

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 900
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HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 5:15 pm via Webex Meeting

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Ms. Joann McEniry, the Vice-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
Joan Bjornson, Family Promise
Joann McEniry, EDGE NJ – Vice-Chair
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roes, United Way of Northern New Jersey
David Saltzman, Esq., Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

Board Liaisons:

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board (Morris, Sussex, Warren)
Terry Connolly, Nourish NJ
Christine Hellyer, Morris County Division on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources
Nelson Troche, New Jersey 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
Maria Fodali, Office of Temporary Assistance
Anna Marie Hess, Department of Human Services

Others in Attendance:

Sean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Christine Rivera, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency

II. Nominating Committee – Ms. Jane Shivas, Chair

Ms. Shivas announced that since Ms. Zydel is no longer eligible to serve as the Chair of the HSAC, the nominating committee met and had the following recommendations: Ms. McEniry to serve as the Chair and Ms. Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources, as the Vice-Chair.

Motion to approve these recommendations was made by Ms. Shivas and seconded by Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

III. Approval of the June 22, 2021 Minutes

Motion to approve June 22, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Ms. Joann Bjornson and seconded by Mr. Pawelczyk. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstention. Motion carried.

IV. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Nelson Troche

Since super storms Henri and Ida, Mr. Troche reported that his department has been busy in the Community.

The Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services on Sept. 21 and 22 hosted a virtual summit on combating the opioid epidemic. The summit's theme was "Medication for Opioid Use Disorder: Increasing Access and Saving Lives," It featured panel discussions and workshop presentations by state officials, professional counselors, social workers, criminal justice professionals, physicians, and nurses.

Division of Developmental Disabilities – no report

V. New Jersey Department of Children and Families – no report

Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Ms. Christine Rivera

<u>Morris West</u>	60 Day Reopens: 5
CWS: 8	90 Day Reopens: 1
CPS: 59	DV: 18
R & I: 21	SA: 23
Out of the above-mentioned cases,	Homelessness: 0
there were:	Youth Homelessness: 0
SPRU: 13	Spanish Speaking: 9
New: 32	Safe Care: 4
Active: 18	
Reopens Intake: 28	
Reopens Perm: 2	

Morris East:
Children <5-years old, Mother <30-
years old: 5
Substance abuse affected newborn
cases aka Safe Care: 1
New: 24
Reopens Intake: 33
Active 41
CPS: 47

CWS: 3
R & I 36
SA: 25
DV: 20
Homelessness: 1
SPRU: 26
Spanish Speaking: 6
Less than 90 Day Reopens: 5

VI. Staff Reports

Ms. Shelia Carter announced that the proclamation for Mr. Tom Pepe from the HSAC was delivered to his family.

On Sunday, October 3, the County will participate in the annual Festival on the Green, from noon to 5:00 pm. For more information on the 2021 Morristown Festival on the Green, please go to the Morristown Partnership <https://www.morristown-nj.org/event/morristown-festival-on-the-green-2021>.

Ms. Amy Archer stated that Morris County has responded to those townships that were affected by Superstorm Ida. We sent Navigating Hope to these areas to connect those in need to various services. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is offering a waiver to replace perishable food lost due to a power outage lasting four hours or longer.

The Disaster and Terrorism Branch located within the office Mental Health and Addiction Services, distributed a brochure on Managing the Emotional Consequences of Storms and Flooding that can be found on our website <https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Morris-County-Stigma-Free-Communities-Initiative/Stigma-News/Managing-the-Emotional-Consequences-of-Storms-and-Flooding>.

Community Development received the grant agreement through the American Rescue Plan Act for approximately \$3 million in HOME funds. The structure of the program will be different. There will be a lot of planning and coordination with the Continuum of Care Board. This grant aims to provide housing and shelter services for the homeless and other valuable populations. The funding will be available through 2030. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Ms. Kasey Errico stated Morris County was awarded \$14.6 million for the Rental Assistance Program. Although we have distributed \$9.5 million already, there is still funding available. Continue to encourage your clients to apply for funding. Mr. Bashe asked, "How is the money being disbursed?" "The money is being disbursed directly to landlords, but if the landlord is refusing to accept the payment directly, there are other payment options available." Ms. Errico responded.

VII. Planning – Childcare (Voucher System Update) – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod

Morris County's economic recovery depends on the availability of childcare for working parents.

