

**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

*Director*

Stephen H. Shaw

*Deputy Director*

Deborah Smith

Douglas R. Cabana

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John Krickus

Thomas J. Mastrangelo

Tayfun Selen



*County Administrator*  
John Bonanni

*Department Director*  
Katharine A. Errico  
973.285.6863

*Deputy Director*  
Gary L. Denamen  
973326.7240

*Division Director*  
Amy Archer  
973-285-6852

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 5:15 pm via Webex Meeting

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

Ms. Joann McEniry, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows.

**Board Members:**

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Representative  
Jeffrey Bashe, Citizen Representative  
Joann McEniry, EDGE NJ – Chair  
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  
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources – Vice-Chair  
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

**Board Liaisons:**

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board (Morris, Sussex, Warren)  
Linda Csengeto, Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)  
Kevin Belli, Morris County East Division of Child Protection & Permanency  
Christine Rivera, Morris County East Division of Child Protection & Permanency  
Kevin Belli, Morris County West 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  
Maria Fodali, Office of Temporary Assistance  
Anna Marie Hess, Department of Human Services

**Others in Attendance:**

Shayne Daly, Long Hill Township  
Russ Hall, Continuum of Care  
Blair Wilson, Morris Habitat for Humanity

**II. Approval of the September 28, 2021 Minutes**

Mr. Pawelczyk stated there is punctuation correction, and on page 9, third paragraph, the word "commanded" should be changed to "commended." Motion to approve September 28, 2021, meeting minutes with the suggested corrections was made by Mr. Saltzman and seconded by Ms. Shivas. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

**III. Chair's Report**

Ms. McEniry stated they are waiting for additional guidance from the State for the Needs Assessment. Two members from the HSAC joined the Needs Assessment Subcommittee and thanked Ms. Sherrod for stepping up to Chair this subcommittee.

**IV. Homeless Trust Fund Presentation – Mr. Jeff Bashe, Ms. Blair Wilson, and Mr. Russ Hall**

A comprehensive summary of the analysis of the homelessness in Morris County and the potential implementation of a County Homeless Trust Fund (CHTF) was prepared by Morris Habitat for Humanity with the assistance of Monarch Housing Associates and the Housing Alliance of Morris County; were distributed to the HSAC before the meeting for review.

System Gaps in Morris County

- Diversion programs across the US prevented approximately 80% of people from entering the shelter system.
  - Morris County has no diversion programs
- Existing county resources supporting Code Blue are pulled from programs that already have significant restrictions.
  - Morris County has no dedicated funding source for Code Blue services
- Persons were unable to access further supports after entering the homeless system.
  - In 2019, Coordinated Entry served 1,646 people
  - Less than half (699 people or 43%) of people using the system could not access Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, Transitional Housing, Permanent Housing, or Rapid Re-Housing.

Homeless Trust Fund Benefits for Morris County

Twelve New Jersey Counties have already enacted this non-tax-based fund. A County Homeless Trust Fund (CHTF) would fill a gap that agencies might have in funding innovative programs. While the fund cannot completely end homelessness, it can provide additional money, without requiring additional taxes, to mitigate the impact on Morris County's Homeless system.

- Flexibility
  - CHTS monies can be used in many ways to prevent homelessness, support the current homeless population, and keep people stably housed
  - While the money may not fully fund the purchase of properties, it can leverage other funding sources, such as the State Affordable Housing Trust Fund that is designed to help agencies purchase properties and convert them into affordable housing
  - Flexibility in the program makes it easy to expend the funds within the required time frame.
- Local Needs
  - A local governing body grants funds with expertise on the particular nuances of the community.
  - Fill local needs and support evidence-based programs that are not fully funded.
  - Most resources available to address homelessness in the community are provided through federal and state programs.
    - The funding is regulated and often does not offer flexibility in designing programs to meet local needs.
- Cost Savings
  - Funds are collected through fees, not taxes, resulting in a lesser burden on the taxpayer.
  - Prevention is the most cost-efficient means to reduce homelessness
    - The analysis demonstrates that there are unmet needs in Morris County.

