

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
1 Executive Drive, Morris Plains
Sept. 24, 2019 Minutes

I. Call to Order: The meeting opened at 5:20 p.m. by Mr. Tom Pepe, Chair.

Members Present:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
David Johnston, Deidre O'Brien Child Advocacy Ctr.
Joann McEniry, New Jersey AIDS Services
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative
Tom Pepe, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roers, United Way of NNJ
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency

Also Attending:

Jane Armstrong, MSW Workforce Development Board
Kathy DeFillippo, MC Freeholder
Maria Lopez, Zufall Health Center

Staff in Attendance:

Amy Archer, MCOTA
Shawna Bailey, MCOTA
Laurie Becker, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Gary Denamen, Deputy Director MCDHS
Mary Giorlando, NJDHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS
Maria Ojeda, NJ Department of Child Protection & Permanency, DYFS

II. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions made.

III. Approval of August Minutes

Motion to approve the August 27 meeting minutes made by Mr. Joe Pawelczyk and seconded by Mr. Ken Oexle. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

IV. County of Morris Department of Human Services – Report provided to Ms. Carter by Ms. Yoo

There was a Code Blue meeting with community providers, safety officials and police. A lot of useful information was shared and towns connected with providers.

Morris County now has a Complete Count Committee. It is a seven-member board. The Complete Count Committee information was shared with the Freeholders. They are waiting on approval of the candidates. The NJ Complete Count Commission posted a grant. See <https://nj.gov/state/njcounts-grant-opportunities-np.shtml> for grant opportunities. Applications are due November 1. Ms. Roers stated that Wind of the Spirit also has a Complete Count Committee. They will start their work in March and are looking at hard to reach populations.

Ms. Becker stated she is curious how long it takes to get the data from the count. Some discussion ensued and most think it will take about a year to get the data. Implications will guide us to meet the needs of the community. Freeholder DeFillippo said that Freeholder Cabana is the Complete Count Committee point person. He knows more about it. Ms. Roers said it is the first time the surveys can be done on line. She thinks offering surveys online will help some people but others will still find it challenging. They are trying to place kiosks at various public places so more people will have an opportunity to fill out the survey. These additional kiosks will help those that do not have computer access.

There are many job opportunities through the census. The pay is about \$21 an hour. Please spread the word. Ms. Armstrong said that the One Stop in Randolph is doing recruiting. Ms. Carter said people are being encouraged to work in their own communities. Those receiving benefits can take a census job and still receive their benefits. For more information, see <https://www.census.gov/about/regions/new-york/jobs/new-jersey.html>.

V. New Jersey Department of Human Services – No Report

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – Ms. Mary Giorlando (See Attachments)

About 92% of the people that DDD serves converted to fee for service. Information was distributed on the DDD Intake Process and DDD Unit Contacts.

DDD became an adult system of care (21+) a few years ago. Once the child gets close to 21, they need to apply for services. There is a new and shorter application that will be on line as of Oct. 1. This shorter application is for those 18 or older that already receive services from the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Anyone that has not received services from DCF will have to go through the full eligibility process.

Information was distributed on DDD-Graduates Aging Out of the School System – A Timeline for Students Exiting School and Turning 21. The intake worker will do NJCAT (NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool) as part of the intake.

Mr. Johnston asked how fee for service is working for them. Ms. Giorlando stated that when enormous systems start changing there are bumps in the road and a learning curve. She has worked at the Division for over twenty years. Through the years, things have changed and there is always a learning curve. There are reports from families that have

gone into one of the two waivers. There are 10,400 people on the Community Care Waiver and 9,900 people on the Support Program Waiver. The family suddenly has money. Some families historically underserved have reported they are getting more services since they have a worker from DAWN assigned to their family, a budget and a plan in place. Some agencies are struggling to make budgets work. Agencies are generally committed to try to work things out and continue to serve their clients. All and all things seem to be going good and most agencies are doing well. As time is going along, they are figuring things out. Further discussion ensued.

