

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
1 Executive Drive, Morris Plains
January 28, 2020 Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting opened at 5:16 p.m. by Ms. Shelia Carter.

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, HIV/AIDS Advisory Liaison
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative, CoC Liaison
Terry Connolly, Nourish. NJ
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Joann McEniry, New Jersey AIDS Services
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
David Saltzman, Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency
Rebecca Zydel, Child & Family Resources, Inc.

Also Attending:

Maria Lopez, Zufall Health Centers

MC Staff in Attendance:

Amy Archer, MCDHS
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Amanda Jensen, MCDHS, OTA
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS
Sharon Yoo, Director, MCDHS

State Staff in Attendance:

Mary Giorlando, NJ Department of Human Services, DDD
Lenora Humphrey, NJ Department of Child Protection & Permanency, DCP&P
Maria Ojeda, NJ Department of Child Protection & Permanency, DYFS
Nelson Troche, New Jersey Dept. of Human Services

II. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions made.

III. Nominating Committee – Mr. Ken Oexle

The committee met earlier this month. The slate presented is Ms. Rebekka Zydel, Chair and Mr. Bob Armstrong, Vice-Chair. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Nov. 26 Minutes

Motion to approve the Nov. 26 meeting minutes made by Mr. Jeff Bashe and seconded by Mr. Ken Oexle. All were in favor with no opposition and three abstentions. Motion carried.

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

Individuals can sign up for Morris County Emergency Alerts for up-to-date County information, including news from Morris County Department of Human Services, follow the county on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Alert Morris will allow you to get emergency notifications in any manner you choose including phone, email, text or social media, so you can stay informed during major storms or emergencies.

A link will soon go out with information on the 2020 Census. The county can provide:

- Laptops for loan for not-for-profits and municipalities for census events since organizations in the community will be able to reach a wide range of people;
- Water, snacks and refreshments;
- Payment for census produced publications; and
- Translation services for census promotional materials.

The County hopes to get a laptop in the Navigating Hope vehicle so people visiting the van will have access to complete the census. Since Census information is confidential, individuals will need to enter their own information, which may be challenging. Ms. Maria Lopez said that another option for people having difficulty completing the census is completing it on the phone. Ms. Zydel stated that her organization had Ambassador training and found it helpful. It was stated that if people do not complete the census by a certain time census workers will go out door to door. Ms. Yoo said our message is that the census is safe and secure.

Human Services is exploring a concept with the Sheriff’s office to have a provider hub in the courthouse. Since it is hard for many people to get out they want to have providers and various services available in one place once a month. This will be a great resource to the community and will increase their access to services.

With the support of Freeholder DeFillippo, the Morris County Board of Freeholders approved funding for the non-profit run Safe Haven program for homeless persons with severe and persistent mental illness to the end of the year (July to Dec.). This funding will ensure that they can maintain their operations. This is important, as Safe Haven is a vital program.

DMHAS introduced funding for an Opioid Innovations grant. They awarded about \$150,000 to Morris County and this will be used to implement a program in the pretrial division. One of the main ideas is to staff the pretrial division to help people that are charged and waiting for trial get access to services. The goal is to help connect people to services and get them in a better place. An RFP will be issued for community providers soon.

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) funding was approved. JDAI is an alternative to juvenile detention and allows the monitoring of juvenile via a phone application. This will enable the youth to continue to participate in sports and other activities without being stigmatized. The county hopes the program will kick off in March.

VI. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Nelson Troche

The NJ Department of Human Services is giving \$7.8 million to county jails to provide opioid treatment. They are also providing free Naloxone (Narcan), a medication used to block the effects of opioids, to police and libraries.

The First Lady is organizing Family Festivals. There are over 100 providers coming out to these festivals in various communities all over the state. She and the Governor are going to these events.

There is a big increase in death by suicide throughout New Jersey. The Division of Mental Health And Addiction Services had Rowan University train 100 of their staff in suicide prevention.

NJ211 has had some hiccups since the January launch as statewide homeless hotline provider. To iron out kinks NJ211 has nearly doubled their staff and are addressing start-up issues.

