

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
1 Executive Drive, Morris Plains
May 28, 2019 Minutes

I. Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:16 p.m. by Mr. Robert Armstrong.

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
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency

Staff in Attendance:

Shawna Bailey, MCDHS
Lori Barry, DCP&P
Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS
Nelson Troche, NJDHS

Guests:

Holly Dinnery, Family Partners of Morris & Sussex Cos.

II. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions made.

III. Approval of April 23 Minutes

Motion to approve the April 23 minutes with one change on page two (spelling of Chris Lynn incorrect should be Chris Linne) made by Mr. Joe Pawelczyk and seconded by Ms. Jane Shivas. All were in favor with no opposition and two abstentions. Motion carried.

IV. NJ Department of Human Services (DHS) – Mr. Nelson Troche

They are recovering from the budget hearings. The new Commissioner did well. The next big thing is Governor Murphy's commitment to the opiate crisis. The State is spending \$2 million on the roll out of the naloxone program. This money will allow one hundred pharmacies to give naloxone out free of charge. Naloxone is Narcan Nasal Spray that is used in an emergency for the treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose. The spray allows naloxone to be sprayed into the nose. Narcan Nasal Spray counteracts the life-threatening effects of an opioid overdose.

Division of Developmental Disabilities – No Report

**V. NJ Department of Children and Families –
Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Ms. Lori Barry, DCP&P**
Ms. Elaine Mico retired as of May 1. The office is without a manager at the moment.
The numbers for May are up. May is typically a high month.

VI. Staff Reports – Ms. Becker

Last year we went through the RFA process for Navigating Hope. Family Promise got the award to staff the Navigating Hope vehicle. Family Promise has provided a high number of services in tandem with Hope One and now that the Navigating Hope vehicle is running, will be working on the new vehicle. The first year of the grant will be completed as of August 31.

At this point, there is a request for the grant to be extended to end of 2019. The HSAC will need to give approval for the extension. Mr. Bashe suggested having Ms. Joanne Bjornson give a report on Navigating Hope at the next board meeting. Mr. Pawelczyk is in favor of having the grant extended to the end of the year. By then we should have data and results. Ms. Yoo says that Family Promise is collecting data and it is good idea to have them come and share data and information. The numbers look good and we will get more information from Ms. Bjornson.

Mr. Bashe made a motion to extend the current contract with Family Promise for four more months at the same rate and have them give a presentation to the board. Mr. Tom Pepe seconded the motion. All were in favor with one abstention and no objection. Motion carried.

Ms. Becker said the 2020 RFA went out and RFA information is posted on the Morris County website at <https://hs.morriscountynj.gov/>. The deadline for applications is June 28 at 2:00 p.m. There will be a Funding Orientation on June 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Auditorium at the Public Safety Training Academy. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Shelia Carter –

The 2019 Notice of Intent (homeless funding) projects are due tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. The CoC Allocations Committee will meet on June 10 for a Question and Answer Session with each Provider. They will preliminarily review and rank applications. Final determinations will be made following HUD’s release of the 2019 Notice of Funding Availability.

The preliminary 2019 Point-In-Time Count Summary was distributed for Q&A.

Agency onsite monitoring appointments are being scheduled throughout July and August. Board members will be asked to sign-up during the next meeting.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

Planning – Child Care (Voucher System Update) – Rebecca Sherrod

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

April they received 120 applications. There were 27 applications denied for either of the following reasons: incomplete, over income, or engaged in an eligible activity.]

- 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.

Child & Family Resources is having a Food Truck Festival on June 1, 2019 to benefit CFR. The food truck festival will be at Horseshoe Lake Park in Roxbury.

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Investment Board – Written Report Submitted by Ms. Jane Armstrong

The Morris/Sussex/Warren Literacy Consortium receives NJ Department of Labor Title II funding which support English as a Second Language (ESL) literacy and Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes held at the Morris County Vocational School District, Sussex County Community College and Warren County Community College. As a member, Literacy NJ provides one-on-one ESL tutoring.

Irene Schrader, of the Morris County Vocational School District and is a partner of the tri-county One-Stop system overseen by the Workforce Development Board. The consortium partners are members of the MSW WDB Literacy Committee.

Morris County Classes

Free ESL and Adult Basic Education Classes at Morris County Vocational School District.

