

# HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC) MEETING

November 24, 2020 via Webex Meeting

- I. Call to Order:** The Meeting was opened at 5:15 pm by Ms. Rebekka Zydell, Chair. Roll Call as Listed below:

**Members Present:**

Terry Connolly, Nourish NJ  
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative  
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative  
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, North Jersey Health Collaborative  
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative  
David Saltzman, Esp., Legal Services of Northwest Jersey  
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency  
Rebekka Zydell, Child & Family Resources, Chair

**Also Attending:**

Shawwna Bailey, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Lenora Humphrey, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
Nelson Troche, New Jersey Department of Human Services

**Morris County Staff in Attendance**

Amy Archer, Human Services  
Shelia Carter, Human Services  
Kasey Errico, Human Services Director  
Anna Marie Hess, Human Services

- II. Approval of October 27, 2020 Minutes**

Motion to approve the October 27 meeting minutes with the below correction made by Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk and seconded by Ms. Jane Shivas. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

- a. Joann McEniry, EDGE NJ, Vice-Chair not Co-Chair

- III. Interfaith Food Pantry Network Presentation – Ms. Carolyn Lake**

The Interfaith Food Pantry Network (IFPN) is the largest and most relied-upon resource for emergency and supplemental food among Morris County residents in need. IFPN employs innovative approaches to hunger and food insecurity that improve individuals and families' health and well-being by providing access to food, education, and related resources.

Allowing families to choose which foods they want in quantities based on family size eliminates waste and restores dignity to the process of receiving food. During COVID, IFPN pre-packed bags but still offered some choices. Their goal is to return to selection in 2021 by revamping pantry distribution.

Their Mobile Network assists 28 locations across Morris County that include community-based food pantries, senior housing sites, and food access sites operated by the County of Morris, including OTA and Midday Friendship Centers. Their goal is to address health's social detriments by expanding access to nutritious food without duplicating efforts.

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In 2019 there were 16,775 household visits, 3,669 mobile pantry visits, 54,183 residents served, and 876,481 pounds of food distributed. The numbers increased significantly in 2020; 20,707 household visits, 6,106 mobile pantry visits, 66,884 residents served, and 1,172,444 pounds of food distributed. Though Morris County is consistently ranked as one of the nation's wealthiest, food insecurity affects more the 25,000 people.

Volunteers donated over 24,000 hours of service to IFPN in 2018. The value of their time is around \$634,000 annually, or the equivalent cost of about thirteen full-time staff people.

To learn more about Interfaith Food Pantry Network and how you can help, contact 973.538.8049 or visit their website [www.mcifp.org](http://www.mcifp.org).

#### **IV. County of Morris Department of Human Services – Ms. Kasey Errico**

Ms. Errico stated it is nice to be back at the County as Human Services Director. During the past three weeks, I have been getting reacquainted with with various Advisory Groups and settling into my new position. I am looking forward to working with everyone.

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

Mr. Trouche announced the State was awarded \$2.5 million for Code Blue.

Mr. Trouche stated there would be a Budget listening session tomorrow, November 25, to brainstorm how the listening session will work virtually. The actual budget listening session will take place in mid-December. More information to follow.

**Division of Developmental Disabilities – Mrs. Mary Giorlando** no report

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

##### **Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Ms. Maria Ojeda**

Morris East: Total of 80 investigations

8 Child Welfare Assessments

72 Child Protection Investigations

Morris West: Total of 105 investigations

21 Child Welfare Assessments

84 Child Protection Investigations

Ms. Zydel asked, "do you have a sense of what the numbers look like compared to this time last year?" Ms. Ojeda stated that our numbers were much higher in 2019 at this time.

#### **VII. Staff Reports – Ms. Amy Archer and Ms. Shelia Carter**

Ms. Archer reported the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris (MHAEM) has continued to provide community presentations and going out on Navigating Hope once a week. MHAEM will conduct four presentations to all Morris County Public School Districts on the Signs of Suicide Program. This evidence-based program will teach the warning signs and risk factors for suicide and provide general mental illness education. Participants will learn how to initiate a conversation, encourage help, and ask the right questions. The goal is to give all students this presentation since they are the most underutilized resource for suicide prevention. Students will learn the warning signs of suicide, what to say to help a friend in need, and whom to tell. A letter was mailed and e-mailed to all school districts. The presentations will be virtual and held on December 1, December 4, December 8, and December 15.

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Ms. Archer provided an update to the CARES Act Funding through Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

## **ESG 1 & ESG 2:**

- Jersey Battered Women Services for Emergency Shelter
- Family Promise for Emergency Shelter, Rapid Re-Housing and Homeless Prevention
- Homeless Solutions for Emergency Shelter, Rapid Re-Housing and Homeless Prevention

Money was set aside and designated as Homeless Prevention money. Once these programs are running, there will be a clear picture of any gaps in services, and this money will be able to fund additional programs to fill those gaps. A portion was designated for COVID-19 Positive Shelter if it is needed.