Commented [CS1]: I'm assuming "They" means 2-1-1 nearly doubled their staff and are addressing issues.

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

In October of 2019, Dave Johnston requested information regarding the Avenel Facility in Woodbridge. I received incorrect information, which I shared with the group during our November meeting. Since that time, I had the opportunity to request information from Sheri Fine, the Supervisor from the Division's Office of Housing and Resource Development. Sheri informed me that Avenel is a DDD Supervised Apartment Program. PennReach is the service provider and it is a tax credit program. In the complex, PennReach will have eight one-bedroom apartments and three 2-bedroom apartments.

VII. New Jersey Department of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P) – Ms. Maria Ojeda

STATS FOR MORRIS EAST AND MORRIS WEST DEC. 2019

MORRIS EAST:

20 CWS/CHILD WELFARE ASSESSMENTS

65 CPS/CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS = 85

SUBCATEGORY

22 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

20 SUBSTANCE/ALCOHOL ABUSE

53 NEGLECT

25 PHYSICAL ABUSE

2 SEXUAL ABUSE

1 HOMELESS

MORRIS WEST:

29 CWS/CHILD WELFARE ASSESSMENTS

88 CPS/CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS = 117

Commented [CS2]: Already reported.

SUBCATEGORY
28 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
28 SUBSTANCE/ALCOHOL ABUSE
65 NEGLECT
2 PHYSICAL ABUSE
5 SEXUAL ABUSE
2 HOMELESS

VIII. Staff Reports – Ms. Amy Archer

The board requested quarterly updates on Navigating Hope.

All applications total 111.

- 93 applications are pending
- 79 housing assistance
- 13 housing status
- 69 homeless contacts
- 87 various items
- 151 referrals
- 630 contacts

Commented [MP3]:

As of the end of February, Navigating Hope will have visited 32 municipalities. They have seven more to go.

Education Partnership’s April training will be on teen suicide. The training will be on April 29 at the Public Safety Training Academy. All are welcome and additional information will be provided when it becomes available.

Handouts were distributed on the Public Charge. Ms. Yoo will look getting training on the public charge. If anyone is interested in this training, please contact Ms. Archer.

Ms. Shelia Carter

Reviewed contents of Orientation Packets.

Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) applications will be reviewed, ranked and funding recommendations developed to be presented at the Feb. 25 board meeting. The Program Review Committee will meet prior to the full board meeting. ESG applications will be mailed out for the committee’s review prior to the meeting.

Commented [CS4]: Joann Bjornson didn’t attend this meeting.

IX. Subcommittee Reports - Planning – Child Care (Voucher System Update) – Submitted by Rebekka Zydel

- There is **no waiting list for childcare subsidies**. We are serving all eligible applicants.
 - In the 4th quarter of the calendar year (Oct., Nov., Dec.) we received 165 applications
- Dedicated Voucher Inventory
 - Starting Total: 350

Commented [CS5]: Don’t remember code blue being discussed. Was this MHASAB?

- January: 348
- 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

- Child Care Subsidy Rate increase effective January 5, 2020 is moving closer to market rates:
 - New Monthly Base Rates:
 - Infants: \$994.42
 - Toddlers: \$829.99
 - Preschool: \$690.11
 - School Age: \$634.27
- Providers with active child care subsidy agreements:
 - Licensed: 136
 - Registered Family Child Care: 15
- Grow NJ Kids
 - 25 Rated Programs
 - 4 Star (8)
 - 3 Star (17)
- Grooming to Grow
 - 2 Programs (Program Administration Scale (PAS)- GIA Funded)

X. Youth Homelessness – No Report

XI. Advisory Committee Reports – Workforce Development Board (WDB) – No Report

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Robert Armstrong

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee (MSW HIV Advisory) in conjunction with the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) met at 1 Medical Dr., Morris Plains on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 11 AM. MSW HIV Advisory will meet every two months. A Lunch and Learn will follow every meeting with a presentation on an announced topic by a guest speaker, and lunch will be served.

MSW HIV Advisory and Zufall Health Center will jointly support a Community Action Board (CAB) comprised of consumers living with HIV.

