

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

P.O. Box 900  
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Board of County Commissioners

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**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)  
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 5:15 pm via Webex Meeting

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

Ms. Rebekka Zydell, 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  
Terry Connolly, Nourish NJ  
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, North Jersey Health Collaborative  
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 Zydell, Child & Family Resources – Chair

**Board Liaisons:**

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board (Morris, Sussex, Warren)  
Shawna Bailey, Morris County Office on Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming  
Linda Csengeto, Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)  
Lenora Humphrey, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency

**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

Steve Nebesni, Department of Human Services

**Others in Attendance:**

Catherine Connelly, United Way

**II. County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – Mr. Steve Nebesni**

Mr. Nebesni is the Morris County Municipal Alliance Coordinator and works for the Morris County Juvenile Detention Center. The Municipal Alliances are volunteer lead organizations in 31 out of 39 Municipalities in Morris County. These organizations plan and run substance use prevention activities in the municipalities that they serve. In addition, the CASS is a subcommittee of the Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board (MHASAB). The MHASAB oversees their funding and approves all activities for the year.

The CASS is looking for new members or additional members. CASS is a good committee for those looking to volunteer for the first time. This group meets every other month for about an hour, reviewing any funding changes, program modifications, and applications yearly. This is a County appointed position, and your only requirement is to live or work in Morris County.

If you or anyone you know is looking to get involved, please fill out the Biographical Profile Form on the County website listed below, or you can contact Mr. Nebesni at [snebesi@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:snebesi@co.morris.nj.us).

<https://morriscountynj.seamlessdocs.com/f/boardprofile>

A description of the group and responsibilities will be distributed to the HSAC via email.

**III. Approval of May 25, 2021, Minutes**

One correction was noted to the May 25 minutes. Mr. David Johnston's name was misspelled. Motion to approve May 25, 2021, minutes made by Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk and seconded by Ms. Jane Shivas. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

**IV. ALICE Presentation – Ms. Catherine Connelly, Director of Research Engagement, United for ALICE at United Way of Northern New Jersey**

ALICE, an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, is a new way of defining and understanding the struggles of households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level but not enough to afford a bare-bones household budget.

For far too many families, the cost of living outpaces what they earn. As a result, these households struggle to manage even their most basic needs - housing, food, transportation, child care, health care, and necessary technology.

When funds run short, cash-strapped households are forced to make impossible choices, such as deciding between quality child care or paying the rent, filling a prescription, or fixing the car. Unfortunately, these short-term decisions have long-term consequences not only for ALICE families but for all of us.

ALICE is your child care worker, the cashier at your supermarket, the gas attendant, the salesperson at your big box store, your waitress, a home health aide, an office clerk. ALICE cannot always pay the bills, has little or nothing in savings, and is forced to make tough choices such as deciding between quality child care or paying the rent. One unexpected car repair or medical bill can push these financially strapped families over the edge.

The future success of our communities is directly tied to the financial stability of these fragile ALICE households.

For additional information, please visit our new interactive website at

<https://www.unitedforalice.org/>

**V. Chair/Vice-Chair Report – Ms. Rebekka Zydell, Chair  
Needs Assessment Update**

The Planning Committee has met twice since our last HSAC meeting. During these meetings, the narrative report and the PowerPoint were reviewed by the committee. As a result, the committee members have split up topic areas and formulated recommendations for review at the next HSAC meeting.

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

**VII. New Jersey Department of Children & Families  
Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Ms. Lenora Humphrey  
May 2021 Statistical Report for Morris County**

Morris West Stats:

CWS: 6  
CPS: 68  
R&I: 35 (Both on New cases and Active Cases)  
Out of the cases as mentioned above, there were:  
SPRU: 14  
New: 24  
Active: 31  
Reopens Intake: 40  
Reopens Perm: 2  
60 day Reopens: 5  
90 Day Reopens: 2  
DV: 18  
SA: 19  
Homelessness: 0  
Youth Homelessness: 0  
Spanish Speaking: 4

Safe Care: 0

Morris East Stats:

CWS: 9  
CPS: 54  
R&I: 29  
SPRU: 16  
New: 36  
Active: 38  
Reopens overall: 36  
Reopens Intake less than 90 days: 13  
DV: 21  
SA: 23  
Homelessness: 0  
Youth Homelessness: 0  
Spanish Speaking: 7  
Safe Care: 1  
Adolescents over 21 who wanted Case to reopen: 0

## **VIII. Staff Reports – Ms. Amy Archer & Ms. Shelia Carter**

Ms. Carter stated the Site Monitoring visits would be held virtual this year. A Doodle Poll will be sent to all funded agencies to sign up for a date and time in July and August for the monitoring meetings. A Doodle Poll will also be sent to the Program Review Committee to sign up for the monitoring meetings. In addition, agencies must fill out the Pre-Site Monitoring Reports forwarded to Program Review Committee members participating in that monitoring.

