

Human Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) Meeting Tuesday, September 22, 2020, via Webex Meeting

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting opened at 5:15 pm by Ms. Rebekka Zydel. Roll call as listed below:

Members Present:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative
Teresa Connolly, Nourish NJ
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance
Joann McEniry, EDGE NJ – Vice Chair
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, North Jersey health Collaborative
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources, Inc. – Chair

Also Attending:

Mary Giorlando, New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities
Maria Ojeda, NJ Department of Child Protection & Permanency

MC Staff in Attendance

Amy Archer, MCDHS
Shawna Bailey, MCOTA
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS

- II. Welcome and Introductions**
All were welcomed.
- III. Chair Report – Ms. Rebekka Zydel – no report**
- IV. Approval of June 23, 2020 Minutes**
Motion to approve the June 23 meeting minutes with the below corrections made by Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk and seconded by Ms. Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.
- a. Mr. Bashe was in attendance at the June 23 meeting.
 - b. Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis is representing North Jersey Health Collaborative, not the Borough of Mt. Arlington.
 - c. Ms. Shivas stated the job openings at Project Self-Sufficiency in the MHASAB portion was a public announcement.

V. County of Morris Department of Human Services – Ms. Amy Archer

We are still working remotely with limited employees in the buildings. All services to our community continue uninterrupted.

The Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) Dover office is open, with services provided remotely.

Navigating Hope is in the communities four days a week. Plexy glass was installed for individuals to enter the van to complete applications instead of handing out resource information to clients.

The Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris has started going out on the Navigating Hope van once a week. They will provide resources and referrals as needed. In partnership with Morris County Freeholders, the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris have started a new Suicide Prevention Program. MHA will do ten presentations for adults. Also as part of this program, MHA will be training all of the Morris County school districts on the Signs of Suicide.

**VI. NJ Department of Human Services – Mr. Nelson Troche – no report
Division of Developmental Disabilities – Ms. Mary Giorlando**

Ms. Giorlando reported that the Division is open but working remotely. You can reach the Morris County office in Flanders at 973.927.2600; calls are being directed to an answering service and distributed to the corresponding person.

Eighty-nine individuals in our communities and thirty-seven individuals in our developmental centers pass away due to Covid-19.

Congnated Day Programs are starting to reopen. As of yesterday, thirty-nine programs are scheduled to reopen with Covid guidelines and precautions in place.

**VII. New Jersey Department of Children and Families
Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Ms. Maria Ojeda
Morris West Total Investigation for August 76 case:**

19 Child Welfare Assessments
55 Child Abuse/ Neglect Investigations:

Categories:

2 Homeless
26 Substance Abuse
23 Domestic Violence

Morris East Total Investigations for August 75 cases:

10 Child Welfare Assessments
65 Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations:

Categories:

1 Homeless
19 Substance Abuse

19 Domestic Violence
Sex Abuse 1
Physical Abuse 5
Neglect 44
5 cases were kids under 5
No effective substance newborns.

VIII. Staff Report – Ms. Shelia Carter

The Office of Community Development is in the process of updating the Analysis of Impediment to Fair Housing. This report examines ways to alleviate housing discrimination within Morris County jurisdiction, promote fair housing choices, and adequate and accessible housing. A discussion is scheduled Friday, October 2, 10:00 am – 11:00 am with members of this council and Morris Continuum of Care (CoC).

2021 Grant In Aid (GIA), Child Abuse Prevention (CAP), and Navigating Hope funding application were reviewed by the Program Review Subcommittee, and recommendations will be discussed and voted on later during closed session.

2021 Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) funding applications were due on September 15. The Program Review Committee will review these applications on October 5 and present their recommendations at the next HSAC meeting.

IX. Planning

Child Care System Update – Ms. Rebekka Zydel

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

At the same time, the impact of COVID-19 has led to widespread child care program closures. Open programs are experiencing low child enrollment (compared to pre-COVID) and increased operating costs (related to restrictions in the number of children that can be in child care center classrooms for public health purposes and increased cleaning and sanitization requirements.)

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 in March 2020: 270

Approximate Total Number of Licensed Centers in June 2020: 200

Total Number of Registered FCC Providers March 2020: 36

Total Number of Registered FCC Providers June 2020: 31

Child Care Centers reporting waiting lists. Office of Licensing (OOL) regulations limited group size to 10 children. Effective September 21 group size increased to 15 children.

