

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
1 Executive Drive, Morris Plains
April 23, 2019 Minutes

I. Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:15 p.m. by Mr. Tom Pepe

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, HIV/AIDS Advisory Liaison
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative, CoC Liaison
Linda Csengeto, MCOTA
Joann McEniry, New Jersey AIDS Services
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative
Tom Pepe, Citizen Representative, Chair
Michelle Roers, United Way of NNJ
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency

Staff in Attendance:

Jane Armstrong, MSW WDB
Shawna Bailey, MCDHS
Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS
Pat Mocariski, MCDHS
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS

II. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions made.

III. Approval of March 26 Minutes

Motion to approve the March 26 minutes made by Mr. Joe Pawelczyk and seconded by Ms. Michelle Roers. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

IV. NJ Department of Human Services (DHS) – Mr. Luis Tamayo

On Friday, April 12, Ms. Carter and Mr. Pepe attended the state HSAC meeting. Mr. Pepe reported his surprise to hear about a needs assessment, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), charged HSAC's to complete. Both state and local HSAC's reported being unfamiliar with this process and require further information.

Mr. Bashe said there seems to be a gap here. The Department Director and Ms. Carter should be involved in this. Ms. Becker stated that a long time ago there was a planning document. It was a good idea but a lot of work.

There was a presentation on the NJ Save, online application to help low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities save money on Medicare premiums, prescription costs,

and other living expenses. This is an effort to collapse multiple assistance applications into one. There is potential savings of \$25,000 a year for eligible clients. Many people eligible for PAAD (Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled do not sign up. For further information, see <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/paaddetail.html>).

Effective April 1, 2019 Commissioner Carole Johnson announced N.J. Medicaid plans will no longer require authorization before patients can access medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction. This removes a barrier to care and allows Medicaid patients quicker access to proven treatment. This has been a roadblock in the past.

Legislative items were reviewed. The Homeless Trust Fund passed and \$3 million has been designated toward homelessness and \$2 million toward Code Blue Services. Counties will get some state money for these things now.

Ms. Roers suggested the HSAC advocate to the Freeholders on behalf of this fund for Morris County.

Division of Developmental Disabilities – No Report

V. New Jersey Department of Children and Families Division of Child Protection and Permanency – No Report

VI. Staff Reports – Laurie Becker

There was a meeting with Mr. Gary Denamen and the Navigating Hope leader/driver Mr. Chris Lynn. Mr. Lynn retired from the Prosecutors Office in 2002. He has begun work with Navigating Hope to get acclimated. His background in law enforcement is beneficial. Navigating Hope is an outreach vehicle funded by the County. It is Social Services office on wheels. On board, there is a Family Promise Case Manager, an Office of Temporary Assistance Case Manager and driver/security/outreach person, Mr. Lynn. The range of services offered on Navigating Hope complements those of Hope One.

Ms. Sharon Yoo, Esq., will begin as our new Human Services Director on May 6. She is an attorney with a social worker's heart. The Adjuster's Office and team have been moved and are now under County Counsel. Ms. Stacy Santucci was already involved with commitment hearings and is now the County Adjuster.

There was a meeting with Mr. Denamen, Mr. McGuire and Ms. Bjornson about getting things to move forward with Ruth Davis Drive.

The entire office is preparing for 2020 funding. The Request for Funding Applications will go out at the end of May. This is a very busy time. There will be a Funding Orientation on June 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Auditorium at the Public Safety Training Academy. It was a good session last year with many in attendance.

Ms. Becker said they are going to do a five-year look back at the Orientation to help highlight changes, new programs, etc.

Ms. Carter –

The Program Review Committee met and reviewed 2020 funding priorities. There were no changes to priorities for Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) and Child Abuse Prevention (CAP). There was a minor change for Grant-in-Aid.

Motion made by Bob Armstrong to approve the funding priorities as distributed for 2020. Mr. Joe Pawelczyk seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstention. Motion carried.

Mr. Bashe stated that Drew University got a \$100,000 grant to do a two-year study. This study is a special project, which will help us understand the barriers to housing. We are hoping the study will give us some data about landlords and tenants and encourage more landlord engagement.

Modification – Warming Center Component

Ms. Carter stated that Homeless Solutions, Inc. (HSI) is requesting a subgrant modification for the HSI Warming Center. They are asking that the reimbursement costs to run the Warming Center be changed from a per person rate to a per program night rate. The requested change will more accurately reflect fixed nightly program cost. There is no change in funding. All were in favor of the subgrant modification request with no abstentions and no objection. Motion carried.

