

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC) MEETING

October 27, 2020 via Webex Meetings

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

Members Present:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance
Xiomara Guevara, Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs
David Johnston, Citizen Representative
Joann McEniry, EDGE NJ – Co-Chair
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roes, United Way of Northern New Jersey
Jane, Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources, Inc. – Chair

Also Attending:

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board
Lenora Humphrey, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency

Morris County Staff in Attendance

Amy Archer, Human Services
Shelia Carter, Human Services
Anna Marie Hess, Human Services

- II. Approval of September 22, 2020 Minutes**

Motion to approve the September 22 meeting minutes made by Ms. Linda Csengeto and seconded by Mr. David Johnston. All were in favor with no opposition and two abstentions. Motion carried.

- III. County of Morris Department of Human Services – Ms. Amy Archer**

Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and County Administration will be meeting to discuss Code Blue. Discussion ensued.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Covid 1, ESG Covid 2, and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Covid 1 approved recommendations will go to the Freeholder Meeting on Monday, November 9 for approval and distribution. The funds will be supporting rapid rehousing, homeless prevention, and emergency shelter programs. The County was awarded CDBG Covid 2 approximately \$1.4 million and CDBG Covid 3 roughly \$2.7 million in additional funding. The County is looking to fill the gaps in services that are not covered by ESG 1, ESG 2, or CDBG. Once we know what types of programs the additional money can be used for, a Request For Application will be posted. Discussion ensued.

It was asked why agencies were required to provide an Emergency Covid Plan with the funding applications for 2021. The County wanted to ensure that a plan was in place to continue providing services to the community next year during the pandemic and if agencies needed to close their doors to the public again.

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC) MEETING

October 27, 2020 via Webex Meetings

The Division of Community and Behavioral Health, Addictions, received approximately \$155,000 for the Innovations Grant that started on September 30. This grant will focus and provide case management, recovery, support, and legal representation to the community involved in Pre Trial services. The Division will be working closely with the Legal Service of Northwest Jersey, and Prevention is Key. Legal Services will represent Morris County individuals with Pre Trial Services and struggling with substance use and addiction. They will also provide representation and landlord-tenant matters, assess income supports, consumer issues, and domestic violence. Prevention is Key will evaluate the needs of the Morris County residents during Pre Trial services. They will provide a services plan, provide up to one-year of community engagement, and link the individuals with addiction services and benefits.

Lastly, Freeholder DeFillippo wanted to pass on a “THANK YOU.” She said she recognizes how hard everyone had to work to get the funding reviewed in a virtual environment and the quick changes needed. She also wants to pass on the Thank You to the volunteers in your Advisory Board!

IV. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Nelson Troche no report
Division of Developmental Disabilities – Ms. Mary Giorlando no report

V. New Jersey Department of Children and Families
Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Ms. Maria Ojeda
Morris West: Total of 102 investigations

15 Child Welfare Assessments
88 Child Protection Investigations
39 New Investigations
30 Active already open with us.
57 Reopens were involved with us in the past.
25 Domestic Violence
29 Substance/Alcohol Abuse
0 Homelessness
0 Youth Homelessness
14 Spanish Speaking
1 Substance Abuse expose newborn

Morris East: Total of 94 investigations

20 Child Welfare Assessments
74 Child Protection Investigations
40 New Investigations
52 Reopens
7 Active
Out of the 94 total investigations, there were 46 for Neglect and 25 for Physical Abuse, which includes the following sub-categories:
19 Domestic Violence
21 Substance Abuse/Alcohol Abuse
2 Homelessness
0 Youth Homelessness
19 Spanish Speaking
1 Emotional Abuse
25 Physical Abuse

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC) MEETING

October 27, 2020 via Webex Meetings

Our numbers have increased, and our community is struggling with financial hardship and homelessness.

The Division has created an office of Equity and Inclusion. The person is charged with coordinating the work of the Department's race equity steering committee, developing and implementing initiatives that promote equitable outcome for children and families of color, building the capacity of staff at all levels to respond effectively to structured racism and individual bias, and promoting policy and practices within DCF's contracted services. The executive leader will report to the commissioner and work collaboratively with all DCF divisions.

VI. Staff Report – Ms. Shelia Carter

On Tuesday, November 10, there will be two orientation sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, for agencies interested in applying for a non-COVID PY21 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Community Development Block Grant (CBDG), and Home Investment Partnership funding. Information related to the orientation including, eligibility requirements, may be accessed on the Office of Community Development website at <https://hs.morriscountynj.gov/community/applications/>

VII. 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 September 2020: 231

Total Number of Registered FCC Providers March 2020: 36

Total Number of Registered FCC Providers September 2020: 35

Child Care Centers reporting are waiting lists. Effective September 21, the group size increased to 15 children.

Parents are reporting providers to require monthly tuition in advance. Some providers require weekly co-payments a month in advance for families participating in the child care subsidy program. Parents also reported 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 \$150k, for children ages 5-13
- Full-Time child care subsidies for school-age children

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC) MEETING

October 27, 2020 via Webex Meetings

- 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 3 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 three children

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

- Serving three 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

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong report attached

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Ms. Joann McEniry no report

MHASAB – Ms. Jane Shivas

Municipal Alliance budget cuts and working on the 2021 Funding applications.

The Suicide Prevention Program, sponsored by the Mental Health Association, provides education on talking to your children about suicide, identifying the warning signs, and preventing.

There are three municipalities not participating in the Stigma-Free Program; Harding, Wharton, and Riverdale.

Freeholders are putting together a plan for robust testing for Covid in light of the increase of positive cases.

NewBridge Services honored Mr. Robert Parker, dedicating a group home as the Parker House. Mr. Parker retired from Newbridge at the beginning of 2020.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Christine Hellyer

The Office on Aging, Disabilities & Community Programming awarded \$180,145 in additional CARES funding to providers to respond to the COVID-19 impact on seniors, caregivers of seniors, and adults with disabilities. Programs awarded include volunteer grocery shoppers, education programs, assistive technology, and virtual socialization opportunities.

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC) MEETING

October 27, 2020 via Webex Meetings

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Mr. Dave Johnston no report

IX. Partnership Report

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

X. Old Business

Needs Assessment Update – Ms. Rebekka Zydell

The Executive Committee met to review the process for the Needs Assessment. We were able to set the dates for the focus groups and who the facilitators will be. We need additional note-takers. The guidance from DCF is clear on who the participants are in these groups and what roles facilitators and note-takers have. A meeting is scheduled at the beginning of November for facilitator training, and then throughout the month of November, we will be conducting the focus groups. The Facilitators will be sending the emails to the respective liaisons to connect with potential participants. A Link to the survey will be included in the recruitment email, so we have a little advantage before the focus group is held and the top three areas of interest can be shared with the focus group. Once that is done, we can move forward with the key informant interviews and then compile all the data and have a review meeting.

XI. New Business

Ms. Zydell announced the need to convene the Nominating Subcommittee to develop a 2021 slate of officers. Mr. Ken Oexle is the chair of this committee. Mr. Oexle stated that Mr. Joe Pawelczyk, Ms. Joann McEiry, Ms. Jane Shivas and himself will meet and present their recommendations for Chair and Vice-Chair at the November meeting.

XII. Public Comment – no comment

XIII. Motion to Close General Meeting – Ms. Rebekka Zydell, Chair Funding Closed Session

The board closed the open portion of the meeting under P.L 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meeting Act at 6:41 pm.

XIV. Adjourn

Ms. Zydell adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II