**VI. New Jersey Department of Children & Families (DCF)
Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) – Ms. Maria Ojeda**

Morris East:

15 Child Welfare Assessments (out of the 15 there were 6 for homelessness concerns)
59 Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations (out of the 59 there were 18 investigations involving substance/alcohol abuse use by parents. Out of the 59 there were 20 investigations involving Domestic Violence. Please note some included some of the substance/alcohol abuse along with the DV concerns.)

Morris West:

33 Child Welfare Assessments

72 Child Abuse and Neglect investigations. I do not have the breakdowns for this office as of yet.

In regards to Youth Homelessness for Morris County, see below:

The only resources for homeless youth in Morris are the county shelter and Thanen house transitional living program for females involved with DCF.

Streetsmart provides outreach to homeless youth including service and housing linkage but those housing programs are usually out of county. There is also Roots and Wings, which takes youth 18 and over who are homeless and have been in foster care. They are independently funded and don't have a contract with DCF. That is about it for Morris County. There are other housing programs scattered throughout the state that Morris can access if they have openings. Youth are accepted based on their behaviors.

Ms. Ojeda distributed information on Housing Services, which includes a Youth Self-Refer Shelter List, Housing and Resources for Teen/Young Adult Parents and Other Housing options for youth.

VII. Staff Reports – Ms. Laurie Becker

Ms. Becker has been busy orienting Ms. Amy Archer to her new position. The HSAC is the last advisory to approve their funding recommendations (approval at their Sept. 24 meeting). After their meeting, Ms. Beth Jacobson will finish the spreadsheet. The funding spreadsheet will go to Ms. Sharon Yoo for review and then to the Freeholders for final approval. The target date for sending the approval and declination letters to providers is Nov. 1.

The Advisory Leadership group has been very helpful; Ms. Becker encourages all to keep using them.

There is a lot of good Stigma Free work happening. Morris is hoping to host a program similar to a program held in another county called “Intercept between LBGTQ+, Substance Abuse and Mental Illness”. The bottom line is that there is a need to look at suicide prevention for the people that are struggling. New Jersey AIDS Services volunteers are putting this program together. The Stigma Free Community is sponsoring the program. Stigma Free activities are happening at the schools. Chester is doing a wellness day. They have shared their agenda and posted information on their website. The event will be at the Black River Middle School in Chester for sixth through eighth graders.

All Coordinators are putting together candidates for 2020 advisories. Thank you to all board members for their time and devotion to help with this work. Ms. Becker stated she loved almost every minute of this work with the County. Mr. Pepe thanked Ms. Becker for her years of service and dedication and wished her the best. There will be a party for Ms. Becker at The Barn on Thursday. Fliers are available or contact Ms. Beth Jacobson for further information.

Ms. Carter –

The CoC application is due on Sept. 28. Award letters are being prepared for Social Services for the Homeless (SSH), Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) and Grant in Aid (GIA). Ms. Carter asked members not planning to stay on the board for 2020 to let her know.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

Program Review Committee –

Mr. Pepe asked anyone in conflict according to the conflict of interest statement leave the room. He read the conflict of interest statement.

Ms. Roers asked if she could have a moment to speak before closing the session. She commented to Freeholder DeFillippo that HSAC funding has not increased in the last ten years. She would like to have further conversation with Freeholder DeFillippo about increasing funding and establishing a Homeless Trust Fund. There are many more funding applications this year. Ms. Becker stated that last year we did get a two percent increase. Freeholder DeFillippo pushed hard to get that increase. Mr. Bashe said that Morris is one of the few counties that have a Grant in Aid program and we are grateful. However, the needs in the community are increasing.

Ms. Becker stated there was also new funding from the Freeholders allocated for Navigating Hope. Ms. Becker stated that Navigating Hope came through the HSAC and the board has some great data from Navigating Hope.

