

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

Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:15 p.m. by Mr. Ken Oexle.

Members Present:

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

Also Attending:

Shannon Muti, Homeless Solutions
Betty Sayner, NJDHS, DDD
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS

Staff in Attendance:

Jane Armstrong, MCDHS
Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS
Maria Rosario, MCDHS

Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions made.

Approval of February 27 Minutes –

Motion to approve the February 27 minutes was made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Ms. Mary Jane Melo. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

Presentation – Ms. Shannon Muti

Childcare Status for Low to Moderate Income Families

There is a great impact childcare affordability has on low-moderate income families in Morris County.

- In order to work, attend school, or participate in substance abuse or mental health treatment, all families must have reliable, accessible, affordable childcare.
- Social service providers continue to report that accessing affordable childcare is one of the greatest challenges effecting low-moderate income households in Morris County, particularly single parents.
- For those families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, this issue is even more critical, as their ability to obtain or sustain housing depends on their ability to maintain a consistent source of income.

- Subsidies are available (currently with no wait list) for families meeting eligibility criteria, administered through Child & Family Resources in Morris County.
- Due to the low subsidy rate, families are left with significant “over and above” costs - which is the difference between the actual cost of childcare and the amount the subsidy covers.
 - For some families this cost creates a tremendous burden.

Other challenges for families in Morris County include:

- There is a lack of availability at centers in high demand areas, like Morristown, especially for infants.
- There is no current childcare subsidies/assistance for parents in partial care or IOP programs.
- There are no specific subsidies for part times workers (less than 30 hours per week).
 - “Dedicated vouchers” a possibility but almost all of the 350 in Morris County are currently accounted for.
- There are residency restrictions that apply and wait lists at Head Start Programs.
- There are wait times for approval on childcare subsidies and a lack of presumptive eligibility – a particular challenge for those experiencing homelessness or transitioning from unemployment.

What is Being Done:

- Child & Family Resources recently delegated a staff person to serve as the homeless liaison for the agency, which has significantly aided in the subsidy application process for homeless families who need to return to work urgently.
- Many advocacy efforts in place in Morris County focused on increasing subsidy rates and overall childcare/early education access.
- Some childcare centers receive grants that allow them to offer scholarships to low-moderate income families who can’t afford full “over and above” costs.
- Some nonprofit agencies also help subsidize the “over and above” costs for vulnerable families participating in their programs.
- Newly formed Morris County workgroup to focus on improving access to affordable childcare.

How to Help:

- Childcare providers and nonprofit agencies need additional funding to subsidize childcare costs for low-moderate income families.
- Attend the first Childcare Workgroup meeting on April 26. at 9:30 a.m. at 3 Jean St., Morristown. Please RSVP to Shannon at shannonmuti@hsinj.org.

County of Morris Department of Human Services – No Report

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

There is no organization table yet. On March 14, the Commissioner held a phone conference. There were many stakeholders there. Copies of the DHS highlights were distributed. They are trying to get a synopsis of the new budget. For further information, see the March 16 DHS Report on the FY 2019 budget.

There were NJIT hearings on April 3 at Rowan College, on May 8 at Trenton in front of the Senate at 10:00 a.m. and the Assembly on May 14 at 10:00 a.m.

They are holding forums to help deal with the families that are coming from Puerto Rico to New Jersey. DFD, HUD and FEMA at present at all forums.

They are adding a question to the immigration census about citizenship. Some are trying to get this question removed. It has been difficult to get the proper count of immigrants. \$600 billion of social services money comes from the results dictated by the census. This money pays for WIC, Section 8 Housing, Head Start, LIHEAP and childcare. New Jersey has the third largest number of immigrants in the country. They are trying to get a more thorough count.

See www.NJSpotlight.com for information on Murphy's Healthcare budget.

New Jersey Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities – Ms. Sayner (written report submitted)

Overview

They are shifting from a contract-based system of reimbursement to a Medicaid-based, Fee-for-Service System. Individuals are being assigned to support coordination agencies 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 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 in the Fee-for-Service system, to help cover the cost of housing. 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 are issued through a **SHC housing voucher**. The SHC housing voucher will not pay the entire monthly rent. An individual who receives a 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 the monthly rent amount directly to the landlord.

New / Proposed Development in Morris County:

1. **Advancing Opportunities** McKinley St., Lincoln Park – GH is open, but the agency has not fully completed their Molina/Medicaid application and qualification process for individual supports. No move in dates have been set.
2. **Aplus** opened a two person supervised apartment program in Overlook Village, Flanders. One person has already moved in and the agency is seeking a day program for the second person.
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 on 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 5. The agency requested the February inspection.
5. **Avidd Community Services** has several projects planned including:
 - Old Turnpike Road, Washington Twp. - Projected to serve four people; two are confirmed. The inside of the home is complete; some exterior work is still needed.
 - Espanong Road, Jefferson / Lake Hopatcong - Projected to serve four. This is a vacant lot on 1.5 acres. Project closed with HMFA 12/20/17. Projected licensing in

- 7/18. Trees have been cleared and the developer will install the septic system before starting on the house.
 - Minnehaha Blvd. in Lake Hiawatha - Projected to serve four. Closed with HMFA 11/15/17. Construction is in the early stages.
 - Glenwood Road, Parsippany - Projected to serve four people. Projected opening 7/18. Construction is underway.
 - Mooney Road, Roxbury – Projected to serve four people. Project began 1/29/18. Vacant lot.
6. **Bellwether** is developing two new six-person group homes in Morris County (Pine Brook & Morris Plains). Certificate of Occupancy is expected in early March for both homes and tours are being set up with families.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) – Division of Child Protection and Families – No Report

Staff Reports –

Ms. Becker

At the next meeting, Sheriff Gannon will be coming to give an update on Hope One. On April 3, the Hope One van will have been going out for a year. They have connected with 3,000 individuals throughout the county. At 11:30 a.m., there will be a celebration on the Morristown Green. Festivities will include a presentation, refreshments and announcements.

