

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
1 Executive Drive, Morris Plains
October 23, 2018 Minutes

I. Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:20 p.m. by Mr. Ken Oexle.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, HIV/AIDS Advisory Liaison
Xiomara Guevara, MC Organization for Hispanic Affairs
David Hollowell, WIB Liaison
Joann McEniry, NJAS
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:

Kathy DeFillippo, MC Freeholder
David Johnston, Deidre's House
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency
Melissa Maney, OTA

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Jennifer Carpinteri, 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 Sept. 25 Minutes –

Motion to approve the Sept. 25 minutes made by Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk and seconded by Mr. Tom Pepe. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions. Motion carried.

IV. Morris County Department of Human Services – Ms. Jennifer Carpinteri

The Ruth Davis Drive RFP was extended to Nov. 30. The County was asked to extend the deadline in order for agencies to have time to collaborate.

There will be a joint presentation to the Freeholders on the STAR (Successful Transition and Re-Entry) Program. Morris County Sheriff James Gannon, in collaboration with the Morris County Dept. of Human Services, started an innovative new program focused on

the successful re-entry of inmates back to civilian life, one that could be a model for the state and the nation.

V. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Luis Tamayo

There was a HSAC state meeting in late Sept. and a Directors meeting in early October. There were similar issues discussed at both meetings. They talked about the low reimbursement rates paid to hotels for clients.

There was discussion on Code Blue and the ramifications of this law with no funding attached to it. Some counties use their own money to fund this. Legislation is up for review that will allow Housing Trust Fund money to be utilized when a Code Blue is called. However, not all counties have Housing Trust Funds.

There was discussion on Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) funds and possible use of SSH money when a Code Blue is called. This money is usually spoken for. The use of SSH funds for this purpose would be considered on an individual basis. This question needs to be resolved.

On Oct. 1, the Division of Mental Health & Addictions Services moved back to the Department of Human Services. Hospitals and licensing remained at the Department. of Health. There are two departments involved and they are trying to keep the communication fluid. Some of the budget was moved back. One third of the entire state budget is DHS money for vulnerable populations. Medicaid is a big-ticket item.

Additional funding was allocated. There was \$30 million more added to childcare support, especially for infant care. There was also \$32 million for direct support services. The Commissioner put out her first newsletter.

At the Director's meeting, they talked about Assembly Bill 4336 that will give the Department of Health an additional \$25 million to assist providers with the transition to fee for service. Also discussed Senate Bill 866 that will extend eligibility for individuals on emergency assistance. The cash influx helps these folks.

There is a new Chief of Staff, Steve Schultz. He is trying to come up to speed and get the county planning in step with what the state is doing so all can work together. Ms. Carpinteri suggested it would be good to get the state people to come here to talk to us. Mr. Tamayo said that since the HSAC is often a partner in putting together various county plans, if the state people come it would be good to have these plans available for them.

VI. New Jersey Department of Children & Families – Ms. Elaine Mico

There was an increase in referrals.

Their office has been doing a lot of cancer awareness and breast cancer awareness.

They want referrals made to DYFS for children born with drugs in their system. The families of these children need an assessment to see whether the mother was on prescription medications or not. They are also working to support families after childbirth.

**VII. Staff Reports –
Ms. Becker**

The Navigating Hope subgrant is overseen by the HSAC and has been executed. The vehicle is being prepared and is in the shop. Navigating Hope staff is shadowing Hope One and providing services. Ms. Becker said there is a small subgrant modification requested.

Family Promise would like more detail in the subgrant regarding Single Stop provisions, which includes streamlining of the benefit application process provided by Single Stop. There is a Family Promise staff person overseeing the program. Single Stop is a user friendly, sophisticated technology to do the first assessment to see what benefits the person may be eligible for. They are partners with Navigating Hope and OTA. They can do prescreening for Earned Income Tax Credits and help with other services and supports. It was suggested that Single Stop be invited to a meeting to give a presentation.

Motion made by Tom Pepe to modify the subgrant to include more detail and a sentence about Single Stop. Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstention. Motion carried.

Fliers were available on the Legislative breakfast on October 26 at 8:30 a.m. at the Park Avenue Pub, 184 Park Avenue, Florham Park. The cost is \$30. The Mental Health Association has been hosting legislative breakfasts for many years. This is the first time they are having one in Morris County. All are invited. Contact Laurie Becker at 973-285-6852 for further information.

VIII. Status of Immigrant Children in Morris County – Ms. Xiomara Guevara

MC Organization for Hispanic Affairs (MCOHA) 2017 Annual Report was distributed and a flier with information on the Public Charge was distributed.

Ms. Guevara said that MCOHA started the center of Citizenship & Legal Immigration about four years ago. They provide affordable high quality legal services to the community. They help a broad spectrum of clients including unaccompanied minors, domestic violence victims, those in need of mental health services, homeless clients, etc.

