

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
1 Executive Drive, Morris Plains
January 22, 2019 Minutes

I. Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:19 p.m. by Mr. Ken Oexle.

Members Present:

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

Also Attending:

Heather Darling, MC Freeholder
Kathy DeFillippo, MC Freeholder
Sidney Williams, Spring Street CDC
Teresa Williams, Spring Street CDC

Staff in Attendance:

Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Jennifer Carpinteri, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Anna Marie Hess, 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. Nominating Committee – Slate of Officers and Vote – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod

The subcommittee proposed Mr. Tom Pepe for Chair and Mr. Bob Armstrong for Vice Chair for 2019. There were no nominations from the floor. The slate of officers was approved.

IV. Approval of November Minutes –

Motion to approve the November 27 minutes made by Mr. Ken Oexle and seconded by Mr. Dave Johnston. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions. Motion carried.

V. Morris County Department of Human Services – Ms. Carpinteri

At the Freeholder meeting tomorrow they will talk about Ruth Davis Drive. All are very excited.

This year Code Blue has been great success. There are twelve beds available at the warming center. Homeless Solutions has been a great partner and this has been the smoothest winter yet. The warming center is open every day. There were more women than expected. Homeless providers and the Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) are working collaboratively.

Mr. Bashe reported that when a Code Blue is called data from the Coordinated Entry process is eye opening. From June through Oct. there were 61 people sheltered through the Coordinated Entry. Of those 61 found housing. (This could be diversion housing.) All are coming through a common filter. As of Oct., there were 48 new calls from new consumers. There is a mix of the chronically homeless and domestic violence victims. As of Oct. 31, there were 223 on the housing wait list. There were 49 families and 9 couples. The total current number of people on the shelter waiting list is 281.

The Navigating Hope vehicle is almost done. They are waiting on the technology and computers and are hoping their maiden mission will be by the end of next month. Mr. Johnston suggested someone give a presentation on this services and Hope One.

The Clerk's office is only giving out County ID's to those 55 and over. The Hope One van and Sheriff are now providing this service in the community. The jail now has the Hope Wing, the Successful Transition and Reentry (STAR) Program and Police Assisted Recovery Initiative (PAARI).

They were able to put a plan in place through a grant the Sheriff received and use a consultant to help collect data. They will get the data broken out to specific services. The person needs to request services in order to count as a contact. Those that are just getting coffee are not included in the count. Ms. Becker said data is being collected. We would like to have the Sheriff come and give the board an update and further information. Ms. Becker suggested we ask the Sheriff after the PAARI grant rolls out.

VI. New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) – Mr. Tamayo

There was a State Department of Human Services Budget Listening Session Dec. 5 in Trenton. Over seventy people testified. Advisory Member Tom Pepe attended and gave testimony on some of the HSAC's concerns, in summary, related to:

- a. Broadening support via Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) administered under the Division of Family Development for more emergency services/shelters funding inclusive of Code Blue.
- b. The increased need for fee-for-service rates for mental health.
- c. With possible legalization of marijuana - the Department of Human Services was encouraged to not only monitor, but also give strong consideration to the consequence of increased public access to legal cannabis use, calling for a

response from the field of addiction medicine. Should New Jersey legalize marijuana, it will be necessary for DHS to proactively account for an increased need for addiction services across the spectrum of prevention, treatment and ancillary services.

- d. In terms of childcare and early childhood education - though pleased with recent increases to NJ Childcare subsidy rates, increases fall significantly short of the true cost of care/education. To help close the gap between the true cost of care and the state's subsidy more resources are needed to ensure our neediest children access quality care.

DHS Highlights reviewed – (written report submitted)

(TRENTON) – Governor Murphy’s first year was one of accomplishment, including at the Department of Human Services, including:

Expanding Access to Services

- Invested \$38 million in helping working families afford childcare;
- Expanded access to food assistance for community college students to combat food insecurity on college campuses;
- Increased New Jersey’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash assistance amount for the first time in more than 30 years; and
- Launched the one-stop NJSave online application to help older residents and Individuals with disabilities save money on Medicare premiums, prescription drug costs, and other living expenses.