Parents are reporting providers are requiring monthly tuition in advance. For families participating in the child care subsidy program, some providers are requiring weekly co-payments a month in advance. Parents are also reporting access barriers as providers are prioritizing families.

NJ DHS DFD Initiatives:

Through December 30:

- Tuition Assistance Program for families not eligible for the state subsidy program and earning no more than \$75k, for children ages 5-13
- Full-Time child care subsidies for school-age children
- Subsidy supplemental payment \$75.00 per child per month
- Sustainability and Recovery Grants for Licensed Centers and Registered Family Child Care Providers-not linked to subsidy eligibility

Shared Services

8 Licensed Center Members and 5 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)

- Served 3 children

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

- Serving 3 children with full-time school age care

Grooming to Grow (GIA)

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

Registered Family Child Care (GIA)

- Orientations being conducted
- Increase in recruitment

Child Care Resource & Referral (GIA)

Increase in referrals for school-age children

X. Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong – report attached

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Ms. Joann McEniry, Vice Chair

The MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory met last on July 14, 2020, and hosted a listening and prevention session via zoom. The topics included COVID-19 and HIV/STI transmission. The goal was to discuss and educate consumers about safer sex practices during the COVID pandemic. All of the county's Ryan White funded HIV service organizations participated.

The committee did not meet in August or September. However, the chair and co-chair conducted yearly planning and met regarding structure. The following was discussed:

- Restarting the CAB with the addition of consumer engagement education. The development of a curriculum and structure program is being considered. Hopefully, this would lead to a more engaged, committed, and trained membership in the CAB. Examples of education topics are self-advocacy skills, peer support skills, cultural competency, and quality improvement.
- The HIV Advisory Board for Morris, Warren, and Sussex Counties seek feedback from the HIV+ clients to improve the knowledge and use of funding streams. There will be a mini needs assessment asking:

- As you think about the next six months, dealing with the new environment due to COVID/Coronavirus, what worries do you have about services and your future?
- Is there anything you think you will need our services currently do not offer?

The next meeting of the HIV/AIDS Advisory will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 11:00 am via ZOOM.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Ms. Jane Shivas

An overdose Awareness event was held on Monday, August 31, at 10:00 am at 1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains. The event occurred on the lawn outside the Human Services conference rooms; social distancing was practiced. A memorial tree and plaque were dedicated in remembrance of the Morris County residents who were taken by the drug epidemic, their grieving loved ones, and those who continue to fight for recovery.

Council on Aging Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Shawna Bailey

Ms. Bailey announced there is a new Veterans Service Officer.

The Department has received additional CARES Funding as a result of Covid and is reviewing the best distribution to the community.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Mr. Dave Johnston – no report

XI. Partnership Report

Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Terry Connolly

We have not heard officially from HUD yet. Still, it's looking like 2020 will be a non-competitive funding year, so our providers who were funded last year will likely be automatically supported again. We have also developed an arm of Coordinated Entry to coordinate Homelessness Prevention programs and be sure we're using CARES and other resources (public and private) in the most effective way. All providers are on board and participating.

XII. Old Business

HSAC Needs Assessment

Ms. Zydell reported there is much work going on behind the scenes. The DCF has provided a detailed guide book describing how to proceed. Ms. Archer, Ms. Carter, Ms.

McEniry, and Ms. Zydel met to discuss the next steps. There are ten focus groups, with a minimum of 6 participants per group to be held following a a pre-designed comprehensive survey distributed to the participants.. They are looking to schedule focus groups in October. A full committee meeting will be held before the focus groups taking place.

Homeless Trust Fund

Mr. Bashe stated discussion on the Homeless Trust Fund is still occurring. Habitat for Humanity received a grant for advocacy. Monarch was contacted to do a Whitepaper on the state of Homeless Trust Funds in New Jersey, focusing on Morris County to help fill gaps in funding or provide additional services.

XIII. New Business

Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis announced the North Jersey Health Collaborative's next meeting would be October 8. Those interested in receiving additional information on how the Collaborative can help support your organization's work, please reach out to her at fittogo@optonline.net.

XIV. Public Comment – no comment

XV. Motion to Close General Meeting – Ms. Rebekka Zydel, Chair Funding Closed Session

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.

XVI. Adjourn

Ms. McEniry adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II