In July, the family separation came about. The policy was brought to court in July. The judge said family separation was not legal and the government had 20 days to get families reunited. About 2,000 have been reunited. It has been 90 days and families are still not all united. The ACLU coordinated many of these efforts but 245 children across the country are still separated from their parents. 125 children have parents that have been deported. They are waiting for sponsors. Sponsors are designated guardians. If they do not have a sponsor, they cannot leave the detention center. There are 5 kids have

no idea where their parents are. All 10 families from Morris have reconnected with their families. MCOHA has served 133 minors in Morris County from 2017 to 2018.

Ms. Roers asked why they come to New Jersey. Ms. Guevara said that some have family and friends here. Boys and girls often come to get away from gang activity. Many of physical scars. Many cases are not approved. For those cases approved, it can take 2 or 3 years. Some cases are on a fast track but then it is difficult to defend the client properly. Kids can go to school and counseling while they are waiting. Many cannot get proper counseling since they do not speak English or cannot afford it. Ms. McEniry asked if they have talked about their HIV status. Perhaps New Jersey AIDS Services can provide counseling. Ms. Guevara said they got funding from Horizon and a program is being added for mental health coordination and services to assist these people.

MCOHA charges \$500 fee to help their clients. Most private attorneys charge \$4,000 for the same services. They get no government funding but get funding through many private donations. Their services are not free but are affordable. They have bilingual services. They serve many clients not just those that are Hispanic. Further information and discussion ensued.

The flier distributed has information about the Public Charge. The Public Charge is part of a federal immigration law for over a hundred years; the “public charge” test is designed to identify people who may depend on the government as their main source of support. If the government determines that a person is likely to become a “public charge,” it can deny a person admission to the U.S. or lawful permanent residence (or “green card status). On Oct. 10, the Department of Homeland Security proposed to change this long-standing policy by excluding anyone who is likely to use certain health care, nutrition or housing programs in the future. The proposed test adds specific standards for income, health, age and even English proficiency, and expands the forms of public assistance that are counted in a “public charge” determination.

Due to the possibility of this new law, many families are afraid to apply for benefits. Thus, hospital Emergency Rooms have seen a big increase since they take all clients regardless of insurance. Some are opting out of treatment since they are scared. Food banks have also seen increased needs since most do not ask for social security nos. or other personal information.

If this law goes through anyone receiving any assistance or applying to become a legal resident will be investigated. It may affect his or her status.

Comments on this law will be accepted until Dec. 10. To submit a comment see ProtectingImmigrantFamilies.org.

Ms. Roers asked Ms. Guevara about the Dover fire from her perspective. Ms. Guevara stated that there was a big fire on Warren St. in Dover and about 100 people lost their homes. The majority of families and individuals displaced are staying with family and friends. A small number of the displaced families and individuals went to the local

recreation center where the Red Cross has taken the lead in housing efforts. They are looking for people who are willing to offer a room or space in their home for those displaced.

Human Services is working with the Red Cross, OTA and others to help. Many people, organizations and restaurants are offering donations. Hispanic Affairs will arrange for transportation where needed. Many residents lost their ID cards. The cost is \$450 to replace. They are applying waivers so the new ID cards will be free. Everyone is coordinating efforts.

There were six businesses effected by the fire. Many local businesses and homes still have no phones, power, and internet. Fortunately, Zufall had no damage.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

October 2018 - Child Care Report

Submitted by 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.
- 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 Leaner 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 now tied to Grow NJ Kids ratings.

Nominating Committee – Mr. Ken Oexle

The Committee is asked to meet to develop the 2019 slate of officers for presentation at the November meeting. Elections will be in January.

X. Youth Homelessness – No Report

XI. Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Development Board – Dave Hollowell

MSW One-Stop Career Center Jersey Job Club - Free Workshops Open to Public

NJDOL/WD career development professionals within the Morris, Sussex and Warren County One-Stop Career Centers are available to help develop a strategy for conducting a successful job search. Training workshops provide instruction on resume writing, effective job search, how to market oneself, improving interviewing skills, time management and more. This is an opportunity to network and build relationships that could lead to employment. For additional information on One-Stop Career Center workshop schedules, please visit: <http://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/>

Workshop Offerings:

1. Acing the Job Interview I
2. Top Notch Resume I & II
3. Master the Art of Networking
4. Path to Employment – Starting your Job Search
5. The Right Career For You

ETS Collaborates With Morris County Alumni Association of the Morris County Drug Court

Staff from Employment and Training Services, the Randolph One-Stop Career Center and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation are collaborating with the Drug Court Alumni Association to discuss work/career readiness programs and tools available to participants. On November 21, 2018, a presentation, “*Challenges Facing Ex-Offenders Seeking Employment*” will be delivered to past and current drug court participants by NJ DOL/WD Re-Entry personnel and ETS on November 21, 2018. Contact jarmstrong@co.morris.nj.us for details.