Modernizing Medicaid

- Increased access to life-saving hepatitis C benefits;
- Expanded access to tobacco cessation services and supports;
- Launched new diabetes prevention benefits;
- Built new autism benefits;
- Expanded family planning benefits, including for long-acting reversible contraception; and
- Improved treatment options for opioid use disorder.

Supporting Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families

- Implemented the Stephen Komminos’ law, which strengthens protections for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and improves communication with parents and guardians;
- Launched the NJ ABLE program, which helps individuals with disabilities save tax-free for eligible expenses such as education, housing and transportation without losing Medicaid and other benefits; and
- Raised wages by \$32 million for the direct support professionals who are essential to helping individuals with I/DD thrive in the community.

Engaging the Community

- Hosted a public listening session on the development of the State Fiscal Year 2020 Department of Human Services budget, where more 70 people and organizations provided testimony and input;
- Returned the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services to the Department of Human Services in response to stakeholder requests;

- Expanded the Library Equal Access Program (LEAP), offering library-based internet and technology tools for people who are blind and visually disabled;
- Expanded the New Jersey Hearing Project, which provides free refurbished hearing aids to eligible older residents;
- Hosted free community-based eye screenings across the state in partnership with legislators;
- Opened the Assistance Device Demonstration Center in Hamilton (Mercer County) to allow consumers, providers and the community to experience assistive devices for the deaf and hard of hearing; and
- Held forums in Mount Holly, Perth Amboy, Vineland, Jersey City, Paterson, Camden and Elizabeth to inform individuals from Puerto Rico displaced by Hurricane Maria about shelter, health care, food and cash assistance and other programs and assist with enrollment.

Fighting to Protect Services and Health Care Coverage

- Provided nearly \$400,000 in funding to community organizations to help New Jerseyans understand their options and enroll in affordable health care coverage;
- Supported New Jersey's legal effort to protect the Affordable Care Act by detailing for the courts the benefits of Medicaid expansion for New Jersey's residents, hospitals, health care providers and our economy;
- Protected women's health care by fighting in the courts against efforts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act's contraception coverage; and
- Filed comments strongly opposing the Trump Administration's efforts to expand the definition of "public charge" and harm legal immigrants access to services and supports.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Tamayo stated that this is the first time in a long time there has been an increase in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. Although it is not significant is it a positive movement. In Medicaid benefits, there has been an increase in some benefits.

Although the Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services has returned to Department of Human Services, the hospitals are still under the Department of Health. Ms. Becker asked if there was any impact due to the government shutdown. Mr. Tamayo said the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is affected. They made the February SNAP payment early but not certain what will happen after that. Ms. Carpinteri said the Office of Temporary Assistance has worked overtime to make sure all SNAP benefits were done in time to meet the deadline. Ms. McEniry asked for this information to be sent to non-profits so they may send to clients. Ms. Carpinteri will send this information to Ms. McEniry.

Mr. Oexle asked if the shutdown has any effect on school programs. Mr. Tamayo said he is not sure but it may affect the school lunch programs.

Mr. Tamayo said the Senate has worked out some kinks and some bills were funded. Senate bill 1965 was signed which expands the limits to emergency assistance.

The new Chief of Staff is trying to meet with counties individually to see if we can find places to do planning together. They are encouraging a meeting with Morris by inviting folks to Trenton. The invitation is to Human Services Department Directors, Staff and Chairs. This is an opportunity to let them know what we need.

Division of Developmental Disabilities – No Report

VII. New Jersey Department of Children and Families – DCP&P – Submitted by Ms. Elaine Mico

Morris County had 268 referrals for the month of December 2018. There were 70 coded Child Welfare Assessments and 198 were for Child Abuse or Neglect. December was a busy month for the Morris East Local Office. They had a 33% increase in referrals from the year before.

