

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**1 Executive Drive, Morris Plains**  
**February 26, 2019 Minutes**

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting opened at 5:16 p.m. by Mr. Ken Oexle.

**Members Present:**

Robert Armstrong, HIV/AIDS Advisory Liaison  
Linda Csengeto, OTA Liaison  
David Johnston, Deidra O'Brien Child Adv. Ctr.  
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative  
Tom Pepe, Citizen Representative, Chair  
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources  
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency

**Also Attending:**

Peggy Rauscher, Parsippany Child Day Care Center  
Jane Armstrong, MSW Workforce Development Board

**Staff in Attendance:**

Laurie Becker, MCDHS  
Shelia Carter, MCDHS  
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS  
Luis Tamayo, NJDHS  
Elaine Mico, NJ Division of Child Protection & Permanency

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

All were welcomed and introductions made.

**III. Approval of January 22 Minutes –**

Motion to approve the January 22 minutes made by Mr. Ken Oexle and seconded by Mr. Dave Johnston. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions. Motion carried.

**IV. Morris County Department of Human Services –**

Ms. Becker reported that Ms. Carpinteri is leaving the county and is going to Atlantic Health.

**V. Action Item: Program Review – Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Recommendations Closed Session – 2019 Funding Recommendations**

Mr. Pepe asked all those in conflict with ESG leave the room. Ms. Linda Csengeto and Ms. Peggy Rauscher left the room. Ms. Jane Shivas made a motion to close the session. Ms. Rebekka Sherrod seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objection and no abstentions. Closed session began.

### **Open Session – 2019 Funding Recommendations**

Mr. Ken Oexle made a motion to reopen the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Tom Pepe seconded the motion. Ms. Csengeto and Ms. Peggy Rauscher came back into the room.

Ms. Sherrod stated that the Program Review Committee met prior to this meeting. All five agencies that applied for ESG funding made presentations to the Committee. Mr. Pepe stated that all agencies gave good presentations. The Committee ranked the agencies and made funding recommendations. The total funded was about the same as last year. Ms. Sherrod made a motion that the board approve the funding recommendations as discussed in closed session. Mr. Ken Oexle seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and two abstentions.

### **VI. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Luis Tamayo**

On Feb. 15, the Department met with the Department of Children and Families and gave a presentation on homeless youth. This was the first time in a long time leadership had the opportunity to all meet at the same time. Eighteen out of twenty-one counties attended. The next meeting will be in June. On March 8, Directors are meeting with Commissioner Johnson. They are trying to facilitate meetings with the psychiatric hospitals and are encouraging communication.

Agencies are required to do a group plan in case of an emergency. This plan will include how we can help at nursing homes, group homes, etc. It seems there is disconnect in the details of the plan. Ms. Becker stated that the county is a coordinating body in an emergency. DMHAS requires a plan of their contracted providers. Sometimes that is a part of their contract. They learned after Sandy many emergency plans were very old and not helpful and needed to be revisited. It would be great if there were a Morris representative involved.

On March 5, there will be a budget address. Then all will see what each line item is. If there are cuts that is the time to advocate against them. There are a few legislative breakfasts happening. On Feb. 19, there was a press release announcing awards.

Mr. Gregory Woods was the Director of Policy & Programs and is now the Head of Medicaid Innovation Office. They want to improve quality and delivery of care. Mr. Woods may hold forums.

Childcare subsidy rates increased as of Jan. 6. There were \$200,000 in health and safety grants announced. Many centers did not meet the criteria so most of the money went to fourteen centers in Essex County. Only one center in Morris County received funding.

They are still trying to coordinate a meeting with the Chief of Staff and Morris County folks. With Ms. Carpinteri leaving the county that may be difficult at this time. There is an invitation to the Human Services Director, Staff Person and HSAC Chair. It would be good even if just two of the three people attended. They want to hear about Morris issues. Mr. Pepe thinks Ms. Carter can respond to them and tell them of our situation. It would be best to wait until there is a new Director.

**Division of Developmental Disabilities – No Report**

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

**Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCC&P) – Ms. Elaine Mico**

Morris West has about 60% of the referrals and Morris East has about 40% of the referrals. There are 39 municipalities within Morris County. They are divided between two offices, Morris West and Morris East. There are more abuse and neglect than welfare cases.