Ms. McEniry asked how the task force would work? Mr. Bashe explained that it would be like the HSAC or MHASAB. The members would be appointed by the County Commissioners and comprised of nonprofit agencies and citizen representatives. This is still a work in progress, and a lot of planning and coordination will need to be worked out before the fund is up and running. However, there will be annual RFP processes similar to the Grant-In-Aid process already in place. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Archer asked if there would be updates to the White Paper? Mr. Bashe stated that at this time, updates to that document were not necessary. Ms. McEniry noted that it is recommended that the White Paper be updated to reflect the new programs Morris County has in place, i.e., Diversion programs, before presenting this information to the Commissioners.

Ms. Roers made a motion for the HSAC to draft a letter of support for the County Homelessness Trust Fund to be presented to the Morris County Board of Commissioners and seconded by Ms. Shivas. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

**V. Jersey Department of Human Services – no report**  
**Division of Developmental Disabilities – no report**

**VI. New Jersey Department of Children and Families  
Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Mr. McGinnis, Mr. Belli & Ms. Rivera**

**Morris WEST Stats**

CWS: 7  
CPS: 90  
RI: 50 (Both on New cases and Active Cases)  
Out of the above-mentioned cases, there  
were: SPRU: 18  
New: 38  
Active: 55 (RIs/CWS/CPS)  
Reopens Intake: 53  
Reopens Perm: 2  
60 day Reopens: 3  
90 Day Reopens: 3  
DV: 20  
SU: 36  
SA: 6  
Homelessness: 2  
Youth Homelessness: 0  
Spanish Speaking: 4  
Safe Care: 3

**Morris EAST Stats**

Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old: 4  
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care: 2  
New: 30  
Reopens Intake: 40  
Active: 43  
CPS: 69  
CWS: 9  
R&I: 39  
DV: 18  
SA: 17  
Homelessness: 0  
SPRU: 14  
Spanish Speaking: 8  
< 90 Day Re-opens: 4

**VII. Staff Reports**

Ms. Archer reported that there was a discussion at the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting that there is a shortage in staffing in the mental health field. As a result, some outpatient facilities are scheduling appointments nine months away. The Morris County PAC is developing a Work Group to address and discuss this issue and provide advocacy when necessary. Additional information will be provided when available.

Free COVID vaccines are being distributed by the New Jersey Department of Health at 55 North Willow Street, Trenton, Thursday, October 28, 2021, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. They are giving 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and booster shots.

Ms. Carter stated at this month's CAS meeting, Ms. Courtney Madison, Director of The Church of World Services in Jersey City, spoke about the Afghanistan Refugee services in New Jersey. There were approximately 37,000 people who entered the country; of that, 500 came to New Jersey. At this time, it is unclear how many came to Morris County. The NJ DCF put together resources related to Hotline for Kids, the Family Success Centers, Teen Mental Health, and Children in Crisis, which were translated into Arabic for this population.

Ms. Errico stated Morris County partnered with the State to administer the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. As a result, Morris County received an allocation of over \$14.6 million. We have been able to expend almost all of this funding. Mr. Bashe asked, "with getting this funding out to the community, does that mean Morris County is on top of the Rental Eviction and Rental Assistance needs in the community?" Mr. Saltzman stated, "Following the Court Directive, the cases have begun to move. Friday, October 29, is the first day of trials and cases starting from March 2020. At this time, there are approximately 500-700 cases to be heard. It is unclear as to how long it will take from trial to eviction."

#### **VIII. Planning – Childcare (Voucher System Update) – Ms. Sherrod**

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

Child & Family Resources (CFR) is working on solutions needed 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 currently a considerable 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. The virtual job fair is on November 17. (This is for Morris County Child Care Centers)

#### **State of Child Care in Morris County**

- 18 childcare centers permanently closed since March 2020
- Total Number of Registered FCC Providers October: 39

### **NJ DHS DFD Initiatives:**

Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Human Services will have invested more than \$1 billion in child care throughout the Administration, after more than a decade of the child care 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 child care 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. This assistance began in September and is now extended to December 2023. These additional payments provide \$300 for full-time care, or \$150 for part-time care, per eligible child, per month on top of the child care assistance rate paid by the state on behalf of the family.
- Waiving copayments in the state's child care subsidy.
- Implementing financial incentives to increase the number of child care providers that offer non-traditional evening and weekend hours.
- Recruiting and Supporting Child Care Workers
- To increase child care capacity, \$1,000 bonuses will be provided beginning this winter to help providers recruit new child care employees and retain current child care staff.
- Funding for an additional bonus will be provided in summer 2022.
- The bonuses will be partly funded from the Child Care Revitalization Fund signed into law by Governor Murphy that provides \$30 million to Human Services for child care workforce assistance.