Freeholder DeFillippo said she is pleased how receptive the community is to Navigating Hope. Mr. Bashe said he would like to set up a meeting with the Freeholders to discuss the Homeless Trust Fund. Freeholder DeFillippo said that conversation is good to have. Ms. Becker said the Freeholder DeFillippo is a strong Human Services advocate and she is thankful for all her help. Freeholder DeFillippo appreciates the information she gets attending advisory board meetings. Morris County has great volunteers and good collaboration with providers. She applauds the HSAC and the community for all they do to help. She meets with Ms. Yoo on a regular basis to discuss various issues.

Ms. Ojeda said that between 2015 and 2017 eight parents died of overdoses. She believes that thanks to Hope One the community has more knowledge, education and awareness. Last year there were twelve overdoses and all were saved with Narcan. This year there have been no overdoses. Ms. Becker asked that Ms. Ojeda send this information to Sheriff Gannon. Freeholder DeFillippo stated there is still an epidemic but the vans are out there helping and educating people.

Mr. Pawelczyk made a motion to begin the closed session of the meeting. Mr. Bashe seconded the motion with no opposition and no abstentions. The meeting closed at 6:32 p.m.

Mr. Oexle made a motion to return to the open session at 6:40 p.m. There was no opposition and no abstention. Meeting opened.

Motion made by Mr. Oexle and seconded by Mr. Pawelczyk to approve 2020 SSH, GIA and CAP funding recommendations and the Hope House subgrant modification and the Navigating Hope Care Manager as approved in closed session. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions. Motion carried.

IX. Planning – Child Care (Voucher System Update) – Rebecca Sherrod September 2019 - Child Care Report

- There is no waiting list for childcare subsidies. Currently serving all eligible applicants.
- There are currently not 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

X. Youth Homelessness –

Mr. Johnston stated that it would take a lot of effort to get this going. Perhaps the Advisory Leadership group can talk about this. It was suggested Mr. Steve Nebesni be contacted and involved.

Ms. Ojeda said there are many undocumented youth that have no place to live. Ms. Shivas asked if the homeless youth are without families. Mr. Bashe stated they are independent youth. He believes the Youth Services Advisory Council (YSAC) and the CoC should lead this charge. Ms. McEniry asked if Ms. Ojeda could bring back data on this. Ms. Ojeda will bring some data back on homeless youth. Ms. McEniry said that New Jersey AIDS Services would like to help with this.

**XI. Advisory Committee Reports –
Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong**
(Fliers Distributed)

- Oct. 8, 2019 Disability & Inclusion Forum from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at 100 Southgate Parkway in Morristown.
Learn about closing the disability employment gap. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/disability-inclusion-forum-for-human-resources-professionals-tickets-72086934963>
- Oct. 23, 2019 Recovery Friendly Career Day from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Morris County Prevention is Key's Peer Recovery Center at 25 W. Main Street, Rockaway.
Anyone at any stage of recovery is welcome to apply for a job and receive information on career training. The event is free but one must register by contacting Don Hebert at dhebert@mcpik.org

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Ms. Joanne McEniry

The committee met at 1 Medical Drive on June 18. After the meeting, there was a Lunch and Learn. Jersey Battered Women's Service gave a presentation.

The HIV rate has increased in Morris County from 8.9% to 9.1%. Funding received from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), part of the Department of Health and Human Services, is tied to HIV rates. Since the rates have increased, Morris is not at-risk of losing HIV funding. There is a lot of concern in the HIV circle regarding the public charge. Drugs are distributed through Medicaid. Individuals getting benefits must be reported. Some of those getting benefits are concerned they may be deported. It is important that the people stay on their medications so they cannot spread the virus.

