

**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, May 25, 2021, 5:15 pm via Webex Meetings

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

Ms. Rebekka Zydel, Chair, 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  
Teresa, Connolly, Nourish NJ  
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Xiomara Guevara, Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs  
David Johnson, Deirdre O'Brien Child Advocacy Center  
Joann McEniry, EDGE NJ – Vice-Chair  
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, North Jersey Health Collaborative  
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative  
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey  
David Saltzman, 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)  
Linda Csengeto, Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)  
Lenora Humphrey, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency  
Maria Ojeda, NJ Department of Child Protection & Permanency  
Nelson Troche, NJ Department of Human Services

**Morris County Staff:**

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

**Others in Attendance:**

Ashley Escobar, New Jersey City University  
Ratna Joshi-Nelson, Family Support Center

**II. Approval of the April 27, 2021 Minutes**

Motion to approve April 27, 2021, minutes made by Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk and Seconded by Ms. Joann McEniry, Vice-Chair. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

**III. Chair/Vice-Chair Report – Ms. Zydel & Ms. McEniry  
HSAC Need Assessment**

Ms. Zydel and Ms. McEniry went through the PowerPoint presentation. Please follow this link for complete details. <https://dcfdata.ssw.rutgers.edu/Morris>

**IV. New Jersey Department of Human Service – no report  
Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Ms. Lenora Humphrey (the report was submitted and distributed before the meeting)**

**Morris East LO:**

CWS: 13  
CPS: 66  
R&I: 20  
SPRU: 17  
New: 11  
Active: 21  
Reopens Intake less than 90 days: 5  
DV: 16  
SA: 20  
Homelessness: 0  
Youth Homelessness: 0  
Spanish Speaking: 3  
Safe Care: 2  
Adolescents over 21 who wanted case reopen: 2

**Morris West L.O.:**

CWS: 16  
CPS: 80  
R&I: 27 (Both on New cases and Active Cases)  
SPRU: 14  
New: 44  
Active: 21  
Reopens Intake: 40  
Reopens Perm: 2  
60 day Reopens: 6  
90 Day Reopens: 1  
DV: 21  
S.A.: 26  
Homelessness: 1  
Youth Homelessness: 0  
Spanish Speaking: 11  
Safe Care: 1

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

Ms. Archer announced that May is Mental Health Awareness month. The Planning Committee of the Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) will

circulate “30 Days of Self Care”. It will be distributed to all advisory boards, providers, and post on our website.

**VI. Subcommittee Report** – moved to end of meeting for closed session and vote

**VII. Advisory Committee Reports**

**Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong** (the report was submitted and distributed before the meeting)

**MSW WDB Reemployment Activities**

**1. Business Services Hiring Events**

Virtual or in-person events

- The shift from information sessions to hiring events
- Recent focus - single employer hiring events
- WDB and NJDOL Business Representatives collaborate to match individuals to jobs based on skills, education, and job requirements.

Company	Event Date	# Job Seekers Attended
Burlington	Late February	73
County of Morris, OTA	March	Group event- (25)
Amneal Pharmaceuticals	May 17 in-person	80
Crystal Springs Resort	May 18	52
NJ Transit Veteran Event	May 13	45
Camfil Manufacturing	May 19	2
Amazon	May 21 <sup>st</sup> in-person	
Atlantic Health System	June 2	

**2. Supportive Services for Employment**

**Apprenticeship- automotive**

- Successfully placed one veteran, new hire at DeBoer Automotive in Sussex County
- Working with Automotive Magic, a Morris County employer, to place two new hires

- New Hire - On-the-Job Training Programs
- Supported dislocated worker hires into management/sales program for a Fitness/Nutrition business
- Supported dislocated worker hires into administrative position for Sussex Chamber of Commerce
- Supportive Services for Employment
- Employer Services

#### **Apprenticeship- manufacturing**

- Weiss Aug- Parsippany; Supporting three employees: on-the-job training for tool and die apprenticeship program
- Bihler USA- Phillipsburg- Supporting seven employees for on-the-job training for tool and die apprenticeship program

#### **Incumbent Worker Training Support**

- Currently working to support a consortium of automotive service businesses – DMV Certification
  - *The outcome will be wage increases for employees and business growth*
- Supporting 18 NORWESCAP employees to obtain certifications in Grant Skills, Financial Counselor, Financial Health Counselor, and Microsoft Excel

**Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Bob Armstrong** (the report was submitted and distributed before the meeting)

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee/EIRC (Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative) met online on Monday, May 17, at 1 pm.