March 18 through March 22 is the County's Qualitative Review (QR). The purpose of the QR is to appraise case practice and determine the extent to which planned strategies are working together with supports and services to produce results that show progress towards family independence, child well-being and permanency, and timely case closure. The QR protocol uses a combination of record reviews, interviews, observations and professional deduction to identify patterns regarding children, youth and families and the people who support them. It provides a basis for assessing, promoting and strengthening best practice.

At the end of the week DCP&P Staff, DCF Leadership and our Community Partners come together for a presentation. The results of the review are shared with the audience. Good case practice is acknowledged, and areas of challenge are identified. It is an overview of the work we do with our families and service providers.

The findings/information is instrumental in developing our Performance Improvement Plan (PIP).

Lenora Humphrey recently became the new County Service Specialist for Morris County. She is replacing Dave Johnston.

VIII. Staff Reports – Ms. Laurie Becker –

Grants are due to go to Freeholder's for signature tomorrow night. Once signed by the Freeholders, the contracts will be fully executed.

Ms. Becker reported that Sheriff Gannon has many expansion services happening. The Police Assistance Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI) model will be rolling out soon. This model is similar to the Sussex model called Angel. The Hope One has been awarded a federal grant of over \$332,000 by the Bureau of Justice. Hope One was selected for the two (2) year competitive grant to plan, develop and implement

comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by the opioid epidemic. Hope One, which offers critical in-the-field support for persons struggling with addiction, has made over 5,000 contacts since its inception.

This Comprehensive Opioid Abuse program will help roll out the PAARI. Police Departments will be in a position to offer treatment and services to folks requesting help. If an addict comes in the Police Station, asks for help and has drugs, he/she will not be arrested. Instead, the police officer will have the resources to get the person to services. PAARI will start with a few police departments. On January 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Emergency Management, the Sheriff will talk to Providers about this program. All are invited.

Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Tomika Carter, will present at the next MHSAB meeting on Feb. 14 at 5:15 p.m. at 1 Medical Drive. She will give a presentation/update on Greystone.

Ms. Shelia Carter –

Committee orientation packets were briefly reviewed.

Despite cold temperatures across much of the County and state, the Point-In-Time count of Morris County's sheltered and unsheltered homeless population begins tonight. This is a HUD-mandated count for all jurisdictions nationwide that intend to apply for funding for homeless services. In 2018, Morris applied for \$2,023,156 with the primary end goal of providing additional permanent supportive housing vouchers.

Project Homeless Connect, a one-day consumer focused event providing an array of resources and support for those experiencing homelessness, will be held 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 70 Maple Avenue in Morristown. Ms. Becker stated people can complete Point-In-Time surveys during this event as well.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs is accepting pre-applications for a housing lottery ONLINE only at <https://www.WaitlistCheck.com/NJ559>. The enrollment period is 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 4, 2019 to 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 8, 2019.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS –

Planning – Child Care (Voucher System Update) – January/Submitted by Rebecca Sherrod

- There is no waiting list for childcare subsidies. All eligible applicants are being served and 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.

Some discussion ensued on how fortunate Morris County is to have so many voucher slots. Essex County only has about 70 slots. Many counties have less. Mr. Bashe said perhaps since we put a system in place and always use the slots within the thirty day allotted period that is why we did not lose any slots. Mr. Tamayo said some counties did not have a system in place and lost their vouchers.

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. There is another rate increase going into effect Jan. 1, 2019.

X. Youth Homelessness –

Mr. Johnston asked if we still want to involve the schools. Mr. Tamayo said the state is trying to meet with the woman that oversees Youth Homelessness. Her name is Ms. Jessica Tronbette. Mr. Johnston said that we tried to speak with her before and nothing happened. Perhaps we can try again and ask her to come and talk to the board.