Ms. Carter announced the 2022 Funding Review meetings could be held on Wednesday, September 8, and Thursday, September 9, in person at 1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains.

The HSAC is drafting a Resolution for Tom Pepe that will be presented to his family.

Ms. Archer announced Mr. Tim Tansey, Director of Community Development, is retiring as of June 30, 2021. A virtual get-together for him will be held on June 29 via Webex.

Ms. Jennifer Van Natta will be taking over this position. Ms. Van Natta comes to us from the Office of Aging, Disabilities & Community Programming She has extensive experience in the fiscal piece of grant management. Throughout the past four years, Ms. Van Natta has managed the fiscal portion of the Area Plan (federal funding). Her responsibilities include, but are not limited to, audits, voucher processing, expenditure reports, federal reporting, etc. In Ms. Van Natta's past employment, she worked on the financial portion of CDBG grants. While needing to learn the programmatic aspect of CDBG, HOME, ESG, and the rehab program, Jen will effortlessly fit the fiscal role in the Office of Community Development.

Her official start date is August 16. Therefore, I will fill Mr. Tansey's role from July 1 until Ms. Van Natta's start date on August 16.

At last month's meeting, it was identified through a discussion regarding the Needs Assessment that Victory Gardens requires support. With a lot of effort, Navigating Hope secured the following dates for outreach in that community; June 10, June 24, and July 19.

Several months ago, we had spoken about Code Blue and how we were having difficulty distributing the funding. Finally, however, we allocated approximately \$69,000.00 to Homeless Solutions and Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance for unreimbursed Code Blue expenses.

## **IX. Advisory Committee Reports**

### **a. Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong Presentations**

#### **Together North Jersey Institute**

The MSW WDB, a member of North Jersey Partners 501 (c)3, a workforce and economic collaborative, received funding from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD) to perform a workforce focused

survey of small businesses and a series of listening sessions during the pandemic. Rutgers University, Bloustein School of Public Policy, and Employers Association of New Jersey are study co-authors. The study results were presented by the MSW WDB Director, Jane A. Armstrong, and co-authors at the Together North Jersey Institute webinar on June 16. Together North Jersey Institute (TNJ) is a consortium of partners working to make the northern NJ region more economically competitive, efficient, livable, and resilient through collaboration, technical assistance, and peer-exchange opportunities.

### **National Association of Workforce Development Boards Forum 2021**

The MSW WDB Director, Jane A. Armstrong, and Associate Director, Beth Rodgers, North Jersey Partners (NJP) 501 (c)3, a workforce and economic development collaborative, will present grant outcomes at the 2021 NAWB Forum on June 25. NJP received funding from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. NJP developed and delivered training and employment program to upskill the unemployed and address the workforce needs. The program's design meets pandemic business needs and supports talent recruitment, onboarding, and retention strategies resulting in a talent pipeline. The goal for participants is to obtain credentials in Salesforce Administration or APICS Supply Chain Management and employment in high-demand, higher-wage occupations with well-defined career paths with a salary range of \$60,000-\$100,000 per year. To date, 60% of Cohort 1 participants are certified and employed.

### **Morris County Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Affairs Council**

Beth Rodgers, the MSW WDB Associate Director, Business Services, speaks with The Hispanic Affairs Council, comprised of business owners dedicated to a diverse workplace. She and Mark Ortega, NJDOL Business Representative, will talk about the various workforce incentives offered through the MSW WDB and the NJDOL. The meeting date is June 23, 2021, at 9 am.

#### **b. Council on Aging Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Shawna Bailey**

On *April 12, 2021*, from *10 am to 1 pm*, the *County and Aging Department* held a drive-thru event at the *Morris County Library*, COVID-19 Wellness Event. The weather was rainy, and we had 65 participants. Wellness kits for adults 60 years of age and adults with disabilities were distributed. It also contained informational pamphlets (from *St. Clare's, Morris County Sheriff's Office*) on keeping yourself healthy and vaccination information. Between *Providers, Senior Housing, Nutrition Department, and Home Delivered Meals*, 2,500 kits were distributed.

This week we are putting together a mini-program, "*Social Isolation Program*," internally for *60 + clients* only, funded by our *Older American's* monies. We allowed our *Providers*, contracted by us, to identify seniors who may benefit from items to combat isolation.

We purchased and provided items up to \$40.00 per person, such as a CD player, paint by numbers kits, decks of cards, books, and novels.

*We are very proud that we received 32 responses, and we fulfilled 29 requests.*

We also had a campaign for "Public Awareness" that was successful. In May, we celebrate "Older Americans Month." This year's theme is "Communities of Strength." We sent seniors/disabled a letter reminding them that we are still making connections. It included a prepaid postcard for them to connect with others.

The 2022 funding applications are now out. There are three applications this year, made available May 28, on two separate websites.

