

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
340 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown
February 27, 2018 Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:18 p.m. by Ms. Mary Jane Melo.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, HIV/AIDS Advisory Liaison
Jeff Bashe, COC EC Liaison
Linda Csengeto, OTA Liaison
Joanne McEniry, Citizen Representative
Mary Jane Melo, Citizen Representative
Kenneth Oexle, Chair, Citizen Representative
Tom Pepe, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources

Also Attending:

Heather Darling, Morris County Freeholder
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Jennifer Carpinteri, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions made.

Approval of January 23 Minutes –

Motion to approve the January 23 minutes was made by Ms. Mary Jane Melo and seconded by Mr. Tom Pepe. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

County of Morris Department of Human Services –

Ms. Carpinteri stated the Freeholders started organizing a full strategic plan for Morris County. Blattner & Associates are working with the county as their consultant. They created a survey to get public comments. County Law Offices, Public Safety Offices and the Dept. of Human Services have met and are looking at present challenges.

The next step is for the consultant to take all the information they have gathered and compile a report. Once that is complete, the Freeholders will develop priorities, goals and strategies for the county. This process has brought a lot of discussion to the table. It is a valuable process for the county to go through. We are not sure of the timetable but Ms. Carpinteri will keep the board updated.

The Ruth Davis Drive RFP draft has been submitted to County Council for review. They hope it will be finalized shortly. Once finalized the process should only take a few more months. There are still residents in three of the homes. Ms. Carpinteri and a few others toured the houses. The houses are in need of some work but are not in bad shape.

The transition to Morris View happened on November 1. They had some staffing issues. Allaire has put every resource into the facility. They have done a great job recruiting and are continuing to train staff. They try to provide the highest quality of care. They want to be partners in the community. They are looking at what they may do with the third floor.

The Veterans Clinic is moving to Morris View in the next few months. The County's Veteran Service Officers are also moving to Morris View. They are refurbishing the space and moving the Veterans Clinic and Veterans Service Officers to a larger space. This will enable them to be a better partner in the community. It will be easier for veterans since they will be able to access multiple services in one place.

Allaire will be presenting at the MHASAB meeting. They are hoping to open up six Behavioral Health Beds at Morris View and are applying for the Request for Funding Proposal (RFP). They are also applying for ventilator beds and mental health beds (six). They will explain their plan at the meeting.

The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) is rolling out. Morris is one of the last counties to get on board. JDAI is designed for potential first-time offenders, providing an alternative that can steer them away from criminal activity in the future. One of the keys to JDAI is a Risk Screening Tool that assigns point values to factors i.e. past arrests and the severity of the crime to judge whether the youth should be taken to the detention center or released to an alternative. Detention Center admissions continue to fall.

The Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) has an outstation in Dover. They are outgrowing the space and looking for a larger space.

Once the 2018 budget is announced, Morris County hopes to have some service enhancements. Hope One (Morris County's mobile recovery access vehicle) has been very successful offering critical support for persons struggling with addiction, with the goals of preventing drug overdoses and deaths. The county supports this effort.

Ms. Carpinteri stated that all are working together on Code Blue. Morristown and Dover are operating warming centers. The support at these centers is mostly from Family Promise and the Community Soup Kitchen. They are looking at proactive project development for next year to support the community and the Code Blue shelters.

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Tamayo (written report submitted)

They are in transition with Ms. Carole Johnson as the new Commissioner. She was a senior health policy advisory and member of the Domestic Policy Health Team. She met with the Human Services Directors. She talked about exciting things and their new path forward. There are some major changes. There are also major changes in DFD. Hoping to get a new organization chart. Ms. Becker asked if SSH money could be used for Code Blue. Mr. Tamayo stated that there is a need to understand what SSH allows. Each county is different and has a different interpretation.

There is a potential for DMHAS to move back to Human Services. The new bill submitted by Mr. Vitale is requesting DMHAS be moved back to Human Services. Ms. Sarah Adelman is joining as the Deputy Commissioner. Ms. Carpinteri was at the state meeting and said they discussed some concerns. They feel communication is important and are viewing the local HSAC as a partner. They are looking at us as a continuum. It was proposed that the State HSAC Directors be the executive body to the local HSACs. Mr. Tamayo does not think the role of the HSAC will change. Ms. Becker expressed her concern over the role of the MHASAB. Mr. Tamayo said there are only three HSAC representatives in the state.