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) has established a website: <https://sites.google.com/view/mswcommittee/home>. Check it out for EIRC and Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee information and updates. These two groups meet together as an HIV collaborative.

All agencies that offer services to HIV clients are now receiving in-person visits in addition to communication online.

AIDSWatch was held virtually March 22 – 24. Steve Westington reported issues discussed with U.S. Congress members to include HIV decriminalization. Policy topics were: access to health care, appropriations for federal HIV/AIDS programs, civil and human rights, and sexual wellness and reproductive rights.

The Tri-county HIV committee discussed ways to support and implement HIV-related advocacy efforts.

AIDSWalk Morris County was held on May 2 as a scavenger hunt. \$51,817 was raised. The Community Action Board (CAB) for HIV clients and advocates met on May 13. Officer Anthony Perez of the Morris County Sheriff's Office introduced himself and reported that he had been assigned to the Community Services Unit as a Community Outreach Officer and the LGBT Liaison.

Zufall Health Center, partnering with youth from Vision and Pathways, is holding a Health Fair on June 12. Zufall has teamed up with Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center to hold a Latinx support group for people who identify as transgender.

The Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (NEMA) HIV Health Services Planning Council, which includes Morris County, has a website: [nemaplanningcouncil.org](http://nemaplanningcouncil.org).

NEMA is holding: 1) Ryan White Part A Community Forum on May 26 at 5 pm; 2) Webinar: Basics of Medicare Eligibility on May 26 at 2 pm; 3) Webinar: Housing is Healthcare on May 27 at 1 pm. See their website for details.

National HIV Testing Day will be June 27.

For those interested in volunteer advocacy work, please contact the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation.

In 2020, 13,830 people were living with HIV/AIDS within the five-county region of Morris, Sussex, Warren, Union, and Essex. This number has remained steady (+ or - 130) for the last five years.

The next meeting of the Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee and EIRC will be held virtually on July 19 at 1 pm.

**Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Ms. Linda Csengeto** (the report was submitted and distributed before the meeting)

COVID-19 Coordinating Entity (CCE) is the call center at UBHC (Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care) that serves as the initial point of entry for individuals seeking mental health and substance use services as a result of COVID-19 related issues. This telehealth resource is for anyone struggling emotionally during this pandemic. It is a counseling linkage program that will provide counseling services to staff, medical professionals, Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) ( ), Mentally Ill (MI) ( ), and family members. Contact the COVID CONNECT helpline at 833-223-0011.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Request for a Proposal funding opportunity for DD/MI Stabilization Homes

NJ Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) was awarded a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) ( for \$2 million per year for 2020 to 2025 to implement a Promoting Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care initiative.

Additional SNAP funding – The 462,000 households in N.J. that receive food assistance through NJ SNAP, the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, will receive a total of \$79.9 million in extra benefits in May. The NJDHS will have distributed \$694.1

million in supplemental monthly SNAP payments to households when those additional payments are included since the pandemic began in March 2020.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. This provides supplemental funding for programs and a vast array of resources to assist people with disabilities to continue living independently in their communities across the U.S.

The Centers for Independent Living received funds to assist individuals with disabilities in overcoming barriers encountered due to the pandemic. Morris, Sussex, and Warren CARES Act funding are available through the DAWN Center for Independent Living, 973-625-1940.

The County is accepting 2022 applications for GIA and CHAPTER 51 funding. The GIA funding provides individuals with no/low income with needed services to achieve wellness and recovery. Chapter 51 funding meets the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug treatment needs of those who lack the financial means to access treatment due to lack of insurance or the ability to self-pay. Contact Amy Archer at 973-285-6852 or [aarcher@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:aarcher@co.morris.nj.us) with any questions.

The Rotary District hosted a “Stomp Out Stigma” Awareness Walk on 5/22 at the Denville and Madison locations.

The Moratorium for Utility Shut-Offs Ends June 30, 2021.  
<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/assistance/programs/>

Free Rides to Vaccination Sites – Call 211.

**Women’s Committee – Ms. Joann Bjornson** (the report was submitted and distributed before the meeting)

**Overview:** The committee met on May 18, 2021. The agenda focused on discussing the information learned from the United Way ALICE presentation at the April meeting. The Morris County Needs Assessment was also discussed.

