol  
abuse

Spanish Speaking: 18

Safe Care: 2

**Last year our total was:**

30 CWS

77 CPS=107

**VI. Staff Reports – Ms. Amy Archer & Ms. Shelia Carter**

Ms. Archer reported Morris County was awarded \$95,000 from the State of New Jersey for Code Blue Funding. The allocation is for the municipalities that have a documented homeless population of ten or more. At the last Point in Time Count, Morristown had over 10 documented homeless individuals and Dover had 9. There is ongoing communication with Morristown and Dover to see they are interested in funding and what services the money would provide. It was asked, "if Morristown and Dover are not interested in this funding, what happens to the money?" Ms. Archer responded, "at this time, we are still discussing this matter." Discussion ensued.

The Attorney General has issued a directive to all County Prosecutors to establish a Countywide working group to provide local tools and resources to law enforcement to utilize when interacting with people with mental health and special needs. The Mental Health Working Group is a new initiative. The goal is to improve relations and interactions between law enforcement and people in crisis. This group would consist of law enforcement, behavioral and mental health professionals, substance abuse professionals, community advocates, and other professionals. They are creating and training law enforcement on the Mental Health toolbox to ensure that all services that are provided in our communities are available. More information to follow.

Atlantic Health has a COVID Recovery Center. The Recovery Center is for those who are dealing with long-term effects COVID. Clients can go to discuss their symptoms and get support from peers and professionals.

Ms. Roers asked if the Disaster Recovery Crisis Counselors (DRCC) were dispatched during the pandemic. Ms. Archer stated in the beginning, some counties called upon their DRCCs to answer helplines, but Morris County chose not to at that time.

**VII. Subcommittee Reports**

**Planning – Child Care (Voucher System Update) – Ms. Rebekka Zydell**

In brief, Morris County's economic recovery depends on the availability of child care for working parents.

Child & Family Resources is working on solutions that are needed to address stabilization and infrastructure support to ensure that parents in Morris County have access to various child care options required for economic recovery.

### **State of Child Care in Morris County**

Approximate Total Number of Licensed Centers March 2020: 270

Approximate Total Number of Licensed Centers January 2021: 233

- Ten child care centers closed
- 27 school-age only programs closed

Total Number of Registered FCC Providers March 2020: 36

Total Number of Registered FCC Providers September 2020: 38

Child Care Centers are reporting waiting lists. Group size is still limited to 15.

### **NJ DHS DFD Initiatives:**

Through June 2021:

- Tuition Assistance Program for families not eligible for the state subsidy program and earning no more than \$150k for children ages 5-13. For existing applicants only, not reopening the enrollment application
- Full-Time child care subsidies for school-age children
- Subsidy supplemental payment \$300.00 full time \$150.00 part-time per child per month

Shared Services

8 Licensed Center Members and 3 Family Child Care Provider Members

- Implementing business software programs to increase revenue, track expenses, market/recruit enrollment, and reinvest in quality

### **Morris County Initiatives:**

Sunshine Program I (Child Care for those with a disability)

- Four children currently using care

Sunshine Program II (Area 51 Planning Grant-Respite Summer Care for Grandparents)

- TBD

Grooming to Grow (GIA)

- 2 Programs (Program Administration Scale (PAS))
  - Serves as a recruitment program for GrowNJ Kids

Registered Family Child Care (GIA)

- Orientations are being conducted
- Increase in recruitment

Child Care Resource & Referral (GIA)

- Increase in referrals for school-age children
- Increase in referrals for infants/toddlers

Child Care Gaps:

- School-age child care for families not eligible for the current subsidy programs
- Access to child care for CCVC families
- Access & affordability for summer camp

## VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

### Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong

#### High School Diploma (HSE) Preparation Providers- classes online or hybrid

Compiled by Dorothy Snider, Workforce Learning Link, Randolph One-Stop Career Center for the Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Development Board Literacy Committee

[Dorothy.snider@dol.nj.gov](mailto:Dorothy.snider@dol.nj.gov)

#### MORRIS COUNTY

Morris County School of Technology [www.mcvs.edu](http://www.mcvs.edu) 973-627-4601  
x279  
Rt. 53, Denville, NJ FREE  
Evening Classes  
HiSET has test prep materials at <https://hiset.ets.org/prepare/materials/>  
Practice book costs about \$10 on Amazon.