Free programs designed to provide adults interested in improving their English language skills (ESL) or developing sufficient basic education (ABE) to enable them to take and pass the high school equivalency exam. Students will develop skills in reading, writing, numeracy, computing and problem solving. Classroom activities will include life skills, employ-ability skills and family literacy. For more information go to www.mcv.edu/.

Morris, Sussex, Warren, HIV/AIDS Advisory – Written Report Submitted by Mr. Robert Armstrong

The MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory met on April 16.

- The meeting consisted of discussions regarding expanding referral networks, increasing access to bilingual services, improving interagency collaboration and overall communication.
- Immediately following the meeting was a lunch and learn on the topic of housing and HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS).

A HIV Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) was held on May 8 at New Jersey AIDS Service (NJAS).

- At this meeting, members discussed the state’s End the Epidemic (ETE) plan and provided feedback regarding Governor Murphy’s agenda to end new HIV diagnosis in NJ.
- CAB meetings take place on the second Wednesday every month at NJAS at 2:00 p.m.

On May 15, the Planning Council, which oversees HIV planning for five counties including Morris County, submitted no cost recommendations to the state to influence the ETE plan with respect to the goal to increase viral load suppression (VLS) to 90% of people living with HIV (PLWH).

The recommendations are as follows:

- 1) Align the NJ AIDS Drug Distribution Program (ADDP) and NJ Medicaid program in both HIV medication formularies and the application process; and remove the NJ Medicaid requirement for prior authorization of HIV medications.

Comment: Both programs are federally funded, yet the Medicaid process for obtaining treatment-appropriate medications is much more cumbersome. HIV medications are improving rapidly and the best option for patient adherence and health is single therapy regimen (STR or one pill per day). This is not immediately accessible in Medicaid. Providers must divert time from patient care for extensive phone calls with insurers justifying the need for these HIV medications. Some prescribe only what insurers will approve, often multiple pill regimens, which can decrease patient adherence. (NJ Medicaid just removed the prior authorization requirement for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for the opioid epidemic, so this is a feasible option for HIV medications.)

- 2) Extend the NJ Medicaid requirement for 6-month recertification to one year.

Comment: Medicaid recertification severely impacts access to medications by our PLWH many of whom are transient with temporary living arrangements, often doubling up with family and friends. NJ Medicaid may have the last known address which may not be current before Medicaid eligibility may be terminated. PLWH often learn about ineligibility when they go to the pharmacy to pick up medications and find that NJ Medicaid did not fill the prescriptions. Being ineligible for Medicaid means without HIV medications for a time, increased viral load, possible development of resistance and need for a new treatment regimen.

- 3) Provide timely and more detailed HIV surveillance data including new diagnosis and met and unmet need by smaller geographical areas (NJ Department of Health).

Comment: Knowing the size, demographics and location of the PLWH especially those newly diagnosed and unserved is a federal RWHAP requirement and is essential to the engage PLWH in treatment to increase VLS and reduce the spread of infection. NJDOH surveillance data and reports should be timely, uniform and available by county and municipality (and ZIP code where feasible) immediately after submittal of official data to cluster of newly diagnosed injection drug users in Atlantic County. Data should be provided immediately when it is available so that RWHAP EMA, TGA's and other regional bodies can take action.

May 24 Legal Services of Northwest New Jersey hosted a Lunch and Learn.

- The meeting was a consumer education focused on the topic of understanding Social Security.

The next MSW HIV Advisory meeting will be on June 19 at 1 Medical Drive.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Ms. Shivas

- The annual Consumer & Family Forum, The Many Faces of Recovery – Building Bridges to Employment will be on Tuesday, June 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Please join consumers and family members, public officials, providers and advocates for an interactive evening. See the flier for further details.
- Ms. Tomika Carter and Mr. Chris Dorian gave an update on Greystone Psychiatric Hospital. See the Department of Health Website for information on Greystone's Dec. 2018 annual public meeting. Their focus has been on improvements. There has been a decline in census and increase in discharges. The census in Sept. 2017 was 541, 2018 was 429 and today the census is at 382. Ms. Carter said that they start discharge planning at admission. They hold intensive case reviews every Friday in a different area. They have true conversations with the patients and give them the opportunity to get out of the hospital. They hold one on one meetings to help the patients. They get the patients used to less supervision.

The patients are in active treatment and attend many social events. The staff is greatly increased. They have 25 psychiatrists (26 including the Medical Director.) They would like to see 24-day time psychiatrists and now have 16 + 3 APN so total is 20. They have almost reached their target goal for staffing.