On April 24 at 7:00 p.m., at the Valley View Chapel in Long Valley (Washington Township) there will be a special presentation addressing the Opiate plague. On June 21, the annual Consumer & Family Forum will be held at the Haggerty Center in Morris Township from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Ms. Carter

The CoC Executive Committee is gearing up to conduct monitoring's of programs funded through the Morris Continuum of Care (CoC) for homeless services. In 2017, \$1,721,613 was used to provide emergency shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing for people with mental illness, victims of domestic violence, people affected by HIV AIDS, single individuals and families with children. This funding also supports a system wide coordinated entry process, managed by NJ2-1-1, with the goal of getting homeless folks into permanent housing as quickly as possible.

Planning Child Care – Ms. Rebeca Sherrod (written report submitted)

- There is no waiting list for childcare subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served and they receive approximately 20 new applications a week.
- They currently 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.

**Advisory Committee Reports –
Workforce Investment Board – Ms. Armstrong**

The NJ State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) has posted a draft of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Performance Dashboards for public review:

- Go to www.njsetc.net,
- Select “Performance” at the bottom of the page, then
- Select the “SETC Dashboard” link under the heading “NEW! SETC Performance Dashboard.”

The end of Program Year 2016 and Program Year 2017 Quarterly reports of Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth performance are available. The dashboards report state level achievements, demographics and participant barriers. A dashboard for each local area has not been included at this time.

The state WIOA funded programs met or exceeded the state performance requirements for Adult and Dislocated Workers for Program Year 2016. Statewide, youth programs funded by WIOA did not meet the state performance requirements. Employment rate Quarter 2 (Q2) post exit the employment performance metric was 68.6%, and the actual was 32.4%. The Youth employment rate for Quarter 4 (Q4) was 34%. The state derives employment data from wage records and does not include youth eighteen years of age or younger. The overall Credential Attainment rate for youth was 47.5%, which was below the negotiated metric of 72.8%. The SETC has asked local area WDBs to collect additional data on youth barriers to determine how to best administer programs to approve outcomes.

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

There was no meeting since last report. The next meeting will be on April 17 in Dover at Hope House. It will be followed by a lunch and learn.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board – Ms. Mary Jane Melo

The March meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. Allaire is coming to speak about the behavioral health beds they are applying for Morris View. They may ask for a letter of support from the board.

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

- Please be aware that **new** Medicare cards will be generated replacing social security numbers with random numbers to all recipients. This should be completed on or around April 2019. They will be mailed out, no phone calls.
- The Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) program
 - a. Must be New Jersey resident;
 - b. Must be 65 or older or be 18 years or older and receiving Social Security Title II Disability benefits;
 - c. Must have annual income less than \$27,189 if single or less than \$33,334 if married.

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

STATE AND COUNTY REPORTS

Dave Johnston reported that the following RFQS are posted:

- Request of Qualifications for summer camp providers for I/DD
- RFQ for 1 to 1 support services in those summer camps
- Both are rolling application from February 23 – Mar 22
- More information on the DCF website

Nacie Arnold reported that after the next training on 3/22 at CMO she will have trained over 600 community members.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro passed out the FIS training schedule
- Jim Mahoney from CMO announced that Morris and Sussex has been chosen for a state system review, it will be held over 3 days at the end of April. The findings will be presented April 20 from 10-12 at the academy.
- Jane Shivas from Project Self Sufficiency in Newton talked about their new program, Keeping Families Together. The program will supply 25 Morris and Sussex families with vouchers for housing and wrap around support. The program has two clinicians, two case managers and a housing specialist.
- Julie Harpell-Elam spoke about JBWS's upcoming conference on May 11, "Domestic Violence and Co-Occurring issues".

Partnership Announcements –

Ms. Carter stated there will be a meeting of the CoC Executive Committee this week.

Old Business - None

New Business –

Ms. Jane Shivas stated that she has a new role at Project Self Sufficiency in the Keeping Families Together program. DCF supports this housing program. They get 25 vouchers for families with cases of child welfare, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. They are serving the vulnerable population. The families are referred through CP & P. Project Self Sufficiency provides support to these families for 5 years through clinicians, case managers and housing specialists. They need to connect these families to community services.

Ms. Roers stated that during tax season there are volunteers from the United Way to help with taxes. There is also a free online tool at www.myfreetaxes.org. Folks that are low income can get TurboTax free.

There is advocacy around daycare for 0-3 year olds. They are trying to get more high quality care and lower rate vouchers. They want to raise visibility with the Governor and legislature.

Ms. Roers has specific information related to ALICE she will send to Ms. Becker for distribution.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment –

There was a motion made by Mr. Tom Pepe and seconded by Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk to close the meeting at 6:20 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia MocarSKI
Program Development Aide