

**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, November 23, 2021

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

Ms. Joann McEniry, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows.

**Board Members:**

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Representative  
Jeffrey Bashe, Citizen Representative  
Terry Connolly, Nourish NJ  
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  
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

**Board Liaisons:**

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board (Morris, Sussex, Warren)  
Linda Csengeto, Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB)  
Sean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
Christine Rivera, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
Nelson Troche, New Jersey Department of Human Services

**Morris County Staff:**

Amy Archer, Department of Human Services  
Shawanna Bailey, Department of Aging, Disabilities & Veterans  
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

## **II. Approval of the October 26, 2021 Minutes**

Motion to approve October 26, 2021, meeting minutes with the suggested typing corrections was made by Mr. Pawelczyk and seconded by Mr. Saltzman. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carries.

## **III. Chair Report**

Ms. McEniry reported the Letter of Support of the Homeless Trust Fund was drafted, submitted to the committee for review, and one correction was made. At this time, the letter is pending signature. Once signed, the letter and all supporting documents will be sent to Commissioner DeFillipo for presentation to the County Commissioners.

Ms. McEniry announced this would be her last meeting as Chair. She has reached her term limit. She thanked the committee for their hard work and stated it was a pleasure to work with everyone.

## **IV. Code Blue Presentation – Ms. Maria Fodali, County Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA)**

### **Code Blue Reporting Overview**

- January 2020 Code Blue legislation changes
  - 32 degrees or below, or wind chill is 0 degrees for two hours or longer, a Code Blue night is declared
- Code Blue Declarations
  - 2020-2021 Code Blue Season
    - 26% increase in declarations compared to 2019-2020 season
- Cumulative Warming Center Operations
  - Less Warming Center options during 2020-2021 season compared to previous years primarily due to COVID-19
    - Reduced Homeless Solutions Warming Center capacity from 2019-2020 (beds, length of time open, hours of operation)
    - Discontinued use of Morristown Fire House and Dover Warming Center (St. John's)
    - Fluctuation in Market Street Mission capacity
- Homeless Solutions Warming Center: Key Data
  - 76 more operational nights in the 2019-2020 season
    - 2020-2021 season had a 48% decrease in unduplicated guests served and a 35% decrease in guest reservations compared to the prior 2019-2020 Code Blue season
  - Since the Warming Center's first operational season in 2018-2019, bed nights and meals have increased while individuals served have fluctuated
    - The highest service numbers across bed nights, individuals served, and meals were during the 2019-2020 season
    - Factors at play: 28% decrease in bed capacity, 24/7 operation changes, and eviction moratorium impacts
  - Guest connection to services

- 100% of guests during the 2020-2021 season were connected to other NJ social service agencies via Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a 10% increase from the prior season
      - 97% of these same guests were connected to Morris County social service agencies, specifically
    - 83% of guests connected to Coordinated Entry for shelter and housing
    - 37% of guests connected to out of county services via HMIS
    - 48% of guests connected to motel via OTA
      - 23% increase in program violations of guests from the previous season (substance use, violence/aggression, theft, and safety)
- Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA)
  - Motel placements are supplemental to emergency shelter/warming center availability
  - 2020-2021 Code Blue Season experienced use of out of county motel placements
  - 2020-2021 season had a 26% increase in households served and a 74% increase in nights of shelter provided when compared to the 2019-2020 season
    - Households served was highest during the 2018-2019 season, while nights of shelter were highest in the 2020-2021 season (consistency and continuity in placements)
    - Factors at play: Higher guest vulnerabilities, fewer warming center options, and capacity
- Qualitative Survey
  - Surveys conducted during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Code Blue Seasons only
    - Surveying evolved in an expansion of questions and development of dissemination
  - Highlights in survey comparisons
    - 45% increase in respondents during the second Code Blue Season
    - 15% increase in respondents reporting connecting community members to assistance during Code Blue's second season's surveying process
    - 100% of respondents reported a clear understanding of procedures, a 17% increase during the second seasons surveying process
    - The majority of respondents agreed that improvements had been made along each season
    - Areas of improvement are consistent across seasons – longer-term placements, case management, more warming center options in different municipalities
    - COVID-19 implications:
      - Reductions in Service (capacity, suspension, fewer options)
      - Lack of face-to-face Service (guidance, phone accessibility, transportation)

- Health risks
- Municipalities and Funding

**V. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Nelson Troche**

There will be a Virtual Budget Listening session on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 10:00 am.