**Statistics for Morris Co. in the last 14 months (emailed by Ms. Mico)**

**MORRIS COUNTY - Received Reports**

Month	Child Welfare Assessments	Child Abuse/Neglect	Totals
January 2018	76	182	258
February 2018	65	132	197
March 2018	67	171	238
April 2018	60	162	222
May 2018	55	190	245
June 2018	53	141	194
July 2018	51	149	200
August 2018	36	137	173
September 2018	48	157	205
October 2018	75	217	292
November 2018	52	177	229
December 2018	60	190	250
January 2019	90	174	264
February 2019	56	151	207
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>2330</b>	<b>3174</b>

**MORRIS EAST - Received Reports**

Month	Child Welfare Assessments	Child Abuse/Neglect	Totals
January 2018	32	82	114
February 2018	29	64	93
March 2018	30	65	95
April 2018	28	60	88
May 2018	24	74	98
June 2018	23	54	77
July 2018	22	74	96
August 2018	17	63	80
September 2018	19	70	89
October 2018	40	92	132
November 2018	20	78	98
December 2018	34	90	124
January 2019	45	81	126
February 2019	21	66	87
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>1013</b>	<b>1397</b>

MORRIS WEST - Received Reports			
Month	Child Welfare Assessments	Child Abuse/Neglect	Totals
January 2018	44	100	144
February 2018	36	68	104
March 2018	37	106	143
April 2018	32	102	134
May 2018	31	116	147
June 2018	30	87	117
July 2018	29	75	104
August 2018	19	74	93
September 2018	29	87	116
October 2018	35	125	160
November 2018	32	99	131
December 2018	26	100	126
January 2019	45	93	138
February 2019	35	85	120
<b>Grand totals</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>1777</b>

Ms. Mico, New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency, reported on their annual qualitative review held in March. It is a five-day process where six cases are reviewed and findings discussed. On the fifth day of each cycle, Performance Improvement Plans are developed.

**VIII. Staff Reports – Ms. Becker**

The Advisory Leadership group met last week. HSAC representative Tom Pepe was in attendance and other Advisory Chairs as well as Executive Committee Chair, Ms. Zydell. They reviewed service priorities and discussed changes. There are some positive changes. They are looking at systems concerns. It was requested the HSAC revisit childcare rates, the voucher process, etc.

They talked about HUD funding. They do not give priority to service dollars and expect providers to find funding elsewhere.

JBWS and Safe Haven (Homeless Solutions) both have transitional housing programs. They both need to look at other funding streams. Applications may come into Grant-in-Aid for those type of services. We need to consider this when putting together HSAC priorities. HUD no longer wants to pay for this type of supportive housing.

Safe Haven is a shelter for twenty homeless individuals with severe mental illness. This 18-month program is now transitioning 10 of their 20 beds to Permanent Housing. Ms. Becker will get more information on the Permanent Housing Model. Perhaps Mr. McGuire can come to talk about this. It would help to know their plans and possibly offer suggestions. This is a HSAC/MHASAB matter. In 2020, they plan to move folks out of Safe Haven and will likely come to the county for supports.

Ms. Becker stated that a few folks visited Saint Clare's in Boonton and got a tour of their substance use walk in Center. They are filling a service gap. They have three on staff. Individuals on drugs and/or alcohol can walk in to the Center and be seen. They are open from Monday to Friday. There is a private area with refreshments where the nurse can assess the person. If eligible for detox, staff can start insurance eligibility. The center provides a safe place while waiting for detox. About 97% are admitted to detox. This was an initiative by Hope One as addressing a barrier in getting people to detox. If a person is under the influence and needs treatment a detox center will not see the person unless in withdrawal. This center is good news it is immediate help for individuals.

**IX. Subcommittee Report –  
Planning – Child Care (Voucher System Update)**

- 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 and the tiered reimbursement went into effect during the first pay period of June. The rate is tied to Grow NJ Kids ratings. There is another rate increase going into effect 1/1/2019.

There are also three different grant opportunities for childcare centers through Division of Family Development as well CDA Scholarships for teachers that work at a childcare center accepting subsidy/child care assistance.

**X. Youth Homelessness – No Report**

**XI. Advisory Committee Reports –  
Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong**

- Funds are available for adults to take English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Classes will be at 1 Medical Drive.
- CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) training is available. There is a healthcare talent-funding program at Homeless Solutions. Allaire has expressed an interest in employing CNAs.
- Career services are offered to those incarcerated through the Reentry Program. They will help inmates to develop skills to reenter the workforce.
- Meetings with the youth the detention center.
- The Bridge Program is a work readiness program offered.
- The Talent Pipeline study is identifying needs in Morris County.
- Fulton Bank gave money to fund youth services literacy program. They also received other funding to help folks with clothing, etc. for interviews.

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

On Tuesday, February 19, the MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee met in conjunction with the early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) at the Zufall Health Wellness Center, 85 Washington St., in Morristown. This collective meets at 11:00 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month in various location followed by a Lunch and Learn for HIV+ clients.

According to a MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD flyer: “The HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee is comprised of HIV service providers, consumers and community advocates who organize, plan and develop policy related to HIV/AIDS in the region of Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties....the committee comes together to advise the Freeholders, health care providers, government agencies and the public on issues such as prevention, care and treatment and the priorities of consumers in the region. The committee also advocates on behalf of persons with HIV/AIDS to reduce stigma, get people into services, reduce HIV transmission and positively impact health outcomes of the consumers in the region.”