Division of Developmental Disabilities – Ms. Betty Sayner (written report submitted)

Overview:

DDD is a large division that serves more than 25,000 people with developmental disabilities including those with: intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, spina bifida, traumatic brain injuries and certain neurological impairments. DDD is continuing its shift from a contract-based system of service reimbursement to a Medicaid-based, Fee-for-Service system. In the new system, individuals will be assigned to a support coordination agency to help them manage an individual budget. Individual budgets are based on a tier level that is determined by a comprehensive assessment. The Fee-for-Service model allows for increased flexibility, increased choice and an expansion of services.

DDD and Housing Assistance in the Fee-for-Service System:

While “room and board” is not a Medicaid eligible service, DDD is able to provide rental subsidies to eligible individuals who have been enrolled in or transitioned into the Fee-for-Service system, to help cover the cost of housing, as annual budget allocations allow. DDD-funded rental subsidies are administered by the Supportive Housing Connection (SHC), which is a partnership between the NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency and the NJ Department of Human Services (DHS). Subsidies will be issued through a SHC housing voucher. The SHC housing voucher will not pay the entire monthly rent. An individual who receives an SHC housing voucher will be required to pay 30% of his/her gross income (including SSI benefit, SSD benefit if applicable, and employment wages) directly to the landlord. The SHC will pay the remainder of monthly rent amount directly to the landlord.

New/Proposed Development in Morris County:

1. Advancing Opportunities McKinley St., Lincoln Park – GH was licensed 12/29/17 and 4 individuals are identified to move in.
2. Aplus opened a two person supervised apartment program in Overlook Village, Flanders. One person has already moved in.
3. CPNJ is looking at a vacant lot on Rt. 202 in Morristown /Harding Twp. As a possible site for two 4-bedroom medical group homes. The township is being consulted to see if two homes would be allowed.
4. DPD (Department for Persons with Disabilities) is relocating an existing home to Ridge Road in Succasunna. The Group Home currently serves eight people, but there are plans to reduce the program to five. The agency requested the final inspection in 1/18 and is awaiting an inspection date.
5. Avidd Community Services has several projects including:
 - Old Turnpike Road, Washington Twp. – Projected to serve four people. Construction began 7/17 and is on target to open the home in 2/18, if the cold does not delay sidewalks and paving.
 - Espanong Road, Jefferson / Lake Hopatcong – Projected to serve four people. This is a vacant lot on 1.5 acres. Project closed with HMFA 12/20/17. Projected licensing in 7/18.
 - Minnehaha Blvd. in Lake Hiawatha – Projected to serve four people. Vacant lot needing demo and new construction. Closed with HMFA 11/15/17.
 - Glenwood Road, Parsippany – Projected to serve four people. Projected opening /18.
6. Bellwether is developing two new six-person group homes in Morris County (Pine Brook & Morris Plains). The initial inspection was completed in 12/17. Other than some renovation recommendations, no major issues were noted. Bellwether is projecting the

homes will be ready for licensing the end of 3/18. As of 1/10/18, construction was 60% complete on both homes.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) – Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Mr. Dave Johnson

Morris East LO

CWS 38

CPS 97

Total 135

Morris West LO

CWS 48

CPS 93

Total 141

Various RFPs are available. For further information on DCF or RFPs, please see the DCF website at <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/>.

Staff Report – Ms. Becker

Coordinators have been busy sending out their 2018 subgrants. The Advisory Leadership Group met on Feb. 22 to review the service priorities from across the human services system. They will look at allocation summaries and priorities for 2019. The service priorities need to be updated before May. May is when the annual Request for Funding Application (RFA) is sent out. The service priorities are a part of the RFA packet.

The priorities are consistent and there is a need to respond to the opioid epidemic. That is very clear. It is also important to respond to the needs of seniors and all those in our community. The Leadership group will meet again before the 2019 RFA goes out. Their goal is to work together to maximize funding.

Morris County is looking at the pros and cons on the legalization of marijuana. Ms. Jacobson led the charge in pulling together a committee to work on comments, concerns and a summary recommendation on the legalization of marijuana. The summary recommendation and justification will go to Mr. John Bonanni, County Administrator. Hoping this will benefit county leadership if they decide to do further advocacy. Though there are many concerns, we do not yet know the county's official position. So far, there has been data collection and not a finalized position. Monmouth and Ocean counties are against the legalization.