The final group of Work from Home staff has returned to the office.

**Division of Developmental Disabilities – no report**

**VI. New Jersey Department of Children and Families**

**Division of Child Protection and Permanency**

October Morris West

97 CPS referrals

11 CWS referrals

8 children went into placement

October Morris East

Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old: 3

Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care: 0

New Intakes/No Prior DCPP history: 25

Re-opens Intake: 37

Active: 49

CPS: 62

CWS: 7

R&I: 35

DV: 13

SA: 13

Homelessness: 0

SPRU: 23

Spanish Speaking: 12

< 90 Day Re-opens: 5

**VII. Staff Reports – Ms. Kasey Errico, Ms. Shelia Carter, & Ms. Amy Archer**

Ms. Errico announced The Emergency Rental Assistance Program had distributed over \$13.6 million to Morris County residents.

Ms. Carter stated 2022 Funding Award and Declination letters had been distributed. In addition, Subcontract Agreements are being prepared and will be out for signature in December.

Ms. Carter announced planning for the 2022 Point-In-Time count would take place on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. HUD is not expected to change the survey questions asked to clients from last year's questionnaire.

## **VIII.Planning**

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

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

Child & Family Resources 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**

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

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

With the announcement of this new funding, Governor Murphy and 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 up to \$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
- \$1,000 bonuses will be provided, beginning this winter to help providers recruit new child care employees and retain current child care staff, to increase child care capacity,
- 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  
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

#### **Nominating Committee – Ms. Jane Shivas**

Ms. Shivas thanked Ms. McEniry for her five years of hard work and dedication to HSAC; you will be missed.

Ms. Shivas stated that the nominating committee met, and the slate of officers are Ms. Rebecca Sherrod, Chair, and Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk, Vice-Chair; both have accepted the nominations. Voting will occur at the Tuesday, January 25, 2022, meeting.

## **IX. Advisory Committee Reports**

### **Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong NJDOL One-Stop Career Center Employment Services**

Virtual One-Stop Career Center services **currently available** to the public:

If you are a job seeker requesting virtual services including resume writing, networking, interview assistance, and job search, please go to

<https://www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/onestops/>

**\*In-person services now available by request\***

In addition, NJDOL is mandating approximately 50 unemployed individuals per location per week to complete the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) customer consultations.

One-Stop Career Center services **not available** to the public at this time:

- Access to the Public Resource Room (computers & phones)
- UI Services (computers & phones)

### **MSW Employment and Training Services (ETS)**

Virtual services **currently available** to the public at this time:

- Career counseling services
- Training Services
- WFNJ/DFD case management
- Literacy Service (Workforce Learning Link)

ETS Services **not available** to the public at this time:

- In-person orientations
- In-person customer walk-ins/appointment scheduling
- Access to the public resources (computers)

### **Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Development Board Business Services**

- Associate Director Beth Rodgers coordinates business outreach with the NJDOL staff to promote employment opportunities, including On The Job (OJT) and Incumbent Worker Training. NJDOL will award the MSW WDB additional OJT funds for private, non-profit, and public organizations to support hiring through June 20, 2022.
- NJDOL Return and Earn OJT funding available to both private and non-profits. The new Return and Earn program will provide a \$500 incentive for unemployed workers reentering the workforce and receiving job training from businesses with 100 or fewer employees. Employers can complete this form to express interest in this program and receive application information as it becomes available.

<https://www.nj.gov/labor/employer-services/business/returnandearn.shtml>

### **Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee – Mr. Bob Armstrong**

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee Postponed their November meeting until December 13, 2021, at 11:00 am via Zoom.