#### Supporting Child Care Providers

- Child care providers will be eligible for two new rounds of pandemic stabilization grants to help stabilize and sustain their operations.
- For licensed child care centers, grant availability will range from \$20,000 to \$80,000 in the first round, depending on the number of children they serve. The grants will be \$2,000 for family child care providers.
- Providers can use these dollars to support their operating expenses such as wages and benefits, rent and utilities, cleaning and sanitizing, facilities maintenance, and improvements.
- Grants will also 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.

The plan builds on the Murphy Administration's efforts to strengthen child care in New Jersey through new investments in child care.

Before the pandemic, the Administration worked to make child care affordable and accessible through the substantial rate increases in reimbursement rates, including boosting rates tied to the annual minimum wage increases. The Administration also made it easier for families experiencing homelessness to access child care and reduced parent copayments by 50 percent in the child care assistance program.

During the pandemic, the state has spent \$400 million on pandemic-related child care programs, including:

- Launching a temporary emergency child care program for essential workers;
- Providing various grants and enhanced payments to child care providers;
- Implementing a temporary program to help families with school-age children with unanticipated child care costs due to remote learning; and

Paying full-time rates for school-age children in the state's child care assistance program due to remote learning. Funding was also made available to summer camp providers.

## **IX. Advisory Committee Reports**

### **Workforce Development Board – Ms. Armstrong**

#### **Morris-Sussex-Warren Unemployment and Labor Force\* August 2021 (most recently available data at county level)**

**August 2021 Number of Unemployed was 21,100**

- Lowest level since April 2020 (54,400) and 39% lower than a year ago (August 2020)
- Still 60% higher than pre-pandemic (January 2020) level of 13,700

**August 2021 Labor Force was 376,300**

- 17,000 less than level pre-pandemic
- 8,000 less than a year ago

**August 2021 Unemployment Rate 5.6%**

- pre-pandemic 3.5%
- a year ago 9.0%

Despite the high level of unemployment, it is a “job seekers” market as exemplified by the increase in voluntary separations/quits shown on the next slide

\*Source: NJDOL/BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

## August 2021 Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) National Level Data

- JOLTS identifies the reasons for changes in Unemployment and Labor Force by tracking job openings, hires, and separations
  - Quits are voluntary separations
- August 2021 total quits increased by 6% from July and the quits rate\* reached a high of 2.9%
  - Accommodations and Food Services quits rate = 6.8%, biggest increase in quits since July
  - Retail Trade quits rate = 4.7%
- The most recent JOLTS report is available here <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/jolts.pdf>
- JOLTS State level data is to be released on October 22 <https://www.bls.gov/ilt/home.htm>

\*The quits rate is the number of quits during the entire month as a percent of total employment

### 2020 Self-Sufficiency Income for Morris County\*

Occupation Group	Annual Salary	Hourly Salary	Family Size and Required Living Wage			
			1 Adult	1 adult 1 child	2 Adults (1 working) 1 child	2 Working Adults 1 child
Management	\$139,124	\$66.89				
Computer & Mathematical	\$100,893	\$48.51				
Legal	\$98,438	\$47.33				
Architecture & Engineering	\$91,798	\$44.13				
Life, Physical, & Social Science	\$87,604	\$42.12				
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$82,713	\$39.77				
Business & Financial Operations	\$81,701	\$39.28		\$38.94 40%	\$32.09 20%	
Construction & Extraction	\$61,127	\$29.39				
Education, Training, & Library	\$59,981	\$28.84				
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media	\$57,700	\$27.74				
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	\$54,917	\$26.40				
Community & Social Service	\$52,380	\$25.18				
Protective Service	\$47,152	\$22.67				\$30.92/yr
Office & Administrative Support	\$41,781	\$20.09				
Production	\$36,482	\$17.54				< \$40,632/yr
Transportation & Material Moving	\$33,085	\$15.91	\$16.05 17%			
Sales & Related	\$32,379	\$15.57		< \$15.65/hr		
Healthcare Support	\$31,479	\$15.13				
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	\$31,346	\$15.07				
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	\$30,231	\$14.53				
Personal Care & Service	\$28,001	\$13.46				
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$24,737	\$11.89				