Staff Report – Ms. Carter

The annual Point-In-Time (PIT) focus group is working on de-duplicating survey respondents for the 2018 count of Morris County's homeless. This year, Morris created an addendum to understand the reason a large percentage of people counted in Morris County's PIT, over the previous three years, had a permanent address outside Morris County prior to becoming homeless.

In addition, a concerted effort is being made to figure out the extent of homelessness among youth 12 to 17 and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender population which may be underserved.

The Coordinated Entry is helping our county to get one list and determine the most critically homeless to be served first. The Freeholders asked what the meaning is of the most critical homeless. Mr. Bashe said this is a multi-faceted analysis. Those on the list long term would get some priority but families are always first priority.

Subcommittee Reports –

Planning Childcare – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod (written report submitted)

- There is no waiting list for childcare subsidies. They are serving all eligible applicants and receive approximately 15 new applications a week.
- They do not have any openings at any dedicated voucher centers.
- The following centers are centers that have Dedicated Voucher Spots throughout Morris County:

Dover Child Care – 50 North Morris Street, Dover NJ 973-366-0277

Early Years – 52 Cooper Road, Denville NJ 973-328-4011

El Primer Paso – 29 Segur Street, Dover NJ 973-361-0880

Flanders Valley Country Day – 6 Bartley Chester Rd, Flanders NJ 973-252-9696

F.M. Kirby Center – 54 East Street, Madison NJ 973-377-4945

Jefferson Child Care – Nolan's Point Road, Lake Hopatcong NJ 973-663-2704

Little Learner Academy – 30 Old Budd Lake Road, Budd Lake NJ 973-691-9430

Little Learner Academy – 89 Route 46 East, Denville, NJ 973-625-2800

Little Learner Academy – 25 Green Pond Road, Suite 2, Rockaway NJ 973-983-0600

Mt. Olive Child Care – 150 Wolfe Road, Budd Lake NJ 973-426-1525

Neighborhood House – 12 Flagler Street, Morristown NJ 973-538-1229

Parsippany Child Day Care – 300 Baldwin Road, Parsippany NJ 973-334-7286

Roxbury Day Care – 25 Righter Road, Succasunna NJ 973-584-3030

Salvation Army – 95 Spring Street, Morristown NJ 973-539-0543

The Magic Garden – 113 Fern Avenue, Wharton NJ 973-361-4167

These centers hold 350 dedicated voucher spots cumulatively.

There was also a rate increase for the reimbursement rate.

Those highly rated centers participating in N.J. Grow Kids will get higher increases.

Advisory Committee Reports –

Workforce Investment Board – No Report

Morris, Sussex, Warren (MSW) HIV/AIDS Advisory – Mr. Bob Armstrong (written report submitted)

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, the MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee met concurrently with the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) at Zufall Health Center in Morristown. EIRC is an initiative of the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area HIV Health Services Planning Council (NEMA Planning Council).

The Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) will continue to meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Zufall Wellness Center in Morristown.

The Needs Assessment Subcommittee met on Feb. 6. It was voted that the committee focus on HIV and behavioral issues, such as daily routines and habits, aging with HIV, medication issues, smoking cessation and sexual issues in the era of U = U (Undetectable equals Untransmittable). The NEMA Planning Council's Needs Assessment research is likely to be on a Core Service Waiver. Currently there is a core services funding requirement of at least 75% and a support services cap at 25%. The needs have shifted since this requirement was put in place.

The committee discussed potential changes in the funding landscape for service and entitlement programs that would impact people living with HIV/AIDS, such as Ryan White Program through HRSA, HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) through HUD, and Medicaid. It was proposed that there is a need for ongoing advocacy and the opportunity to engage candidates for election to the NJ 11th Congressional District for their beliefs and positions on issues related to people with HIV. The committee reviewed sample questions to ask candidates and chose several issues on which to focus.

New Jersey AIDS Services (NJAS) is expanding their services by opening an LGBTQ Center in 2018 and are currently scouting a location in the county. NJAS currently serves a population of lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgendered and queer people (LGBTQ) who are HIV positive. The center will be open to all LGBTQ people regardless of their HIV status.

AIDSWatch is taking place on March 26 and 27. AIDS United describes AIDS Watch as the largest annual constituent-based national HIV/AIDS advocacy event that brings together hundreds of people living with HIV and their allies to meet with members of Congress and to educate them about the important issues at stake for people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States.

The HIV Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) is scheduled to meet at 11:00 a.m. on Feb. 27 at the Zufall Wellness Center, Morristown. The Needs Assessment Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Feb. 27 at noon following the CAB meeting at the same location.