World AIDS Day is Wednesday, December 1, 2021, and two events are being held:

1. Hope House, 101-103 Basset Highway, Dover from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
2. EDGE NJ at Trinity Lutheran Church, 123 East Blackwell Street, Dove from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) released on November 18, 2021, a plan proposed by the New Jersey Taskforce to End the HIV Epidemic entitled, "A Strategic Plan to End the HIV Epidemic in New Jersey by 2025." The plan represents the state's commitment to end the HIV epidemic and sets the following goals:

- Reduce the number of new HIV infections by 75%
- Promote access to testing so 100% of individuals living with HIV/AIDS know their status
- Promote access/linkage to care, so 90% of those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are virally suppressed

### **Mental Heal Addiction Services Advisory Board – Ms. Linda Csengeto**

NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services funding contract will need to be reviewed. There will be presentations by each provider.

Ms. Lynn Chandler is retiring from the St. Clairs.

Mr. Alton Robinson led a discussion on Safe Injection Sites. These sites would allow people who use injectable substances a clean, safe setting without fear of being arrested for drug abuse or paraphernalia.

A recent article from the Daily Record newspaper detailing the continuing issues with Logisticare/Modivcare not being reliable transportation. MHASAB will draft a letter to the State regarding this continuing issue.

**Youth Services Advisory Committee** – no report

### **Women's Advisory Committee – Ms. Joann Bjornson**

**Overview:** The agenda focused on the vital area of each meeting, including membership, the Seeds of Change Award, and the committee's strategic focus for the next three years, 2022-2024.

### **Strategic Focus**

The concentration on Housing as Healthcare is moving forward with information collecting, data review, and local, regional, and national Evidenced-Based Practice Models.

### **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 non-profit organizations in Morris County.
  - **We need nominees! Please submit your most active female volunteers! Especially during the last year or so, volunteers have made more of an impact than ever!**
  - Attached is- the submission form

### **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.

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

We are currently in talks with Atlantic Health on the COVID 19 booster shots for the homebound that the County program administered the initial vaccines to determine how to move forward. We also will reach out to individuals in the coming weeks that participated in that program. Any other homebound clients that are requesting first-round vaccines are referred to the Visiting Nurse of Northern New Jersey

### **NUTRITION**

Currently, the following Nutrition Congregate four sites are open: Morristown, Morris Mews, Montville, and Roxbury, with at least 30 participants at each location, practicing social distancing and safety measures. Also opening this month will be Mount Olive and Butler. We hope to have all the sites open on the first of the year.

### **MAPS**

The TNC (Transportation Network Company) generic name for Uber/Lyft. Trans Options is a pilot program provided through the end of 2022, contracted with MAPS starting on November 22, 2021.

This program has a funding of \$40,000 per year. (\$20,000 from NJ Transit and matched by Morris County \$20,000.

We will budget a cap of \$2,500 per month for this Service and replenish monthly.

Eligibility requirements:

- Riders must be registered MAPS riders
- They must be ambulatory
- They can't be rural residents
- They must possess a cellphone to receive text messages.

- Rides are on-demand or can be booked a week in advance

We hope this will fill some of the gaps in transportation in Morris County.

## **VETERANS**

The Veterans Service Office is currently not open for visits, except for special situations.

On October 27, 2021, the Veteran office hosted the first Fall in! Fire Pit talk.

The speakers were veterans who served in Vietnam and Afghanistan. This event was for veterans only and not open to the public.

It was a discussion for veterans about their time in Service, navigating life after Service.

## **X. Partnership Report**

Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Terry Connolly

The CoC submitted their application to HUD for just under \$2.5 million earlier this month.

There are three members of the CoC who have met completed their six-year term, and the CAS elected new members. Ms. Allison Decalzo-Burns was elected Chair, and Mr. David Saltzman, Esq. Vice-Chair.

## **XI. Old Business**

Mr. Bashe stated changes to the Homeless Trust Fund One Pager submitted to the HSAC at the last meeting. The new document will be presented with the Letter of Support to Commissioner DeFillippo.

## **XII. New Business**

Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis stated the North Jersey Health Collaboration is in the process of completing the Community Health Needs Assessment. Meeting invitations and surveys will continue to circulate so accurate data can be collected.

Ms. McEniry stated the next HSAC meeting would be Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 5:15 pm via Webex Meetings.

## **XIII. Public Comment – no comment**

## **XIV. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Pawelczyk at 6:23 pm and seconded by Ms. Sherrod. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II