

**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)**  
**Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 5:15 pm via Webex Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

Ms. Rebecca Sherrod, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

**Board Members:**

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Representative  
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative  
Joann Bjornson, Family Promise of Morris County  
Linda Csengeeto, Citizen Representative  
Ken 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  
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources – Chair  
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

**Board Liaisons:**

Kevin Belli, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP)  
Lenora Humphrey, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP)  
Sean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP)

**Morris County Staff:**

Amy Archer, 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

**Others in Attendance:**

Shayne Daly, Long Hill Township, Community Services Program Manager  
Lajeanesse Harris, Rutgers Grad School

**II. Approval of February 22, 2022, Minutes**

Motion to approve February 22, 2022, meeting minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Pawelczyk, Vice-Chair, and seconded by Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion Carried.

**III. New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) – no report**

**Division of Developmental Disabilities** – no report

Ms. Sherrod to reach out to Ms. Giorlando about participation at future meetings.

**IV. New Jersey Department of Children & Families**

**Division of Child Protection & Permanency**

**Morris East Local Office – Mr. Kevin Belli**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>February 2022</b>
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	0
Substance abuse affected newborn cases, aka Safe Care	2
New	31
Reopens	47
Active	10
CPS	83
CWS	5
DV	18
SA	29
Homelessness	0
SPRU	8
Spanish Speaking	7
< 90 Day Re-opens	11

**Morris West Local Office – Mr. Sean McGinnis**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>February 2022</b>
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	n/a (?)
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	0
New	46
Reopens	36
Active	38
CPS	82
CWS	10
DV	28
SA	18
Homelessness	0
SPRU	15
Spanish Speaking	9
< 90 Day Re-opens	4

Ms. Shivas asked, “The data about domestic violence, substance use, and homelessness; is that the reason for opening the case?” Mr. Belli stated, “these are for new cases but not necessarily the reason for the referral. Just data collected during the investigation.”

Ms. Sherrod asked, “in your offices, what types of resources are you lacking or having difficulty finding?” Mr. McGinnis stated, “Morris County is severely lacking Spanish-speaking providers. There is an increase in Spanish-speaking families, and it is hard to find appropriate services for this population.”

Ms. Roers requested that one spreadsheet be made of the year to show the numbers side by side for both offices and if an acronym key could also be added. Mr. Belli stated that the two offices would input their numbers on one spreadsheet next month, and a key would be provided.

**V. Staff Report**

Ms. Errico announced that the Superior Court of New Jersey, Morris/Sussex Vicinage, sponsored a Landlord-Tenant Information Webinar. This webinar will focus on current landlord-tenant court processes. Staff from the Morris/Sussex Vicinage, representatives from the state Department of Community Affairs, and other community agencies will discuss a variety of available services, with a focus on resources for landlords and tenants. The webinar is Wednesday, March 30, 2022, from 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm via Zoom. This webinar is free and open to the public. Registration is required. To request

additional information, 862.397.5700 ext. 75069 or [MRS-  
SSXHelp.Mailbox@njcourts.gov](mailto:MRS-SSXHelp.Mailbox@njcourts.gov).

Ms. Archer stated that Mental Health Association (MHA) had put together a Ukrainian Response Team. MHA has a team of empathetic and trained counselors available for emotional support. There are no fees, insurance, or commitment necessary. Call 973.509.9777 and ask to be connected to their Response Team, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, for free, confidential counseling and support.

In 2021, the Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) put together 30 Days of Self Care tips for Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Morris County providers shared strategies to handle stress, isolation, etc. MHASAB subcommittee is meeting to discuss what will be done this year for Mental Health Awareness month. More information to follow.

MHASAB is also working on its four-year plan for Addictions, which was identified as a high priority need during the HSAC Needs Assessment. Ms. Rosalyn Suarez is working on this plan and will be reaching out to the community to participate in Focus Groups.

The Morris County Stigma-Free Committee is working on an event for June 2022. More information to follow.

Morris County Community Development ESG, CDBG, and HOME applications have been reviewed and put into the Annual Action Plan. There are some fantastic projects on the horizon. Once the action plan is approved, these projects will be shared with the group.

Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis stated that an annual campaign during May (Mental Health Awareness Month) of educational and inspirational events and activities positively impacts the community's well-being and fights stigma related to mental health issues. She mentioned a "Paint the Town Yellow" Team De-Stig, an Morris County Chamber of Commerce-the Health and Wellness Committee initiative that encourages community involvement and discussion.

Mr. Bashe asked if any of the Morris County municipalities applied for the \$95,000 Code Blue Grant due on March 11, 2022? Ms. Archer stated no, we didn't hear back from any of the fifteen municipalities. We are talking with the Office of Temporary Assistance to see their needs since the Warming Stations were not open this year. More information to follow.

## **VI. Subcommittee Report**

### **Planning – Child Care Update – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod, Chair State of Child Care in Morris County**

- 22 Childcare Center permanently closed since March 2020
- Total number of Registered FCC Providers as of March – 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 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. The 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
- Recruiting and Supporting Childcare Workers
  - Bonuses will be partly funded from the Childcare Revitalization Fund signed into law by Governor Murphy, which provides \$30 million to Human Services for childcare workforce assistance
- Supporting Childcare Providers
  - 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 grant will be \$2,000 for family childcare providers
  - Grants will 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
  - Once used for payment, the E-Child Care System will be re-initiated come July 2022

## VII. Advisory Committee Reports

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

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee and the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) last met on January 24, 2022. These two organizations meet as an HIV consortium. The Commissioners of Morris County created the Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee. The Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) is made by HRSA's Ryan White Part A program. They have not met since the last HSAC meeting.