**Discussion on the ALICE Presentation and Morris County Needs Assessment:**

Discussed the presentation by Molly Rennie, Director of Strategic Partnerships at United for Alice, who presented to the committee at the April meeting. The committee members had also reviewed information regarding United in Care, a pilot childcare program supported by the United Way. Members also discussed the data provided in the Morris County Needs Assessment. The committee developed questions to ask at our next meeting when we receive a presentation on the assessment by a member of the HSAC. The committee is interested in learning about how the Women’s Advisory Committee can be helpful to the HSAC. The committee discussed one area of helping would be to disseminate information about services available to county residents on topics such as housing, childcare, domestic violence, and information relevant to seniors.

**Goals:** The committee is interested in learning about how the Women's Advisory Committee can be helpful to the HSAC. We plan to continue this discussion at our next meeting, where we will have a member of the HSAC discuss the Needs Assessment in depth.

**Publicity:** The committee discussed utilizing the Morris County newsletter to disseminate information relevant to women in Morris County. We will more formally define the goal of publicity at an upcoming meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2021.

**Youth Services Advisory Committee – Mr. Dave Johnston** (the report was submitted and distributed before the meeting)

#### PRESENTATIONS

Jennifer Haggis from the Family Support Center at Care Plus presented.

- Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) funded program.
- They work with the family of any person with substance use disorder.
- Eligibility - know or love someone who has a substance use disorder. It can be any relationship.
- Utilize the Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT) model.
- Focus on what the family needs.
- Three components to the program;
  - One on One supportive coaching
  - Support via CRAFT
  - Case management services.
- Provide a program to the northern counties Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Morris, Sussex, and Essex
- Currently running a virtual peer support program
- They are based in Paramus but can drive to families where they are.
- Many referrals come from within Careplus, so they are trying to increase awareness around other counties.
- Jennifer's contact information [jenniferh@careplusnj.org](mailto:jenniferh@careplusnj.org)

#### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Beth Jacobson from New Bridge Services announced that they would be running a teen support group Tuesdays at 4 pm. Virtual. Call access center if interested
- Ingrid Vaca Bullaro from Family Intervention Services announced they would be starting a Mending Arts group running from June 29 -August 24. It will be virtual.
- Katy Bedarsky from Prevention is Key, the Youth Mentoring Initiative Coordinator, spoke about the mentoring program. Reach out to her for more information. [kbednarsky@mcpik.org](mailto:kbednarsky@mcpik.org)
- Dennecia Proctor spoke briefly about their program Mind Education which operates in Juvenile Detention Centers, she connects with Ellie Fuentes from the

JDC, and they will discuss further.

- Deirdre’s House announced a few staff changes. They are looking for a replacement for one staff member. Referrals are going up from the community.
- Holly Dinney from Family Support Organization informed the committee that they are holding a series of educational webinars about the different areas of the youth system. These presentations are recorded and on their YouTube channel. Channel is called “Family Partners of Morris and Sussex Counties.”

#### **VIII. Partnership Announcements**

Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Terry Connolly – no report

#### **IX. Old Business**

Homeless Trust Fund – Mr. Jeff Bashe – no report

#### **X. New Business**

Ms. Bjornson announced Family Promise National, representatives from School House Rock and Sesame Street met with Representative Mikie Sherrill. Rep. Sherrill has agreed to support and be the presenting sponsor for the Homeless Children and Youth Act. This bill modifies definitions relating to homeless individuals and homeless children, or youth, to include families and chronic homelessness, as used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to verify eligibility for HUD homeless assistance programs and align them with the definitions of “homeless,” used verify eligibility for other federal assistance programs.

Ms. Xiomara Guevara stated the Moratorium of Utility shut-offs would be ending on June 30. Please continue to let your clients know to apply for help before then.

#### **XI. Public Comment**

Ms. Ashley Escobar asked, “What is the County doing to outreach Mental Health Services to the Black and Hispanic population?” Ms. Csengeto stated that she might want to attend the next MHASAB meeting. Ms. Archer said that Hope One and Navigating Hope are out in the County visiting different Municipalities and have representatives from Mental Health Association. Ms. O’Reilly-Stanzilis, tap into your healthcare systems; St. Clares’ and Morristown Medical Center have community calendars, free programs for the community on substance abuse, depression, and mental health issues on their websites. Ms. McEniry said, “It is essential to note the County does fund Mental Health programming for nonprofits and organizations to outreach and engage the community on mental healthcare.”

Ms. Fodali announced that Mr. Jeff Paul sent out a Code Blue Survey a few weeks ago. This survey will help identify priorities for the future code blue seasons and help enhance the coordination of services.

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

**Program Review Subcommittee Report – Mr. Jeff Bashe & Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk**  
Motion to close the general meeting



The board closed the open portion of the meeting under P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 6:50 pm.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Zydel Adjourned meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II