There are new HIV services opening. New Jersey AIDS Services partnered with CAN Community Health and together will provide psychiatric and medical services. On Nov. 14, they will open temporary space in Denville and then later move to a new building. Ms. McEniry will keep the board updated on progress. This new center will accept Medicaid, Medicare and private insurances. Also, they have Ryan White funds to assist those without insurance who are HIV+. Their next meeting is on Nov. 19, 2019.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board – Ms. Jane Shivas

- Ms. Becker reported that the New Jersey County Mental Health Administer Association (NJCMHA) is meeting on Monday, September 16, 2019. On the agenda is a request to draft a letter on behalf of NJCMHA to advocate to the state and other leadership groups for Mental Illness and Addiction related to violence. A draft letter composed regarding the inaccurate scapegoating of those with mental health conditions as cattalos of mass shootings in the United States. The letter goes into facts and calls to action. Ms. Amy Archer will provide follow up and maybe the MHASAB can do something similar and tie it to the County's Stigma Free work. There is a statewide initiative to put out a statement that Mental Illness does not cause people to be violent and there are statistics to prove that. There are recommendations to Commissioner Carol Johnson at DHS and others to start to advocate on this topic.
- Ms. Heather Rose reported that the Morris County Municipal Alliance is a sponsor for the October 4, 2019 free event 'Journey Through Recovery: Things I must Express'. Featured performers will share the journey through addiction and recovery using music, art, and personal stories. There will be educational and resource tables prior to the performance. This event is during 'Knock Out Opioid' weekend and is part of our youth prevention awareness initiatives. Life Center Stage is organizing ticket reservations, www.lifecenterstage.org
- On Friday, October 18, the Morris County Mental Health Coalition, an active group of service providers, advocates, and concerned family members, will host their second Annual Legislative Breakfast at the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Ms. Jacobson announced that after 26 years of service, she is taking early retirement from Morris County as of October 31, 2019. Ms. Jacobson has accepted a position with NewBridge Services.
- The MHASAB approved 2020 Funding applications for Chapter 51 and Grant-in-Aid.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans

- The Department on Aging, Disabilities and Community Programming is currently processing 2020 funding requests; announcements will be made by October 23, 2019 for Area Plan. Grant-in-Aid will be announced early in the fall.
- Aging Department is also reapplying for 2020 Area Plan Contract grant from the State of New Jersey from which we fund \$960,000 to the Providers funding requests.
- September 17, 2019 we will hold the Veteran Commander Summit meeting, 540 West Hanover Avenue, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- October 15, 2019 the Veteran's Munch & Learn will be held at the Office of Temporary Assistance at 6 p.m.

Youth Services Advisory Board –

Mr. Johnston reported that at the meeting last week they discussed youth accessing substance abuse treatment. They formed a subcommittee to work on this.

XII. Partnership Announcements Continuum of Care (CoC) –

Ms. Carter reported that they will submit their application in a few days (due Sept. 30). Monarch is assisting with reviewing the applications in ESNAPs.

XIII. Old Business

Mr. Bashe stated that we discussed leaving the Homeless Trust Fund on the agenda as a recurring item. Mr. Bashe said Mr. Hall, Ms. Yoo and he would meet in the next few weeks and try to develop a strategy.

Mr. Bashe said there is nothing new on the Needs Assessment. He would also like to receive Navigating Hope reports on a regular basis.

XIV. New Business

Fliers distributed on Affordable rentals in Roxbury Township. Applications must be submitted by Oct. 16 to be included in the random lottery number drawing for renting affordable housing at Woodmont Parc at Roxbury. To submit a preliminary application, visit www.AffordableHomesNewJersey.com or call 609-664-2769 x5.

Flier distributed on NORWESCAP Homelessness Prevention Program (Somerset, Morris Co.). One time assistance for help with security deposit and first month's rent. For more information call Sara Sokoloski at 908-454-7000 x 1118 or email sokoloskis@norwescap.org

XV. Public Comment – None

XVI. Adjournment –

Mr. Ken Oexle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Joe Pawelczyk seconded the motion. All were in favor with no objection and no abstention. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Mocarski
Administrative Secretary