Leadership Advisory Meeting– Mr. Bob Armstrong

Many issues were discussed. Their goal is to see what can be changed to reduce gaps and overlaps cost effectively. The Advisory Leadership Group (HSAC, MHASAB, YSAC, etc.) is working together in order to maximize funding to our community. The group agreed that a five-year overview of funding would be helpful.

The possibility of putting funding caps in place was discussed. Most were not enthusiastic about this idea and think it best to keep things flexible. Ms. Becker said there is a need to improve timing, the communication flow and how the leadership group fits into the rest of the advisories. Perhaps it is time to review group statutes and requirements.

**VII. Subcommittee Reports –
Planning – Child Care (Voucher System Update) – No Report**

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

Distributed Morris County Cost of Living Calculator, flier on Bridge to New Career Pathways Through Design Thinking (includes 2020 Training Schedule) and NJPP/APN Draft of Reducing Families in Poverty by Strengthening WorkFirst New Jersey.

The Morris County Talent Supply Report -

The 2019 Morris County Talent Report and annex available on the Workforce Development Board website identifies the dominant industry sectors, occupations within these sectors and talent pipeline projections. The report provides a resource for planning and support of business retention, furthering economic growth, identifying future workforce needs and developing educational programs to meet occupational demand. The Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Development Board and the Morris County Economic Development Corporation (Morris County Chamber of Commerce) collaborated to analyze demographic, economic and labor data. The goal of the collaboration is the strategic alignment of workforce and economic development in Morris County.

Sectors with greatest number of combined employees, payroll, and establishments:

Professional, Scientific and Technical (Immunomedics Inc., ADP, Price Waterhouse Coopers; Deloitte)
Health Care and Social Assistance (Quest Diagnostics, Saint Clare's Health System, Cedar Crest)

Sectors with most business establishments in Morris County:

Professional, Scientific and Technical
Retail Trade (Macy's, Costco and Region Energy)

Sectors reporting highest wages:

Management of Companies and Enterprises (Tangoe, Solix)
Finance and Insurance (MetLife, Crum & Forester)

Occupations with the largest projected employment growth:

Food Service and Accommodations
Computer and Mathematics
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations

Largest occupational groups and found in all industry sectors:

Office and Administrative Support
Sales and Related Occupations
PowerPoint available at:

<https://mswwdb.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019-Morris-County-Talent-Report.pdf>

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

On Tuesday, April 16, the MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee met in conjunction with the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) at Catholic Charities Hope House in Dover followed by a Lunch and Learn.

Presentation: MSW/HIV Advisory 2018 Needs Assessment Findings

Needs Assessment Goals: 1) Engage local consumers in service planning; 2) Engage local providers in coordinated system planning; 3) objective – data driven results; make changes based on data.

Needs Assessment Topic: How are case managers communicating information about mental health and behavioral risks to consumers?

Infectious disease medical managers – barriers identified by consumers and providers: lack of transportation and lack of health insurance; barriers identified by providers only: compliance with medical care, mental illness and stigma.

Recommendations for improvement include: 1) Additional training for extended staff of larger agencies; 2) More visible placement in waiting rooms of materials about mental health support, counseling or support groups; 3) Initiation of a stigma free campaign; 4) Expansion of provider relationships to increase referral networks; 5) Inclusion of additional support groups and bilingual counselors; 6) Additional interagency collaboration and communication; and 7) offer mental health education to consumers.

Workgroup discussions yielded these ideas for addressing 2018 Needs assessment recommendations: Strategies for Improvement – A. Expanding Referral Networks: 1) Have an agency spotlight at each meeting from a guest invited by members of the committee on a rotating basis. 2) Capitalize on service directories from other established organizations such as 211 and NPIN. B. Increasing Access to Bilingual Services: 1) indicate languages spoken at organizations in directories; 2) Use service translation devices, possibly requesting funds through special initiatives; 3) Ensure all marketing materials are translated. C. Improving Interagency Collaboration and Communication: Create a subcommittee of providers to focus on interagency collaboration and focus on cost-effective collaborative endeavors.

Community Action Board meets on May 8 at 2:00 p.m. at NJAS, 3 Executive Drive, Morris Plains.

Zufall Health Center will shut down on April 24 for a full staff stigma-free training.

Family Health Center: a new linkage to care coordinator has been hired.

Planned Parenthood has a team doing HIV education and testing at schools and other community locations.

Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area HIV Health Planning Council is working on a core services waiver to be able to fund programs outside of the traditional 75% core services/25% support services split.

Hope House in Dover has two new housing programs: HPP (Homeless Prevention Program) and HPRP (Homeless Prevention Rehousing Program).

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board

- The Advisory Leadership group met on February 20. Ms. Becker and Ms. Jacobson attended. There was much accomplished in 2018. Discussion on HUD not wanting to fund transitional housing. If they do not fund it, where will that money come from? We need to look at mental health and substance abuse programs.