The Tri-county HIV Advisory Committee has created a 2019 Collaborative Agreement between four collaborating partners: 1) Hope House, Catholic Family and Community Services; 2) The Family Health Center, Morristown Medical Center; 3) NJAS (formerly New Jersey AIDS Services); and 4) Zufall Health Center. The 2019 Collaborative Agreement includes four Resource Partners: 1) Center for Prevention and Counseling, Newton; 2) County of Sussex Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health; 3) Legal Services of Northwest Jersey; 4) Visions and Pathways.

New Jersey AIDS Services (NJAS) is now presenting officially as NJAS. HIV/AIDS services will be provided under the name of The Eric Johnson Center of NJAS. Social services and compassionate care for the LBGTQ+ community will be provided under the

name of EDGE Pride Center of NJAS. EDGE is an acronym for End Discrimination Gain Quality!

Following the HIV Advisory Committee meeting on Feb. 19 there was a Lunch and Learn on the topic of Alternate Healing. The presenter was Janet StraightArrow.

The Community Action Board (CAB) meets at 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Zufall Wellness Center, 85 Washington St. in Morristown.

The next Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on April 16 at Hope House, 19-21 Belmont Ave. in Dover. A Lunch and Learn will follow.

### **Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Ms. Becker**

- Ms. Carpinteri stated that the award for the Ruth Davis Drive Request for Application (RFA) was awarded to Homeless Solutions and Family Promise. The residences will be used to house homeless women (32 beds). This is a wonderful addition to our continuum. Ms. McMann said many agencies came together and linkages made. This has been a great way to learn about various programs. This is a major part of what we do in making funding recommendations to the Freeholders.
- Ms. Becker and the Consumer & Family Forum Planning Committee are looking for a consumer advocate that deserves recognition. The Terry Belske award is given out each year at the Forum. Terry Belske passed away in 2016. She was a long time consumer advocate that was well know and well loved. If you have anyone in mind for this award contact Ms. Becker at 973-285-6852. There is a simple application to fill out and the committee will decide who is recognized.
- Ms. Becker reported that all but four towns in Morris County are Stigma Free. They are working on getting the remaining towns on board. The Webmaster is linking more school-based activities on the county's website. See <https://morriscountystigmafree.org/> for further information. Today they brought in a stigma story from the County College of Morris (CCM). We will now be having feature series stories from CCM. Discussion ensued about how to engage the remaining towns. There are various Stigma Free give a ways and no monetary requirements. We are looking for more ambassadors to help spread the Stigma Free message.

### **Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – No Report**

#### **Youth Services Advisory Committee – Ms. Mondino**

There were no presentations and no action items.

## **STATE REPORTS**

- Jeena Williams reported that there is an RFI (request for information) out for out of home treatment for youth with I/DD and severe behavioral health challenges. This is the state requesting information from providers that may lead to changes in service delivery or future RFPs. More information can be found at NJ.gov/DCF.

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Dave Johnston from Deirdre's House gave out flyers for their annual Wine and Whisky Tasting Fundraiser, which will be held April 5 at 6:00 pm.
- Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro reported that Family Intervention Services (FIS) and the Family Success Center are running the active parenting group for Spanish speaking parents with children ages 5-12 free program. Starts on February 26.
- Kerry from Family Service Organization (FSO) reported that they are looking for a space to expand their parent support groups and youth partnership. They run from 6:00 pm -7:30 pm.

### **XII. Partnership Announcements –**

Ms. Becker reported that the Executive Committee had their retreat on Jan. 31. The facilitator worked well and the day was a success. The committee came up with 2019 goals and tasks. It was a teambuilding experience.

Ms. Becker stated that the CoC award was received and increased. There was one bonus award received and it was good news. It has been a good year with a few increases in funding.

### **XIII. Old Business – None**

### **XIV. New Business –**

Mr. Oexle stated he was at a United Way meeting of disabled and seniors that met this morning. There was a question about Morris View no longer accepting Medicaid pending patients. Also questioned if they are accepting residents from outside of Morris County. There is much concern over the decisions that Allaire is making. Ms. Becker stated she will send these questions/concerns to Ms. Carpinteri and Ms. Deena Leary.

Mr. Johnston stated that Deidra's house got a \$78,000 grant they will be using to update the four bathrooms in the house. They also got EMDR equipment and updated equipment and goods. There is another \$500,000 available for services. They applied for \$375,000 and are hoping to get it but have not heard yet.



**XV. Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. by Mr. Ken Oexle. Motion seconded by Ms. Rebecca Sherrod. Meeting adjourned.