Literacy Volunteers [www.lvamorris.org](http://www.lvamorris.org) 973-984-1998  
10 Pine Street FREE  
Morristown, NJ

Neighborhood House [www.cornerstonefamilyprograms.org](http://www.cornerstonefamilyprograms.org)  
973-538-1229  
12 Flagler St. FREE  
Morristown, NJ  
Small Classes  
Online Resources: [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) [www.math.com](http://www.math.com)

#### SUSSEX COUNTY

NJ Literacy [www.njliteracy.org](http://www.njliteracy.org) [njliteracy@gmail.com](mailto:njliteracy@gmail.com)  
Small Classes FREE

Sussex County Community College [sgorst@sussex.edu](mailto:sgorst@sussex.edu) 973-300-2158  
1 College Hill Rd. FREE  
Newton, NJ

#### WARREN COUNTY

Warren County Community College [www.warren.edu](http://www.warren.edu) 908-689-7613  
445 Marshall St. FREE 475 Route 57 W  
Phillipsburg, NJ Washington, NJ

## Out of School Youth High School Diploma (HSE) Preparation Providers

NewBridge <https://newbridge.org/>

Project Self Sufficiency <https://www.projectsselfsufficiency.org/>

Phillipsburg School-Based Youth Services <https://phs.pburgsd.net/>

NJ Youth Corp. Phillipsburg <https://www.njycphillipsburg.com/>

## Literacy Services Providers (ESL)-classes online or hybrid

Compiled by Dorothy Snider, Workforce Learning Link, Randolph One-Stop Career Center

### MORRIS COUNTY

**Randolph One-Stop Career Center**

[Dorothy.snider@dol.nj.gov](mailto:Dorothy.snider@dol.nj.gov)

**FREE**

**13 Emery Ave., Randolph, NJ**

**Morris County School of Technology**

[www.mcvts.org](http://www.mcvts.org)

**FREE**

**973-627-4601 x279**

**Rt. 53, Denville, NJ**

**Literacy Volunteers-Morris**

[www.lvmorris.org](http://www.lvmorris.org)

973-984-1998

10 Pine St., Morristown

Individual Tutors

Small Classes

**FREE**

**Neighborhood House**

[www.cornerstonefamilyprograms.org](http://www.cornerstonefamilyprograms.org)

973-538-1229

12 Flagler St, Morristown

**El Primer Paso**

[www.elprimerpaso.org](http://www.elprimerpaso.org)

973-361-0880

29 Segur Street, Dover

**Bethlehem Church**

[www.bethlehemchurch.org](http://www.bethlehemchurch.org)

973-366-3434

### SUSSEX COUNTY

**Sussex County Community College (SCCC)**

[sgorst@sussex.edu](mailto:sgorst@sussex.edu)

973-300-2157

SCCC Bldg. D, Newton

FREE

**NJ Literacy – Sussex County**

[www.njliteracy.org](http://www.njliteracy.org)

**FREE**

[njliteracy@gmail.com](mailto:njliteracy@gmail.com)

## WARREN COUNTY

**Warren County Community College**  
[continuing-education/](http://www.warren.edu/category/career-continuing-education/)

[http://www.warren.edu/category/career-](http://www.warren.edu/category/career-continuing-education/)

445 Marshall St., Phillipsburg

**FREE**

**908-689-7613**

**Trinity Methodist Church**, 213 Main St.  
Hackettstown

**FREE**

**908-852-3020**

### **Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Robert Armstrong**

HIV Advisory has not met since the last HSAC meeting. The next meeting is on March 25 at 1:00 pm.

There is a new show on HBO/MAX called "It's a Sin." It tells the story of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980's set in London, England.

### **Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Ms. Jane Shivas**

Municipal Alliance Fiscal Year 2019 site visit with Governor's Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse (GCADA) scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, was rescheduled for Tuesday, March 2.

### **Council on Aging Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Christine Hellyer**

#### **NUTRITION**

- We practice Emergency Preparedness and make provisions at the beginning of a storm period providing shelf-stable meals to our clients in the event of a storm to make sure our seniors have food.
- We make weekly wellness calls to our clients and also make sure they still have stable shelf meals.
- Our Home delivered clients receive five hot meals Monday-Friday and on Friday an additional box lunch. We call that a COVID meal provided through CARES funding.
- Congregate sites are still closed.