- *The first is the Grant-in-Aid funding application, due back by **June 25** to the Department of Human Services. A paper application is available on the Human Services website, to be downloaded and filled in.*
- *Area Plan Contract application is due back to the Purchasing Agent by **July 7**. An RFP (Request for Proposal), Competitive Contract through our Purchasing Agent, is only available directly downloaded on **Bid-Net Direct**. This is a separate paper with questions answered.*
- *The **Title IIIID Evidence-Based Programming** is a particular application through our Purchasing Department, **Bid-Net Direct**, due June 29.*

We will be holding the *annual 2022 Funding* review and scoring of applications on *August 10* and *11*. This meeting is when *Advisory Council* members review and score application requests received from providers.

We hope to have these in person. I don't have an okay from the *County* as of yet.

**MAPS Paratransit** is still operating at 75% capacity. We are looking forward to increasing to 100% capacity by late summer, early fall.

**Veteran's Service Office** has recently undergone a re-mapping to make it more social service-oriented. In addition, the Commissioners approved two new *Veteran's Service Officers*, one having a clinician background, and one is a veteran. We feel they will complement each other, and their start dates are *June 21* and *July 19, 2021*.

**Nutrition Department** will continue to provide the additional meal weekly to *Home-Delivered* clients through additional funding our Department received. The *Congregate* sites remain closed; we are currently discussing opening options. I also received information from *Public Media* that 80% of residents in Morris County 65 and older have been vaccinated and 70% of adults.

c. **Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory** – no report

d. **Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Ms. Linda Csengeto**

COVID-19 Coordinating Entity (CCE) – is the call center that serves as the initial point of entry for anyone seeking mental health and substance use services due to COVID-19 related issues. The number to call is 833-223-0011.

Opportunity for Peer Providers – an upcoming series of info sessions about cutting-edge training in CT-R, a transformative and evidence-based approach.

The training is free and will focus on developing new and innovative strategies to:

- Provide hope and build trust with clients
- Motivate persons to pursue The Life They Want
- Overcome challenges using a positive "strengths-based" approach
- Help people get "unstuck" and take steps towards a self-directed life
- Improve your self-confidence, competency, and self-care.

Contact Emilie Banz at [banzer@shp.rutgers.edu](mailto:banzer@shp.rutgers.edu), Amy Banko at [amy.banko@rutgers.edu](mailto:amy.banko@rutgers.edu), or Nina Bertolami at [ninab@beckinstitute.org](mailto:ninab@beckinstitute.org)

The DHS announced that another \$22.6 million in federal funds is available to expand and support mental health services to address increased needs in the wake of COVID-19. Examples of services that will be funded included Early Serious Mental Illness Programs, and Crisis Receiving and Stabilization; Emergency Room Diversion; Legal Assistance with Evictions and Housing to individuals diagnosed with a severe mental illness facing eviction; Outreach; Mental Health First Aid; Peer Wellness Program; Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy training; Implementation of 9-8-8 – to become the new three-digit dialing code for the mental crisis to replace the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; and Performance improvement training for providers in the acute care system that serves the seriously mentally ill population.

Fair Market Rent Rate – When Governor Murphy signs the FY22 budget, the FMR rates will increase to 2020 FMR - currently, we exist under 2018 FMR.

Rosalyn Suarez, Addictions Services Coordinator, stated that monitoring would be virtual again this year.

Logisticare has changed its name to ModivCare.

The Planning Committee of MHASAB compiled a 30 Days of Self-Care document for Mental Health Month in May.

2022 Funding –The review meeting will be in August, and this year's GIA monitoring visits will be virtual again.

Amy Archer, Mental Health Administrator, discussed that GPPH had reached a Settlement Agreement. If a complaint is filed, a settlement liaison would investigate and report if a violation occurs. There is no requirement to make the complaints public. However, the MHASAB will request a summary.

Meetings investigating the complaint will not be open to the public.

There will be 15 hours per week of services to patients. In addition, there will be increased staff to assist patients with choosing activities they would benefit from.

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

Overview: The committee met on June 15, 2021. The agenda focused on creating subcommittees, membership and PR, calendar planning for the remainder of the year, and determining a focus area.

Goals:

Sub-committees were created on specific focus areas for more significant impact. Subcommittees will include Membership, PR/communication, Needs Focus Area, and Seeds of Change Award.

Membership to be reviewed at each meeting, seeking members who represent diversity in skill, age, race/ethnicity, LGBTQ, gender identification, ability, and lived expertise. Welcome new member Xiomara Guevara, Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs. Please reach out to Joann Bjornson if you would like to recommend someone for the committee; we are actively seeking members.

Focus Area- in discussion on pressing issues disproportionately affecting women.

Publicity: Discussed social media and newsletter forums for disseminating information

Next meeting- July 20, 2021. There will be no August meeting

**f. Youth Services Advisory Committee – no report**

**X. Partnership Announcements**

**Continuum of Care (CoC) – no report**

**XI. Old Business**

**Homeless Trust Fund – no report**



**XII. New Business** – no comment

**XIII. Public Comment** – no comment

**XIV. Adjournment**

Ms. Zydel Adjourned meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II