Child & Family Resources (CFR) is working on solutions to address stabilization and infrastructure support to ensure that parents in Morris County have access to various childcare options required for economic recovery.

At this time, Child & Family Resources has at least 50 job postings for childcare centers listed on our website. Unfortunately, there is a vast childcare worker shortage; there are waiting lists at childcare centers because they do not have enough staff to put in the classrooms with the children.

- CFR is currently looking to host a virtual job fair for childcare centers. It will be open to the public
- 18 Childcare centers permanently closed since March 2020
- The total number of Registered CFF Providers since May 2021 is 39

New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Family Development Initiatives

- Beginning in September 2021, subsidy differential payment \$300.00 full time \$150.00 part-time per child per month. This is the same amount as the previous supplemental payments; however, the Differential Payment is supposed to assist the parent directly.

NEW: All child care workers and facility employees in child care settings must be fully vaccinated by November 1st or face regular weekly testing.

Effective September 24th, all employees, students and children in a facility's care ages two and over, and visitors must wear masks indoors, with limited exceptions

COVID-19 UPDATE

EXECUTIVE ORDER PERTAINING TO ALL CHILD CARE SETTINGS:

- **All child care workers and facility employees be fully vaccinated by November 1st or face weekly testing**
- **Effective September 24th, all employees, students and children in a facility's care ages two and over, and visitors must wear facemasks**

NJ GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY

The Child Care Health Consultants are available to support health & safety in our child care community in New Jersey. You can contact them at cchc@cjfhc.org or at 1-888-999-1780 for non-urgent assistance.

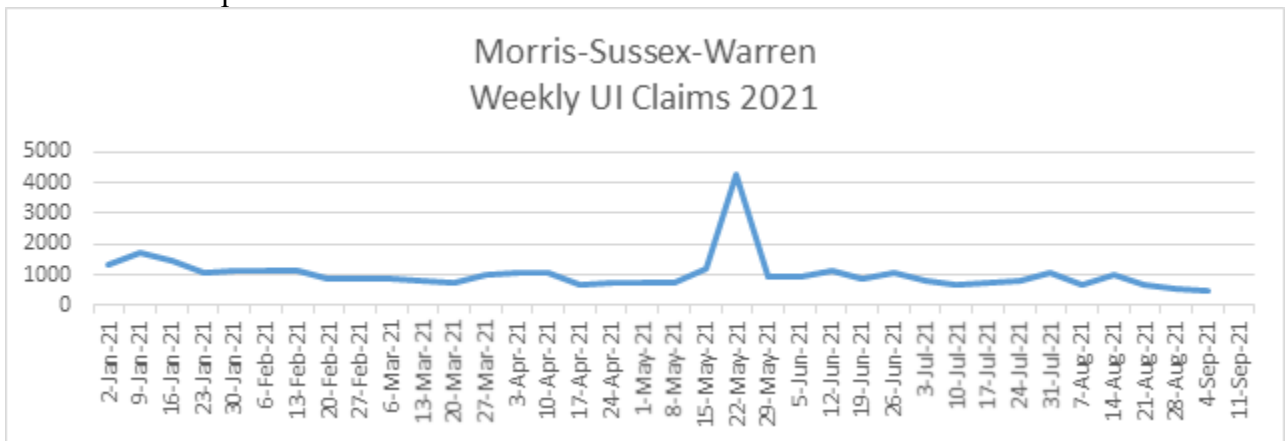
VIII. Advisory Committee Reports
Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong
Unemployment

The top occupations and industries trend changes for individuals filing for unemployment are:

- Accountants job postings are now among the top 21 job postings
- Home Health Aide job postings are no longer in the top 21 (in Morris); still among the top for Sussex and Warren

August Unemployment Claims update:

- The MSW weekly unemployment claims continued the downward trend and reached a new weekly low last week (459 claims), also the first time under 500 since the pandemic.



- 39% of August claimants are age 55+
- 40% of August claimants have a High School Diploma or less
- Occupational Group with most claims in August:

Management	542
Sales	377
Education	363
Office & Administrative	324
Construction	258
Transportation & Material Moving	229
Food Services	217
Production	146
Business & Financial	142
Personal Services	105
Arts & Entertainment	98
Healthcare	98
Computer & Math	87
Maintenance & Repair	80
Healthcare Support	62

As noted last month, some occupation groups with significant unemployment claims are in occupational groups listed among those with the most job postings. The Workforce Development Board, One Stop Operator, and Manager of Career Services contract with Employment and Training Services requires job search support. Placement of individuals in training is a secondary response based on the inability of an individual to secure employment and the tri-county labor market trends.