ETS Supervisor Recognized at GSETA’s Statewide 2018 Annual Workforce Conference

On October 3, 2018, Mr. Gil Sutherland, Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) supervisor with Employment and Training Services was the recipient of the 2018 Garden State Employment and Training Association’s Front Line Service Worker Award which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a passion for helping those less fortunate and promoting social justice and equality in the workplace.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory - Mr. Armstrong

There was no meeting. The Eric Johnson House is closing after more than 25 years. New Jersey AIDS Services leased this building. The residents that lived there will vacate

by the end of October. All the residents got into permanent housing. There may be a slight gap for a few and they are working on several sources to find placements. Seven that are leaving have housing vouchers and some have already moved. They are proud and happy that permanent housing is being expanded and are embracing permanent housing (rather than transitional housing). It was different years ago when many of their clients died quickly. Today they are living longer and are productive citizens. NJAS will be expanding their programs and will now have mental health and LGBTQ services, as well as an HIV psychiatric nurse that can prescribe medications.

There will be a Lunch and Learn on Navigating Medicare held at 1 Medical Drive on November 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Ms. Becker

At the September Freeholders Meeting, four Municipal Alliance Volunteers were honored. They received special recognition for their contributions and volunteer work for Municipal Alliances. The Municipal Alliances provide substance abuse prevention activities and programs in the community.

The Dept. of Human Services and the Community Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris Present: Raising Teens in Challenging Times on November 1 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph, NJ. The presentation will focus on building strength and resilience in our children and teens. For more details go to www.hs.morriscountynj.gov. Registration is required.

The Knock Out Opioid Abuse Concert of hope and love was held on Oct. 4 at the Malcom Forbes Amphitheatre, Morristown Medical Center. It was an incredible evening and very well attended. The event was held in partnership with the library and several agencies. Performers were from all age groups including a 14 year old and an 81 year old. They sang and put together videos, songs and stories. Seven contestants wrote and performed their own songs. The theme was fighting stigma through songs and stories. It was a great sharing experience with professional guidance. The library is going to continue to have an open mic night.

All 2019 Funding award letters are in process of being reviewed. All advisories met, reviewed and made recommendations to the Freeholders for 2019 funding. Freeholders approved and letters will go out on November 16.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Rosario

DAWN Center for Independent Living will be celebrating their twentieth anniversary on December 1, 2018. All are invited to attend.

- **Interfaith Food Pantry** will begin distributing Thanksgiving Baskets on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at St. Margaret's Church in Morristown, if interested please call 973-538-8049 ext. 210 for an appointment.

- **Skylands RSVP SHIP** (State Health Insurance assistance Program) counselors provide free information and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries. Please call 973-784-4900 ext 3501. Medicare open enrollment is ends December 7, 2018.
- **Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs** energy assistance program is now available through August 31, 2019. Please call 973-366-4770 for more information. They will also make home visits to homebound clients, or provide transportation to their office.
- **Social Security** benefits will increase by 2.9% in 2019, the largest cost-of-living (COLA) in seven years. The average Social Security retirement benefit will increase by \$39 a month or roughly \$468 per year.

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Ms. Mondino

- Beth Jacobson reported that the annual Prevention Forum will be held on November 1 at 5:00 p.m. at Meadow Wood Manor.
- Dave Johnston from Deirdre’s House gave out information about the programs at DH and spoke a little bit about their mission and what they do.
- Juli Harpell-Elam from JBWS reminded the group that they have trauma focused CBT therapy.
- Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro from FIS announced they will be collaborating with the FSO for a Spanish speaking Nurtured Heart/Mending Arts series in Dover.
- Julia Buccini from Daytop announced that their outpatient facility would be moving to a location across the street. They will also be holding their annual gala on December 4.
- There was a discussion about the Pediatric Psychiatry Collaboration. This is an initiative by Atlantic Health aimed to improve the ability of pediatricians to screen, identify and care manage children with mental/behavioral health and substance use concerns.
- Warren Ververs from St Clare’s spoke about a collaborative they started with Denville Middle School where they have a clinician in the school for 30 hrs. a week.

XII. Partnerships – CoC – Ms. Carter

The CoC Executive Committee is working on updating their By-Laws, priorities and systems performance for 2019. The Point-in-Time and addendum results were presented. The idea of the addendum was to try to figure out why homeless people with prior permanent addresses outside Morris were in Morris County. The addendum revealed most people came because they have relatives here. The next meeting is on Nov. 15 at 10:00 a.m.

XIII. Old Business – None

XIV. New Business –

Mr. Pepe said that he sits on the NORWESCAP board and they are looking for a volunteer to help on the board. It is a major commitment. They meet six times a year in Phillipsburg for a half day. If the person is low income, they will provide a

stipend. They would like someone who was a client of NORWESCAP or someone that has used the human services system. Please contact Tom Pepe if interested or know of anyone interested at tompepe@aol.com.

Mr. Oexle asked if anyone has ideas for new members for the HSAC. If so, please give Ms. Carter at 973-285-6851 with the information. We have a few members that have retired and are in need of some additional members.

XV. Public Comment – None

XVI. Adjourn –

Motion made by Mr. Tom Pepe to close the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Joe Pawelczyk seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski
Administrative Secretary