This change will effect Homeless Solutions and their Safe Haven Program. The Mental Health Association has a contract to help people in Safe Haven. This program has twenty beds for homeless people with serious mental illness. The plan is to change to model to better align with HUD funding.

- Ms. Becker stated that Mr. Bob Davison, Mental Health Association, requested that the MHASAB advocate for the legislature to take a good look at Greystone and the pending lawsuit. It is a class action suit, dated December 17, 2018, against the State of New Jersey for what is described as inhumane conditions at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital.

Mr. Davison suggested the board put together a letter and send it to the legislators. The letter will address the need to improve the quality of life for thousands of residents impacted by Greystone Hospital. This hospital serves New Jersey residents statewide including approximately 20% that are Morris County residents. There are many disturbing allegations in the lawsuit that appear substantiated. The allegations cite inadequate staffing, overcrowding, ineffective safety and security measures, lack of life saving medical equipment and questionable record keeping.

The letter will go out this week on behalf of the board.

- Ms. Jacobson reported that Hope One got an additional \$150,000 from DMHAS for NARCAN, the Hope One vehicle and for service dollars. The program has greatly expanded and the model is being duplicated by other counties.
- There will be Disaster Response Crisis Counselor (DRCC) training on April 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Office of Emergency Management. This training is specific to Morris County. The training will include Psychological First Aid and supports. This is non-clinical training for counselors so they can help when there is an

overwhelming disaster or emergency. There is a team of 60 Disaster Response Crisis Counselors. They have not had to mobilize in a while. Ms. Beth Jacobson and Ms. Carol DeGraw are both DRCCs.

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

Older Americans Act is up and the Office on Aging is calling for people to advocate for its reauthorization. The Older Americans Act (OAA) provides critical services—such as home-delivered and congregate meals, family caregiver support, in-home assistance, preventive health services, transportation, job training, protection from abuse, and other supportive services—that help about 11 million older adults live as independently as possible. In fiscal year 2019, OAA federal funding was \$2.06 billion.

There will be a Freeholder Proclamation for Older Americans Act. There is a push to increase caregiver support services. There is a Statewide Caregivers Task Force. They are starting to see trends with caregivers. With the reauthorization, there will be support funds available for caregiver services.

In May there will be a web based campaign “Connect, Contribute and Create.” They hope to help older adults connect with others. Recreational opportunities and volunteerism will be highlighted. They are posting daily caregiver stories. The county uses various social media, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, etc.

The Commander’s (veteran’s leadership group) next meeting is May 14. This group has been an extreme success. There has been lots of good feedback and now there is a link on the county website for those who want updates on veteran’s issues.

Youth Services Advisory Council – No Report

**IX. Partnership Announcements –
Continuum of Care (CoC) – Mr. Bashe**

The last meeting was an organizational meeting. The Executive Committee is working on revising by-laws and preparing for the Notice of Intent (NOI). The NOI came out early this year. It is due on May 29.

X. Old Business

Mr. Pepe stated the Program Review Subcommittee reviewed, discussed and made recommendations for the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) applicants. Five agencies applied and were recommended based on level funding. An additional \$4,750 was actually awarded. Total funding went from \$159,260.00 to \$164,010.00. Following robust discussion, a redistribution of funding was agreed on. Mr. Jeff Bashe made a motion to approve the recommendations for fund all five agencies as reviewed. Mr. Joe Pawelczyk seconded motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

XI. New Business –

Draft of Reducing Families in Poverty by Strengthening WorkFirst NJ distributed earlier by Ms. Armstrong. Attached is the NJ Policy perspective. The paper explains that WorkFirst NJ is the state’s only basic safety net for families but it has not lived up to its real promise both in terms of providing sufficient cash assistance to live in one of the highest cost-of-living states in the nation and the work supports and policies that are necessary to lift families out of poverty. The program needs to be fixed and they want our input. This paper is a draft proposal on how to fix the system. HSACs are being asked to read this paper and send back comments. There is required legislative action. Please email Ms. Carter any comments. She will pool them and send them out.

XII. Public Comment -

Mr. Armstrong stated that Sunday, May 5 will be the NJ AIDS Walk at 1:00 p.m. The NJ AIDS Walk will be at Central Park this year and not on the Morristown Green. In the morning, there will be a Pride run at 10:00 a.m. This will benefit the EDGE Center at New Jersey Aids Services (NJAS).

XIII. Adjourn

Mr. Oexle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Joe Pawelczyk seconded the motion. All were in favor with no objections and no abstention. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Administrative Secretary

