

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

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

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, HIV/AIDS Advisory Liaison
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative, CoC Liaison
David Johnston, Deidre O'Brien Child Advocacy Ctr.
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative
Tom Pepe, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roers, United Way of Norther New Jersey - Morristown
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency

Staff in Attendance:

Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Gary Denamen, Deputy Director MCDHS
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS
Christine Helleyer, MCDHS
Maria Ojeda, NJ Department of Child Protection & Permanency, DYFS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS
Nelson Trouche, NJDHS
Sharon Yoo, Esq., Director, MCDHS

Others Present:

Joann Bjornson, Family Promise, Navigating Hope

II. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions made.

III. Chair report – Tom Pepe

There was a conference call within the past two weeks and the Department of Human Services was authorized to release the Navigating Hope RFP. It will post on July 24, 2019 and is responses are due August 19, 2019. The Program Review Committee will review the applications at their meeting on September 4, 2019. All are welcome to bid. The RFP will be available on the Department of Human Services website <https://hs.morriscountynj.gov/> as of July 24, 2019.

IV. Approval of June Minutes

Motion to approve the June 25 minutes with noted changes. Mr. Robert Armstrong was not present, Ms. Sharon Yoo was present, and page 7 under New Business should be child advocacy centers. Motion was made by Mr. David Johnston and seconded by Ms.

Jane Shivas to accept the minutes as amended. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions. Motion carried.

V. County of Morris Department of Human Services – Sharon Yoo

At our last meeting, there was a presentation by the U.S. Census Bureau. Many questions were asked about Morris County's involvement. Morris County Freeholder Douglas Cabana is on the State Complete Count Committee. Morris County has not put together a formal Complete Count action plan and not sure if they will. However, the County can post information about the importance of the Census on our website at <https://hs.morriscountynj.gov>.

Ms. Michelle Roers proposed the board ask the Freeholders to create a formal Complete Count Committee. When looking across the state, Morris County is perceived as one of the wealthier counties in the state. If Morris is under counted, they will not receive the right amount of State and Federal funding. Mr. Kenneth Oexle agrees the county should have a committee but it should not be headed up by the HSAC. Ms. Yoo stated this is a good recommendation. The county will put it out to the community to see who wants be on the committee. Ms. Joann Bjornson stated Family Promise is working with the Census Bureau and Navigating Hope staff, including herself and have attended Census meetings. Ms. Bjornson is confident that Navigating Hope and Our Promise can reach various hard to reach areas in the community. This is an outreach and education process and they can encourage those that are reluctant to participate. Both Morristown and Dover are significantly under counted.

Ms. Yoo's is concerned that rushing to put a committee together now could be difficult due to time constraints. The County should focus on outreach and education and look to community organizations for the information they are gathering. Ms. Yoo suggested that the Census Bureau information be distributed at other committee meetings. The community should be encouraged to participate. She will make sure that all committee leaders have the census information. Ms. Yoo will gather information from different organizations and bring it back to the Freeholders. This will help to make them aware of what various communities are doing to address the Census Count and if they can supplement the efforts. Mr. Pepe would like this to be a standing agenda item until the Census is complete. Mr. Pepe asked Ms. Yoo to see what the county's position is and talk to Mr. John Bonanni. Mr. Nelson Troche stated that the Latino population is going to be difficult to capture in the count. They have already started going underground and have seen a decline in services i.e., less Latinos are going to food pantries.

VI. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Nelson Troche

Next State HSAC is August 16, 2019. The major topic of discussion will be the DCF/HSAC Needs Assessment. Mr. Troche handed out an information packet. Ms. Carter and Mr. Armstrong will attend this meeting and share related updates.

The Narcan distribution day/event was a huge success and there is discussion about holding another one in the fall. The State would like to make it bigger, hold the event in schools, additional pharmacies and get it out to police and EMT's.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – No Report

VII. New Jersey Department of Children & Families

Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Maria Ojeda

The Commissioner, Carmine Diaz, will present at next HSAC meeting a four-page pamphlet that is a strategic plan called “Safe and Health Connected”. Her vision/goal is to keep our families safe in their natural home, being connected and working closely with the community and keeping our families healthy.

Ms. Maria Ojeda and the office managers from Morris, Essex, and Sussex Counties met with the Assistant Commissioner in June to identify top needs in Morris County. Ms. Ojeda states the number one need is transportation. Her staff spends many hours transporting families since some families do not have car or a driver’s license (because of the increased number of undocumented families in Morris County). The second priority is Spanish Speaking Outpatient Substance Abuse Services. Once again, many undocumented families do not have access to insurance. Hope House had the only Spanish Speaking Outpatient Substance Abuse program and it was discontinued. Spanish speaking folks go to Passaic County for services. The third priority is Homelessness. Many out of county families are placed in hotels/shelters in Morris County by 2-1-1. Out of county families are housed in hotels or shelters. This is challenging since there are waiting lists and often we are unable to serve our own residents.