The Workforce Development Board received a list of names for those who filed for unemployment benefits in July and their self-reported job title. In addition, employment and Training Services is reaching out to promote employment opportunities through Engaged by Cell and providing additional resources.

Job Openings

As usual, most (80% or more) of the job openings are in Morris County.

The demand for labor continues to be high-paying and low-paying occupations and includes occupations with a significant number of unemployment claims (management, sales, retail, food processing). Therefore, job matching should help the UI claimants previously employed in-demand occupations absent other job search barriers.

The following occupations continue to be at the top of the list for most job openings:

- Applications Software Developers and other IT/computer/mathematical/analytical occupations (primarily in Morris County)
- Registered Nurses and other healthcare-related professions (e.g., CNAs, HHA)
- Food preparation and servers
- Sales, Retail Sales, Customer Service Representatives, Sales Management
- Managers, all others (field/industry not specified)
- Specifically identified management occupations (Marketing Managers, Sales Managers, General/Operations Managers)

Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Driver jobs are no longer among the top job listings for our tri-county area but still among the most listings (32) for Sussex County.

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

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee/EIRC (Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative) met online on Monday, September 20, at 1:00 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 still receiving in-person visits in addition to communication online.

AIDSWatch is being held virtually, September 27 - 28. AIDSWatch is an HIV Advocacy endeavor where people living with HIV/AIDS speak to members of Congress. It is traditionally held annually in the spring and now is being held bi-annually in the spring and fall. This is the second fall AIDSWatch event.

The Second Annual Aging with HIV Conference, presented by the New Jersey HIV Planning Group, is held online on October 6th, 13th, and 20th from noon to 1:00 pm. Topics are: October 6: Is this Aging or HIV? With Dr. Carrie Johnston; October 13: As we age with HIV, a panel discussion with community members; October 20: Navigating aging, HIV/AIDS, and COVID-19 with Dr. Kristen Krause. For more information, call 732-820-7359.

The By-Laws of the Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee are under review in 2021.

The Tri-county HIV committee is continuing to discuss ways to support and implement HIV-related advocacy efforts.

The Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (NEMA) HIV Health Services Planning Council, which includes Morris County, can be found at nemaplanningcouncil.org.

In 2020, 13,830 people lived 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 November 15 at 11:00 am.

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

- Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – State Liaison Report
Ms. Eileen Alexander reported that she can always report on all RFP's and that the website must be checked. See NJ.gov – Mental Health Section.
She did tell about the following RFP's available –
 - Gambling Disorder Clinician Services Program
 - Nurse Care Management in Opioid Tx Programs (OTPs)
 - Maternal Wraparound Program (M-WRAP).
- MH and SA Block Grants – The DMHAS has applied to SAMHSA for \$78M through the American Rescue Plan Act.
- State Budget Updates for Mental Health:
2022 Governor's Budget
 - Increased State Aid to 4 County Psych Hospital
 - Increased Rental Subsidies to more current Fair Market Rents Statewide

- Psychiatrist Residency Program
- Justice-Involved Pilot
- Olmstead Placements

Ongoing S-COPE Training – CEU's are available to provide regional training as part of their mission to provide resources and improve the overall emotional, mental, and physical health of individuals in our Nursing Facilities over the age of 55+.

Funding – the vote on GIA and CH 51 funding will take place at a special meeting next week as there was not a quorum.

The Signs of Suicide Program is extended until mid-2023 using CBDG funding. It's a suicide prevention program that works with schools.

The Navigating Hope van has outreach in the Community and at schools at their request.

Joint PAC Report – Lynn Chandler reported that schools are reaching out. St. Clare's went to the Denville schools. They speak to faculty and students.

Atlantic Health System has a video available for the school to borrow.

Discussed at PAC was the difficulty in building workforces in recruiting and retaining staff during Covid.

The GPPH census was 356, with 57 from Morris County.

Council on Aging Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Christine Hellyer

Ms. Hellyer reported all services continued during IDA. Care Managers made wellness calls to their clients.

July 31, 2021, was the last day for appointments for the COVID 19 J&J vaccines for homebound seniors and disabled residents, partnered by Morris County and Atlantic Health. The total administered was over 300.

Maps, Atlantic private Care, and Morris County Office of Hispanic Affairs have prioritized transportation for those visiting vaccine sites.