A Needs Assessment (NA) Subcommittee will plan a NA for 2020, which is a follow-up to the committee's 2018 NA. This year's focus is on the aging HIV population and will include key informants and focus groups. MSW HIV Advisory is alerted to potential interfacing with HSAC-MC's 2020 NA.

A Provider Subcommittee will meet every two months. Representatives of the four HIV service providers in Morris County (who also serve Sussex and Warren Counties)—Zufall, Family Health Center (FHC), Hope House and EDGE New Jersey (formerly New Jersey AIDS Services)—will work on an integrated HIV prevention and care program for the tri-county region.

A work group will create a web presence.

There was a member welcome and orientation.

A Lunch and Learn followed the meeting. The topic: HIV Legislative Policy. The speaker was David Saltzman, Esq., Managing Director of Legal Services of Northwest Jersey (LSNWJ).

The next MSW HIV Advisory meeting will be on March 17 at 11:00 a.m. at Hope House, 101-103 Bassett Highway in Dover followed by a Lunch and Learn. The topic: Evolution of HIV Treatment.

Beginning this month New Jersey AIDS Services (NJAS) has changed its name to EDGE New Jersey (End Discrimination Gain Equality). EDGE NJ has opened EDGE Wellness Center, 3155 Rt. 10 W, Denville, in conjunction with CAN Community Health. They serve youth and adults of the HIV and LGBTQ population. They have extensive counseling services and many resources (even for those with no insurance).

Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board – Ms. Jane Shivas

- Greystone Hospital issues continue. A letter from the Wolf Law Firm was distributed. This letter outlines the most recent events of tragedy that has occurred at Greystone. In the last thirty days, one patient was sexually assaulted, allegedly raped and another killed. Discussion ensued about future advocacy.
- There were two teen suicides over the New Years holiday in Mendham. Ms. Amy Archer reported that the Traumatic Loss Coalition (TLC) were in the schools to help students. The Mayor of Mendham contacted Ms. Archer for additional services for

the adult community effected by this tragic loss. Ms. Archer contacted NewBridge Services and Ms. Lynne Chandler (St. Clare's Hospital); both agencies have been in contact with the Mayor.

- Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, New Jersey residents experiencing homelessness can call 2-1-1 for help. Under this new framework, NJ 2-1-1 will serve as New Jersey's Homeless Hotline to connect residents in need of shelter. NJ 2-1-1 will work in partnership with county agencies to ensure residents have a safe place to stay and be connected to services. NJ 2-1-1 operators will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and accessible in different languages for non-English speaking callers. Information provided by the callers will be kept confidential, except for information that must be shared with providers involved in providing shelter or shelter-related services.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – No Report

Youth Services Advisory Committee – No Report

XII. Partnership Announcements – Continuum of Care – Ms. Connolly

There are 9 out of 12 new members on the Executive Committee this year. The 2020 goal is for the committee to get their arms around Coordinated Entry and look at racial disparity in homelessness.

The CoC Executive Committee, Allocation's Subcommittee is hosting a provider's summit on Feb. 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., which will give providers an opportunity to learn about the CoC and collaborative ways which funding can be used. There will be a meet and greet and Monarch will give a presentation.

XIII. Old Business – None

XIV. New Business –

Ms. Zydel will send out a survey monkey to find out what topics/resources the board would like to learn more about.

Ms. Zydel said that Child & Family Resources is holding an Educator of the Year Award Gala on Feb. 6, 2020 at the Mansion at Mountain Lakes. Anthony Iacono, CCM; Regina Braham, JBWS; and Samantha Kindberg, The Greater Morristown YMCA Richard Blake Children's Center will be honored as Educators of the Year. They will each receive \$2,000. Freeholder Deputy Director Stephen Shaw will be attending to present the award to Dr. Iacono.

Commented [CS6]: Opinion. Not a formal action item.

XV. Public Comment – None

XVI. Adjournment –

Mr. Jeff Bashe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. All were in favor with no objection and no abstentions. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Patricia Mocarski
Administrative Secretary**