VIII. Staff Report – Shelia Carter

Ms. Shelia Carter stated that the site monitorings have begun and will continue through August. We are preparing Grant-In-Aid, Child Abuse Prevention, and Social Services for the homeless funding applications for mailing to the Program Review Subcommittee approximately two weeks prior to the September 4 meeting. As soon as Navigating Hope applications are received, the committee will receive them as well. Mr. Tom Pepe asked board members for full participation in the funding meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 and Thursday, September 5, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at 1 Medical Drive, Conference Room 82. A light lunch will be provided.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

Planning – Childcare Report – Submitted by Rebecca Sherrod Capozzi

- There is **no waiting list for childcare subsidies**. All eligible applicants are being served.
- Dedicated voucher centers do not currently have any openings.
- 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.

Morris Sussex Warren Workforce Development Board – Jane Armstrong

Information was passed out on The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Federal Law mandates Morris, Sussex, Warren Workforce Development Board, to establish local priorities of service. Veterans and their spouses, low-income individuals, and those that are basic skills deficient, are the top three priorities. The Board approved creation of a fourth priority, the working poor. Those individuals that are working but not making enough for the cost of living. The board has received a flat level rate of funding to provide services for this population.

Morris, Sussex, Warren, HIV Advisory – Bob Armstrong

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee has not met since the Last HSAC Meeting.

The State of New Jersey Department of Health released the message to **end the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in New Jersey by 2025**. Below are some excerpts (bold lines are my emphasis):

- The Murphy Administration is taking steps to end the HIV epidemic in New Jersey by 2025. As part of this effort, the Department will work with partners to **promote testing and link individuals with treatment and HIV medications** that are effective in preventing transmission of the virus.
- “There are more than 37,000 residents in the state living with HIV and while we have made great progress in reducing the incidence of HIV, there is still so much more work to be done,” Gov. Phil Murphy said. “I am calling on all stakeholders to join the Department of Health to work strategically to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.”
- As a first step toward ending the epidemic, the New Jersey Department of Health is joining the Rutgers School of Public Health and more than 780 organizations across the nation to **support the Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) campaign**.

- U equals U or U=U is a global campaign led by the Prevention Access Campaign to spread awareness about how effective HIV medications are in preventing the sexual transmission of HIV. There is effectively no risk of sexual transmission of HIV when people living with disease are taking HIV medications as prescribed and have achieved and maintained an undetectable amount of the virus in the body.
- “Scientific advances in HIV care and treatment are game changers that can get us to the **vision of a future in which new HIV infections are rare,**” Health Commissioner Dr. Shereef Elnahal said. “In New Jersey, the rate of new HIV cases has declined 39 percent in nearly a decade because of success in getting people tested for HIV and linked to treatment.”
- The number of new HIV diagnoses declined from 1,722 cases in 2006 to 1,048 in 2017.

New Jersey Facts:

- From July 2016 to June 2018, 1,243 people were linked to PrEP (**Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis**) through the New Jersey PrEP Counselor Program. Through the program, a network of PrEP counselors provide medication – a pill a day – to those at significant risk of contracting HIV. There are **24 PrEP Counselors located across the state.**
- Over the past 20 years, medical advances have led to a decline in the transmission of HIV from mothers to babies: the number of new cases of pediatric HIV diagnoses dropped from eight in 2007 to one in 2017 (nearly 88 percent)
- More than 6,200 persons living with HIV received medications through the NJ AIDS Drug Distribution Program last year. The program provides life-sustaining and life-prolonging medications to low-income individuals with no other source of payment for these drugs.
- Over 79,000 free, confidential rapid HIV tests were administered at more than 170 locations in New Jersey in 2017.
- Nearly 80 percent of those living with HIV/AIDS are 40 years old or older.
- Minorities account for 77 percent of adult/adolescent HIV/AIDS cases ever reported to the state, and 79 percent of all persons living with HIV.
- In 2017, 48 percent of new HIV infections occurred among gay/bisexual men and 2 percent were among persons who inject drugs.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory – Jane Shivas

- Ms. Laurie Becker announced that she would be staying on as Community and Behavioral Health Services Director and Mental Health Administrator until October 1, 2019. Ms. Becker introduced Ms. Amy Archer, who will be assuming her role as of October 2, 2019. Ms. Archer is shadowing Ms. Becker and will be attending site reviews.
- Ms. Linda Csengeto of Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance announced she will be retiring as of July 31, 2019. Ms. Csengeto will continue her work with the HSAC and MHASAB.