#### **MAPS**

- Our PARATRANSIT provides transportation for seniors, the disabled, and residents of rural areas throughout Morris County for our new members. It is a curb-to-curb service, and trips are reserved ahead of time. We will accept same-day requests when we can, especially COVID vaccine appointments. We realize appointments for this are made at 7 pm the night before for the following day's appointment. Our vehicles are operating at 50% capacity. We do not deny trips, maybe occasional changing times.

## **VETERANS**

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.

## **AGING**

After our last meeting in November, our department provided PPE kits to our Providers for their staff and clients. They consisted of masks, alcohol wipes, face shields, hand sanitizer, and an infrared thermometer. Our office is still closed to the public. All our services are virtual or over the phone. Face-to-face service is available if needed with the PPE available, particularly the APS (Adult Protective Services).

We are planning a COVID Public Awareness event in April, supplying information and supplies to the aged and disabled.

**Women's Committee – Ms. Joann Bjornson** – report submitted in advance

### **Overview:**

The committee met on February 16 for the first time since May 2020.

For the 2021 year, Karen O'Keefe was elected as Chair, and Joann Bjornson was elected Vice-Chair. Liz Kisatsky will serve as "Secretary," taking meeting minutes and sending out invites, etc.

### **Goal:**

The committee's goal and role in relation to the Board of Commissioners and the county were discussed. It was agreed to discuss this with HSAC and request a presentation of the Needs Assessment at an upcoming meeting to align our efforts where they are needed most.

### **Membership:**

- Membership make up was discussed as well as efforts to increase diversity in age, gender (LGBTQ), race, ethnicity and skill area
- The committee requested the By-Laws be reviewed and updated to change the Residency Status for members. Currently, only Morris County residents are eligible to serve on the committee. This committee requested Kasey Errico to bring to the Board of Commissioners to revise the eligibility to include women who work in Morris County. The suggestion was to review this on a case-by-case basis, considering the length of time working in the county and its positive impact on the committee.



**Meeting Structure and Format:**

- This was discussed, and formal meeting dates were set for the year
- Upcoming Meetings:

Meets virtually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

- March 16
- April 20
- May 18
- June 15
- July 20
- September 21
- October 19
- November 16

\*\*no meetings will be held in August or December

**Youth Services Advisory Committee – Mr. Dave Johnson**

The Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) meeting was postponed to later this week.

The Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) plan was submitted at the County level and approved at the State level.

About a year ago, YSAC discussed forming a Substance Abuse Subcommittee. They identified priorities, issues related to the youth and substance abuse. They were moving forward, but the Coalition for a Healthy and Safe Morris grant through Morris County Prevention is Key (MCPIK) also covers these issues. The Substance Abuse Subcommittee has merged with the Coalition doing a small needs assessment around youth substance abuse issues. .

**IX. Partnership Announcements****Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Terry Connolly**

Save the date! On Wednesday, March 10, the Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) will be holding an information session on how CoC funding can be used. To learn more about CoC funding, please click [here](#). See below for more information.

**Who:** Providers currently funded by the CoC as well as those interested in learning more about this funding opportunity

**What:** Join Monarch Housing Associates for an interactive discussion about partnerships, collaborations, and program types funded through the CoC

**When:** March 10 from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** To attend the webinar, please register in advance using the following link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdu6srjMjE9EtD2pLu4Y3BIFhN7Ez8BhA>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Nadine Azari at [nazari@monarchhousing.org](mailto:nazari@monarchhousing.org).

**X. Old Business**

**Homeless Trust Fund – Mr. Jeff Bashe – no report**

Mr. Johnston stated that JBWS is talking to the community and HUD about the gap between Emergency Funding and Permanent Housing. Ms. Connelly stated that HUD has moved away from Transitional Housing as a priority. Our emergency shelter providers Homeless Solutions, JBWS and Family Promise operate transitional housing according to HUD's definition, and that is why these programs will not continue to be funded through the CoC. All providers that were funded last year were funded this year, including Homeless Solutions JBWS and Family Promise. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Johnston also stated, Deirdre's House was able to continue the Game of Life virtually. The game will be played at Parsippany High School on March 17 & March 18 at 7:40 am – 11:30 am and reaching 240 students per day.

**XI. Public Comment**

**XII. Action Item: Closed Session – Vote**

**Program Review Subcommittee Report – 2021 Emergency Solutions Grant Funding Recommendations**

Motion to Close General Meeting

The board closed the open portion of the meeting under P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 6:21 pm.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Zydel adjourned meeting at 7:00 pm.