The next Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on April 17 at Hope House in Dover. The meeting will be followed by the Lunch and Learn with the topic: Criminal backgrounds and HIV.

Ms. McEniry said that NJAS currently serves about 40% LGBT population. They are hoping to open their new center in 2019. The LGBT population do not have to be HIV positive to receive services.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board – Ms. Melo (written report submitted)

- Ms. Eileen Alexander, DMHAS, reported the Greystone census has decreased. As of one week ago, the census was 524. This number includes the cottage beds. Many years ago, the census was as low as 450. Then the state closed some hospitals and Greystone's census went up. Although the census went up, the staffing decreased, including the number of psychiatrists.

The Greystone Board of Directors is transitioning. Sheriff Gannon is a new board member as well as an entire new membership. Ms. Alexander will invite DMHAS

Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke back to the MHASAB to update the board on Greystone. There are still many concerns.

Ms. Becker stated that the MHASAB is focusing on the Fair Market Rate (FMR) in rental assistance. It is challenging to secure apartments with the current FMR. There is some advocacy coming up by the Mental Health Association to Congressman Frelinghuysen. They are trying to figure out how to advocate for a higher rate to both Trenton and Washington. The feeling is that Morris County's rates should be more in line with Somerset County. In Somerset County, they pay \$100 more for FMR for a one bedroom. In Morris, the FMR is \$1086. Perhaps we could do a letter on behalf of the HSAC about this.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Rosario (written report submitted)

The Legislative Review Committee met on December 14, 2017.

The members reviewed the following bills and recommend the endorsement of the ACADV:

Assembly No. 1004- Continues tax-exempt status of certain real estate property owned by disabled veterans during reconstruction of homes destroyed by flood, storm, or other acts of God.

Assembly No. 4293 – Requires motor vehicle dealers and repair facilities to prioritize repairs on vehicles that accommodate wheel chairs.

Senate No. 1267 – Clarifies intent of Legislature to protect certain senior citizen tenants: aligns housing age restrictions with federal law.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Ms. Mondino (written report submitted)

PRESENTATIONS

Ellie Plutto and Rebecca Tritt, The Substance Use Navigators for Morris and Sussex Counties presented about their new position. Through CSOC they are addressing gaps and barriers for youth in the substance use system, such as despite a high amount of youth using substances, there is low utilization of inpatient beds through the state.

The committee discussed the legalization of marijuana; the conversation will be continued at an AD Hoc subcommittee group tomorrow, February 16.

STATE AND COUNTY REPORTS

Jessica Mondino reported for Jeena Williams that there are the following RFPS and RFQS

- Request of Qualifications for Forensic Evaluation Services by Psychologists – responses accepted through 4/2/18.
- REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CRISIS STABILIZATION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES FOR YOUTH WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AGES 11 THROUGH 15 – DUE BY 3/23/18 AT 12:00 pm.
- Request for Qualifications for the Provision of Interpreter Services - Due 4/4/18 at 12:00 pm.
- More information on the DCF website

Nacie Arnold reported that she has held 33 Nurtured Heart Training events, training 550 community members.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christie Farber from FSO announced that they have a crew club for 7th-12th grades.

Partnership Announcements – None

Old Business – None

New Business –

Freeholder Heather Darling thanked the board members for all they do.

Public Comment – None

Program Review – Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) moved to end of meeting

Funding – Closed Session – 2018 Funding Recommendations

Motion made by Mr. Tom Pepe to close the meeting.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act and per the board's resolution language. The closed session began at 6:25 p.m. All those non-voting guests or voting members in conflict with ESG funding were asked to leave the meeting. Ms. Heather Darling and Ms. Linda Csengeto left the meeting.

RETURN TO MEETING

Mr. Jeff Bashe made a motion to reopen the meeting. The meeting was reopened at 6:35 p.m. No one reentered the room.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Pepe stated that the funding subcommittee met earlier today, reviewed all ESG funding applications and heard each agency's ESG presentation. The subcommittee recommends that \$157,444 ESG funding be allocated between six agencies as discussed in closed session. In the event there should be more funding, each agency funded would be considered for full funding. In the event there is less funding, all agencies would be cut by the same percentage.

On motion of Mr. Jeff Bashe seconded by Ms. Mary Jane Melo, the 2018 ESG funding recommendations are approved. There were no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

Adjourn –

There was a motion made by Mr. Tom Pepe to close the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Program Development Aide