XI. Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Development Board – No Report

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Board – Submitted by Joanne McEniry

The MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory met last on Nov. 13, 2018 to discuss the 2019 work plan. The meeting was followed by a community lunch and learn on the topic of exploring and working with Medicare and Medicaid.

In the last RFP process, Hope House elected not to re-apply for funding for Ryan White grant for mental health services for the HIV/AIDS population. NJAS applied for, was

awarded the grant, and will be offering additional behavioral health counseling and psychiatric prescription monitoring by a psychiatric nurse practitioner for this population effective March 1, 2019 from their Morris Plains location.

The Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area, the Ryan White Grant Recipient area that includes Morris County, will host an educational presentation on Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and syringe access on March 8, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The event is free to the public and includes lunch and networking opportunities. Both PEP and syringe access are initiatives to help prevent the spread of HIV in our community.

The next meeting of the MSW HIV/AIDS Advisory will be on February 19, 2019 at Zufall Wellness Center in Dover. The meeting starts at 11:00 a.m. and will be immediately followed by our lunch and learn on Holistic Approaches at 12:30 p.m.

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Submitted by Ms. Becker
Project Homeless Connect will be held on January 24 at St. Peter’s Church in Morristown. Ms. Becker will send out the information. There will be many giveaways (food, clothing and gift cards). Providers will attend and there will be various services offered. The opening ceremony is at 9:00 a.m. and the event starts begins at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Becker is holding her first planning meeting for the Annual Consumer & Family Forum. She is proposing the committee consider bringing it back to its original purpose. The reason the forum began was to address a responsibility in the Community Mental Health Act, where Mental Health boards were obligated to have one meeting annually to gain consumer input on service needs. Discussion ensued about changing the format and simplifying the event to focus more on the public hearing portion of the evening. Initial response is that the public forum in its current format is beneficial and an event that many look forward to every year. Anyone interested in being part of the Planning Committee, please contact Ms. Becker. The first planning meeting will be in February.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – No Report

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Submitted by Ms. Mondino

PRESENTATIONS

There was a presentation from the Academy of Clinical & Applied Psychoanalysis (ACAP). ACAP is a Mental Health School and Resource Center.

They provide

- Teaching and trainings
- Psychoanalytical program
- Workshops
- In-service
- Masters courses
- Post master courses
- For more information <https://www.acapnj.org/>

ACTION ITEMS

- David Johnston was appointed at the chair and Margaret Pittaluga was appointed as co-chair.

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 p.m.
- Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro from FIS spoke briefly about the learning collaboration between FIS, New Bridge and The Center for Prevention which will be beginning in March, more information to come.

XII. Partnership Announcements

Continuum of Care (CoC) – Mr. Bashe

There is a new Chair for 2019, Ms. Rebekka Zydel. The new Vice Chair is Ms. Terry Connolly. There are a few new members this year. On Jan. 31 there is a retreat planned to help get everyone on the same page. The goal is to work toward a more formal recognition of problems and priorities.

XIII. Old Business –

Mr. Oexle said at the Freeholder meeting Ms. Mary Jane Melo was recognized for her twenty years of serving on the HSAC and the MHASAB. A lot of her family attended. It was a very nice surprise for her.

Mr. Tamayo thanked Mr. Oexle for serving as Chair.

XIV. New Business –

Ms. Carpinteri said that on Jan. 15 the Commanders of the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) and the Legions and other organizations came out to have a dialogue on how to improve veteran services. It was a great turnout with over thirty people in the room. There is a need to improve communication and address gaps. They are going to have some "Munch and Learns". These meetings will be held bi-monthly at the Veteran's Office at Morris View. The new bigger space at the Veteran's office allows the county to do more and be a hub for the veterans.

XV. Public Comment –

Mr. Armstrong asked if there are any areas, we want presentations on for 2019. Mr. Johnston said that with many incarcerated parents it would be nice to have a presentation on bail reform.

XVI. Adjournment –

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. by Mr. Tom Pepe. Meeting adjourned.