Ms. Yoo commented that Mental Health Association Integrated Case Management staff are there to help Greystone patients with discharge planning. They do their best to help the most vulnerable population go back into the community.

There is a big gap since there is not enough housing. There are those that are stable and no longer need to be committed but are waiting for housing CEEP, Continuing Extension Pending Placement. The hospital will not release them unless there is housing available. Sometimes patients go to other counties since there may be more housing available. Ms. Becker said that advocacy is needed more than ever.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Maria Rosario

- The April 2019 ACADV meeting report was given at the April HSAC meeting verbally by Shawna Bailey. Below are the April meeting highlights in a hard copy.
- Aging hosted the March 21, **2019 Veterans Commanders Summit Conference**. The topics were the Veterans ID card program from the County Clerk's Office, and our Communications Director discussing the updates on our web page.
 - These are held the third Tuesday of every other month. All veterans and public are welcome to attend.
- **Older American's Month** is in May. This year we decided to have a web-based campaign, on our County web site, as well as our social media events, and highlight volunteer opportunities in our community, working with our County Communications Director.
 - *Our web-site address: www.hsmorriscounty.gov/adv/*
 - **This years' theme is:**
 - **Connect** with friends, family and services that support participation.
 - **Create** engage in activities, that promote learning and health and personal enrichment.
- **Contribute** time, talent and life experiences to benefit others.
- The **Older Americans Act** is up for reauthorization this year. The Aging Community is encouraged to advocate for the reauthorization and to increase funding.
 - We have templates for advocacy available for you to send to your legislators/congressmen to show your support of this act.

- Also in May **NORWESCAP** is hosting the Annual Art Show for seniors and disabled, at the County library.

Youth Services Advisory Council –Ms. Jessica Mondino
There were no presentations.

ACTION ITEMS

- The YSAC approved the 2019 updated Bylaws.

STATE REPORTS

- Jeena Williams gave an update on the Child Stat that was held on May 7. This is a forum where a team from local DCP&P, CMO, Mobile Response, FSO and CIACC report on the strength and needs of the county to the Commissioner of DCF and other DCF team members.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Barbara Kauffman from Morris County Prevention is Key announced that they have hired a Youth Prevention Specialist as part of the Partnership For Success grant from DCF.
- Jamie Paladino from Care Plus spoke about their Kinship Program, which is wrap around services for caregivers
- Warren Ververs from St Clare's gave an update on their in- school programs. CER School Screening program has contracts with 100 schools in 2 different counties to provide screenings. Expanding in school clinical program with Denville schools currently 30 hours and looking to expand to 45 hours in more schools.

IX. Partnership Announcements – Jeff Bashe

The CoC Allocations Committee met June 10 to discuss \$1,887,565 in project proposals that would supply housing and support services for people who are homeless across Morris County's continuum of care.

We are still waiting on the HUD Notice Of Funding Availability. The NOFA lays out the funding criteria. The committee will reconvene after HUD releases the Notice of Funding Availability to finalize the ranking and funding recommendation process,

Priorities are changing. Safe Haven and Step off the Street programs are likely to be reduced. Next year these programs will not be eligible at all. There will be cuts to transitional housing. There is concern about where these folks will go to get community support.

IX. Old Business - None

**X. New Business -
Census –**

Mr. Nelson Trouche stated that he received information about the 2020 census. They are looking to partner with nonprofits concerning the census and its importance. There will be some temporary jobs available. He suggested having someone come in to a meeting to talk about the census. Some discussion ensued about how many are afraid to take the census. This presentation is very helpful and informative. They will be presenting at the state HSAC meeting. Ms. McEniry said she would send Ms. Carter the contact information.

Ms. McEniry also suggested a support letter from the HSAC might be helpful asking that prior authorization no longer be required for HIV medications. Medication assisted treatment for Opioid recovery used to require prior authorization. Recently the prior authorization requirement was removed. Mr. Jeff Bashe made a motion to send a letter to the Dept. of Health to add HIV medication to those medications not requiring preauthorization. Ms. Xiomara Guevara seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

Ms. Becker mentioned the Breaking Stigma Event on June 22 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Morristown Green. There will be speakers and featured performers, open mic, music, poetry and art. It will be an interactive and fun afternoon. All ages are welcome and admission is free. Please see the flier for more information.

XI. Public Comment – None

XII. Adjournment –

Ms. Joann McEniry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Mr. Ken Oexle seconded the motion. All were in favor with no objections and no abstention. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Administrative Secretary