Gross Annual Income for Food Assistance Eligibility < \$23,832/yr (\$11.45/hr)

Housing Authority of Morris County  
Public Housing and Section 8  
Eligibility by Household (HH) Size

[Tenant pays 30%-40% of their gross income]

HH Size	Maximum Income
1	\$5,950
2	\$6,950
3	\$7,950

\*Includes Food, Child Care, Housing, Transportation, Medical, Clothing  
\*Excludes Entertainment

\*Data Source: Glasmeier, Amy K. Living Wage Calculator. 2020. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. [livingwage.mit.edu](http://livingwage.mit.edu)

We welcome comments and corrections! Especially more details on housing and childcare support available. Contact [jarmstrong@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:jarmstrong@co.morris.nj.us) or [mschuster@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:mschuster@co.morris.nj.us)



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

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee/EIRC (Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative) last met on September 20 and did not meet in October. The next meeting will be held virtually on November 15 at 11 am.

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

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – State Liaison Report - reported that Rutgers Telehealth is ready to assist. The telephone is 973-972-6709.

ATLAS – Addiction Treatment Locator, Assessment, and Standards Platforms are coming to NJ. It is an online addiction treatment quality measurement system. Within the next 12 months, NJ DHS and NJ Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield will partner with Shatterproof, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the devastation addiction causing families, to bring ATLAS to the State. More info at [www.TreatmentATLAS.org](http://www.TreatmentATLAS.org).

Addictions Services Coordinator Award letters for 2022 funding are going out soon.

**Mental Health Administrator**

Community Development will receive approximately \$3 million in American Rescue Plan money from HUD. Money will be for planning for housing for homeless, at-risk, and vulnerable populations. More information soon.

**Youth Services Advisory Committee** – report submitted before the meeting

Gissell Reyes from the Center for Family services presented about their Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy program. Gissell's contact information is [gissell.reyes@centerffs.org](mailto:gissell.reyes@centerffs.org)

Big Brothers Big Sisters is starting a new workplace mentoring program in partnership with Dover School District at the high school and Deloitte in November. If you know of any Dover students who might be interested in participating or have questions, contact: [jracyk@mentornj.org](mailto:jraczyk@mentornj.org)

Deirdre's house will hold its annual Gala next month. They also had a great turnout at the golf outing fundraiser last week. In addition, they have two high schools that are interested in the in-person game of life presentations.

**Advisory Committee on Women** – report submitted before the meeting

**Overview:** The agenda focused on membership, the Seeds of Change Award, and the committee's 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 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 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. The sub-committee plans to present more information on Housing as Healthcare at the November meeting.

### **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. Nomination forms were mailed to numerous nonprofit organizations in Morris County.
- Public Relations/media – quarterly approach to share information on Strategic Focus and local and county press impact.

### **Other Business**

- There may be an opportunity for the Advisory Committee on Women to assist the HSAC with upcoming focus groups related to the next Needs Assessment.

**Next meeting-** November 16, 2021

## **X. Old Business – no comment**

## **XI. New Business –**

Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis, North Jersey Health Collaborative, announced Project ECHO: Addressing Barriers to Healthcare & Cancer Prevention Screenings for Adults with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. Additional information will be emailed.

Ms. Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey, announced [United For ALICE's latest report](#), *The Pandemic Divide: An ALICE Analysis of National COVID Surveys*. The report, scheduled to be released later this week, takes a detailed look at the vastly different pandemic experiences of low-income and higher-income households throughout the nation.

As you know, ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) is at the heart of our work at United Way of Northern New Jersey and United For ALICE. These households earn above the poverty level but less than what it costs to make ends meet. Combined with households in poverty, these struggling families comprise 51 million households in the United States and fall below the ALICE Threshold, the average income needed to live and work in today's economy.

To develop the report, United For ALICE analyzed four national surveys through the lens of the ALICE Threshold. Their analysis revealed that households below the Threshold fared significantly worse during the pandemic than those above it – from finances to child care to mental health. Moreover, these findings were even more severe for Black and Hispanic households. <https://www.unitedforalice.org/covid2019>

**XII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Pawelczyk at 6:47 pm and seconded by Mr. O'Reilly-Stanzilis. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstention. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II