## **CDBG:**

The Division looked at the County as a whole to determine emergent needs to ensure services remain in place.

- Ruth Davis Drive for emergency shelter operations
- Office of Temporary Assistance for emergency shelter (motels), food, and transportation
- Street Outreach efforts for handwashing stations, portable shower at Homeless Solutions, and the expansion of the Warming Center due to COVID-19
- Public Services provided money for the food delivered through our Nutrition Programs and various food pantries
- COVID-19 Positive Shelter to provide not only for the homeless but those in need to quarantine from their families if needed
- Legal Services to help with legal and financial counseling for families impacted by COVID-19 (i.e., credit, bankruptcy, eviction)

A written report request was made but could not be obtained before tonight's meeting but will be provided at the next HSAC meeting. When CDBG 2 and CDBG 3 funding is available, it will go through the funding process; advertised to all nonprofits, municipalities, and applications reviewed.

Ms. Carter stated New Jersey awarded Morris County \$95,000 of the \$2.5 million for Code Blue warming centers directed toward municipalities with at least 10-unsheltered homeless according to the current Point-In-Time count.

Ms. Carter announced free one-on-one phone and Zoom appointments scheduled for those in need of health insurance. New Jersey Citizen Action is providing this service, and information can be found at <https://njcitizenaction.org/> or 973.429.7303.

## **VIII. Subcommittee Reports**

### **Planning – Child Care (Voucher System Update) – Ms. Rebekka Zydel**

Ms. Zydel announced the Division of Family Development had increased their supplemental payments for September through December from \$75.00 to \$300.00 per child per month.

### **Nominating Committee 2021 Slate of Officers – Mr. Ken Oxele**

Mr. Oxele stated the Committee has met, and their recommendation is Ms. Rebekka Zydel serve as Chair, and Ms. Joann McEniry serves as Vice-Chair in 2021. During the January meeting, Ms. Carter will call the meeting to order, announce this recommendation, open nominations to the floor, and then take a vote for Chair and Vice-Chair.

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Mr. Oxele announced he has completed his sixth year of service on the HSAC and will not be returning next year. Mr. Oxele thanks the Committee for their time and effort over the years. Ms. Zydel thanked Mr. Oxele for his commitment as an active member and his numerous leadership roles that helped the Human Services Advisory Council meet their goals.

## IX. Advisory Committee Reports

**Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong** no report

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

**Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Ms. Jane Shivas** no report

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

Ms. Bailey reported the Emergency Preparedness Event held on Monday, November 23, at the County Library. Emergency Preparedness Kits were distributed to individuals with disabilities and individuals over the age of sixty. Two hundred fifty kits were handed out at the event, kits were delivered to those unable to attend in person, and you can contact the Division at 973.326.7886 or e-mail [sbailey@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:sbailey@co.morris.nj.us) for a kit. The event was a success.

The Division has partnered with Atlantic Health Care to provide flu shots to seniors and adults with disabilities that are homebound. Home visits are limited; please reach out to Solangel Patarroyo at 973.973.7259 or e-mail [Solangel.Patarroyo@atlanticealth.org](mailto:Solangel.Patarroyo@atlanticealth.org) to schedule.

The Shopping Program is still running, but they have taken their last order for Thanksgiving and will resume operations after the holiday.

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

## X. Partnership Committee Report

**CoC Executive Committee (CoC) – Ms. Terry Connolly**

Ms. Connolly announced that Mr. David Saltzman is organizing a Coordinated Entry Prevention Program to organize provider agencies to most effectively and efficiently serve consumers.

Those in need of prevention services can contact NJ 2-1-1 by dialing 2-1-1 or 877-746-5211 or website [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org). A Case Conferencing Committee was formed, comprised of CoC Partner Organizations that have funding for Homeless Prevention programs to handle the referrals.

Code Blue season is in full swing and we have already experienced a few Code Blue nights.

## XI. Old Business

**Needs Assessment – Ms. Rebekka Zydel**

Ms. Zydel stated that 98% of the focus groups are complete, six Key Informant Interviews are being scheduled for December, and then a report can be compiled.

**Homeless Trust Fund – no update**

## XII. New Business

Ms. Zydel stated that there would not be a December meeting.

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Ms. Linda Csengeto announced this is the end of her sixth year of service on the HSAC. Ms. Zydel thanked Ms. Csengeto for her years of commitment to the Committee and community.

## **XIII. Public Comment**

## **XIV. Adjourn**

Ms. Zydel adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II