Here's something that was not mentioned in the last HIV Report. In January, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) announced that Governor Murphy had signed legislation to expand harm reduction efforts to help end New Jersey's opioid epidemic. This package of laws impacts HIV+ intravenous substance users to reduce their transmission of HIV, which usually occurs through the sharing of needles. According to the NJDOH, "This package will bring services to residents needing access to clean syringes and prevent transmission of HIV and hepatitis, provide health screenings, and connect individuals to treatment, vaccination, education, and recovery supports." Carol Harney, CEO of South Jersey AIDS Alliance, said, "By expanding syringe access and protecting health services for people living with a substance use disorder and living with or at-risk of HIV, New Jersey lawmakers are saving lives."

Next week the Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee will meet virtually on Monday, March 28 at 1 PM.

**Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) – Ms. Linda Csengeto**

NewBridge Services gave a presentation on Compulsive Gambling and explained their services for compulsive gamblers through a \$200,000 grant. March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

There is an RFP to assist licensed Mental Health and licensed Substance Use providers in offering medications funded through SAMHSA. Family Connections, Inc. was awarded \$750,000 to provide training, coaching, and consultation services to counselors and leadership employed at the state-licensed opioid treatment providers. This initiative increases the prescribing of medication for black residents that support addiction recovery. Medication-assisted treatment is the clinical standard of care for opioid use disorder.

A gap noted in the County's Mental Health Services for those not qualified for hospitalization, yet too ill to be on their own or alone in a motel, and in need of more support. More discussion is needed.

**Advisory Committee on Women – Ms. Joann Bjornson**

The plan focused on the County Orientation to Advisory Committees, Seeds of Change Award follow-up, and discussion on our three-year focus on Housing as Healthcare.

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 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
  - Membership application  
<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/Advisory-Committee-on-Women>
- Seeds of Change Award Committee
  - The award was presented to Ms. Mary Ledyard at the March 8<sup>th</sup> Board of County Commissioner Meeting at 4:30 pm
  - We also honored a retired member, Ms. Carole Harper
  - Many of the committee, as well as guests and friends of the awardees, attended
- Housing as Healthcare Action Committee will create a timeline and focus for the remainder of 2021

Women's Economic Empowerment Summit

We agreed to support the Housing Partnership and the Dover Community in a half-day event aimed at education and providing opportunities to women on the ways to compete in the world from a position of economic strength. Discussion centered around the following steps to support the committee putting this event together. Tentative date for May 2021.

Next Meeting – April 20, 2022

**Youth Services Advisory Committee** – as received before the meeting

- Presentations
  - Ms. Theresa Alonso from Head Start
    - Has two locations in Morris County
    - They serve pregnant women through youth age 5
    - Holistic approach, education, health, and family services, and wrap-around support
    - Do home visits, complete early diagnostic screenings, health and developments, and behavior when needed
    - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HSCollabs>
- General Announcements
  - Ms. Barbara Kauffman from CARES shared they are working to make video cards for their awareness education campaign. They will be offering pediatric physicians to use in their waiting rooms first, and they will be able to send samples when they have some.
  - Ms. Ingrid Vaca-Bullar, Center for Services, will be merging with Family Guidance of Warren

- Mr. Dave Johnston, Deirdre's House, Game of Life registration forms are due April 1, 2022. Pequannock on April 27 and Dover on May 19; Deirdre's House is seeking a clinician, full or part-time, LCSW or MA
- Ms. Holly Dinney, Neighborhood House, reported that they are offering Teen Mental Health First Aid, and the Rites of Passage program has also begun. Ms. Looby wrote that they are also looking for a Teen Program Coordinator.

## **VIII. Partnership Announcements**

**Continuum of Care (CoC) – Mr. David Saltzman, Esq. – no report**

## **IX. Old Business**

**Homeless Trust Fund – no report**

**Needs Assessment – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod**

We know that the DHS will not reach out for a new Needs Assessment anytime soon.

## **X. New Business**

**Presentation – New Jersey Health Collaborative – Ms. Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis**

- Our mission is to build capacity to improve community health using data to inform Community Health Needs Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans; to build networks across sectors, and to provide a shared framework to leverage resources and demonstrate the impact
- Through our work on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), we engage with public health, local government agencies, non-profits, and businesses who provide resources, programs, and services in the community
- We provide support to our healthcare partners by linking clinical to the community through our network of partner organizations.
- The North Jersey Health Collaborative is an independent, self-governed 501(c)(3) organization with diverse partners representing health care, public health, social services, and other community organizations.
- Our core function is a shared process for community needs assessment and health improvement planning to identify the most pressing health issues and facilitate the development of collaborative action plans to address them.
- By working together in unprecedented ways, our partners are strategically aligning their efforts and resources to achieve a collective impact on the health of our communities, accomplishing together what we could never do alone.
- A health indicator is a measure designed to summarize information about a given priority topic in population health or health system performance. Health indicators provide comparable and actionable information across different geographic, organizational, and administrative boundaries and can track progress over time. We provide over 150 hands, comparisons, trends, and related data.
  - Health
  - Access to Care
  - Exercise, Nutrition, and Weight
  - Diabetes

- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Built Environment
- Social Environment
- Economy
- Transportation
- We've drawn together a diverse collection of professional resources for researchers, policymakers, advocates, and other engaged citizens
  - Promising Practices – a database of documented approaches to improve community health and quality of life
  - Funding Opportunities – regularly updated; opportunities are automatically removed when they expire
  - Location Report Builder – an easy way to tell the story of your community in a beautiful and straightforward report
  - Help topics – Learn how to get the most out of our site
  - Register Ready – New Jersey Special Needs Registry for Disasters
  - <https://www.njhealthmatters.org>

**XI. Public Comment** – no comment

**XII. Adjournment**

Mr. Pawelczyk made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Bjornson seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II