- Ms. Marcy McMann gave an update on Greystone Psychiatric Hospital lawsuit. The original complaint was amended and mediation is being sought. A phone conference is scheduled for next week to choose a Mediator.

Since the MHASAB Letter of Advocacy for Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital was mailed on April 26, 2019, Ms. McMann, Ms. Becker, and Ms. Yoo have met with Assemblywoman DeCroce, Congresswoman Sherill, Senator Pennacchio, Assemblyman Rooney, Assemblyman Bucco and Assemblyman Carroll. A meeting is scheduled on Monday, July 15, 2019 with Assemblyman Bucco and members of the Greystone Advisory Board. Ms. McMann and Ms. Becker have also attended the last Greystone Advisory Board meeting as well as the event sponsored by the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris for the Concerned Families of Greystone Psychiatric Hospital.

- Ms. Jane Shivas stated there are 179 Morris County Residents housed in facilities statewide; only 73 Morris County residents are housed at Greystone. Ms. Yoo stated this has been happening for the past year because of staffing issues and closing of units at Greystone. The other facilities are not aware of resources and services Morris County provides. State Centralized Admissions determines where a patient goes and their determination is based off census. There is no consideration to home county or family able to visit/be involved with patient, if there is an open bed that is the facility they are sent to.
- On July 24, 2019, NAMI (National Association of Mental Illness) is holding a listing session about State Psychiatric Hospitals at the Morris County Library.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Christine Helleyer

- The Office on Aging, Disabilities and Community Programming conduct 2019 On-Site Monitorings during the months of June and July. They make visits to all the Providers that receive grant money from Morris County to assure they are in compliance fiscally and administratively.
- **New Jersey *mandatory paid sick leave***: that went into effect October 2018, (it will require New Jersey employers of all sizes to provide up to 40 hours of paid sick leave per year to covered employees).
- **New Jersey *minimum wage*** is going up to \$10 per hour in July 2019, and \$11 per hour January 2020. These two changes are going to affect our State home community based programs JACC (Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving), Adult Day Care and Respite.
- Morris County 2019 funding finalized priorities are as follows:
 1. **Transportation**
 2. **Home Delivery Meals**
 3. **Physical Activity, Exercise**
 4. **Caregivers Services**
 5. **Certified Home Health Aides**
 6. **Senior Centers/Congregate Dining**

- 7. Information & Assistance**
- 8. Socialization and Recreation Activities**
- 9. Housekeeping**
- 10. Residential Maintenance**
- 11. Legal Assistance**
- 12. Adult Day Care**
- 13. Mental Health Services**
- 14. Care Management**
- 15. Falls Risk Programs**
- 16. Insurance Questions/Medicare Counseling**
- 17. Oral Health**
- 18. Medication Management**
- 19. Nutrition Education Counseling**
- 20. Telephone Reassurance**

- On July 18, 2019, MAPS Paratransit held its annual Public Hearing.

Youth Services Advisory Council (YSAC) – David Johnston

The Youth Services Advisory Council’s Review Committee completed monitoring of providers receiving Grant-In-Aid for youth services and funding through the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) and will be submitting their recommendations to the full YSAC at Thursday’s meeting.

In September, they will reengage the conversation about forming a Substance Abuse Subcommittee of YSAC.

X. Partnership Report – Continuum of Care (COC) Jeff Bashe

The CoC Allocation Committee has met and put together a proposed slate of grants for this coming year. This has not been voted on. There will be more information available after the next CoC Executive Committee meeting.

XI. Old Business

Mr. David Johnston announced that Deidra’s House is bringing the Game of Life back to Morris County. The Game of Life brings health and physical education programs to high schools. The first program will be on Nov. 1, 2019 at Kinnelon High School. Mr. Johnston received calls from Morristown and Roxbury High Schools about their interest in the program. Morristown would like to run the program next spring.

Mr. Pepe wants the Homeless Trust Fund to become a standing agenda item.

XII. New Business

None

XIII. Public Comment

Ms. Joanne Bjornson stated there is a discussion of a new partnership with Morris County Housing Authority and the four other Housing Authorities to work on a joint application

to apply for 50 housing vouchers. The application is due September 5, 2019. These vouchers are through the Main Stream Housing Program (similar to Section 8). Morris County Housing Authority invited non-profits in and gave them the opportunity to apply for 200-300 vouchers. This new Housing and Urban Development (HUD) money may be used for vouchers for Morris County disabled (adults or children). The local Fair Market Rate may be used for client one year leases, the voucher would cover up to eighty percent of the rent, and providers can pick the start date.

XIV. Adjournment –

Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Tom Pepe seconded the motion. All were in favor with no objections and no abstention. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia MocarSKI
Administrative Secretary