Also, the State of New Jersey offers free Uber/Lyft rides by calling 211.

MAPS has been operating at 100% since mid-July.

Nutrition staff Rhea Young and Jessica Jimenez offered a pilot program in July with Ort Farms, pre-bagged produce bags for those who receive Farmer's Market vouchers but cannot visit local farms.

Visiting Nurse of Northern New Jersey is still accepting referrals for the first and second Moderna vaccines. Currently, there is no update on boosters.

CDC (Center for Disease Control) has not indicated if the J & J vaccine requires a booster.

Also, we were advised by the State that the Fiscal Assessment for 2020 for our programs had no adverse findings.

The State also commended us for:

- The technology utilization the County provided for the staff to provide a high level of service to the Community by working remotely/office seamlessly
- For our dedication and commitment to seniors, caregivers. Primarily through these challenging times
- No interruption of services, especially the Nutrition home-delivered meals program and the additional Saturday meal
- The Emergency Preparedness Program Events:
 - Shelf Stable Meals
 - First Aid Kits
 - Emergency Preparedness information for the Community

Advisory Committee on Women – Ms. Joann Bjornson

Overview: The entire group and subcommittees met through July, August, and September 2021. The agenda focused on membership, subcommittee development, and drafting a Strategic Focus for the next three years, 2022-2024.

Strategic Focus

The purpose of a Strategic Focus is 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.

We decided to concentrate on Housing as Healthcare. This incorporates potential sub-focus areas 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, makes this an impactful priority.

Sub-committee updates

- Membership Development Committee – actively inviting women *and men* representing diversity in age, race, ethnicity, LGBTQ, and skill to apply to join
 - See attached form or view here (at the bottom of the page)
<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/Advisory-Committee-on-Women>
- Seeds of Change Award Committee – the award will be presented in March 2022, award form and submission details to follow in 4Q21
- Public Relations/media – quarterly approach to share information on Strategic Focus and impact in local and County press

Next meeting- October 19, 2021

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Mr. Dave Johnson

Mending Arts starts tomorrow till accepting applications ages 13-17 runs through November 16, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm through zoom group for ages 9-12 Sept. 22 -November 17 same time through zoom.

CMO is hosting a town hall for I/DD families, September 28.

Peer youth mentoring grant - Megan is the coordinator for youth 11-17 paired with mentor staff. We are also offering the benefits of the mentoring webinar. Will send flyer Megan Souter msouter@mcpik.org

Deirdre's house met with NJ Edge working with GSAs in schools to let them use their space to meet and host remotely if needed. I will be applying for a grant through DCF. They have started reaching out to providers and schools to get the Game of life running this school year. They will also be creating a blog with more information to come.

September 25 Head Start will be holding a Health Fair open to the Community at 18 Thompson Avenue in Dover. There will be lots of free health screening for children and adults, a dental van, and fun activities for children. All outdoors.

Lucas Wolfe Stigma-Free Event "My Perfect Life".

FSO - Weekly education event at noon on Thursdays - 9/23 hope hub. It will go up on their YouTube channel.

IX. Partnership Report

Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Terry Connolly

The CoC funding award letters went out today. The types of programs that we are funding this year are as follows:

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid Rehousing
- Joint Transitional Living Rapid Rehousing
- Coordinated Entry

The following agencies that received funding are:

- NJ 2-1-1
- Family Promise
- EDGE NJ
- Homeless Solutions
- Mental Health Association
- JBWS
- Visions & Pathways
- DCA

X. Old Business

Need Assessment – Ms. Joann McEniry

The State has informed us that they would like a new needs assessment requiring a second round of focus groups. We are waiting on additional guides from the State and will provide information to the HSAC when received.

We have identified the following areas of need; housing, behavioral health for adults and youth, substance abuse, transportation, and childcare. We will continue to work on finalizing our recommendations to the Provider, County, and State levels.

A presentation of the Homeless Trust Fund will be given at our October 23 general meeting.

A presentation of the Code Blue Program will be given at our November 23.

XI. New Business – no comment

XII. Public Comment – no comment

XIII. Action Item: Closed Session – Vote

Program Review Subcommittee Report – Mr. Jeff Bashe

Motion to close the general meeting made by Mr. Johnston and seconded by Mr. Saltzman. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting under P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 6:26 pm.

XIV. Adjournment

Ms. McEniry Adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II