

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
1 Executive Drive, Morris Plains - March 24, 2020 Minutes
Meeting Held via Conference Call

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting opened at 5:18 p.m. by Ms. Rebekka Zydel. Ms. Carter asked that Ms. Mocarski do a roll call. Roll call as listed below:

Members Present:

Robert Armstrong, HIV/AIDS Advisory Liaison – Vice Chair
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative
Terry Connolly, Nourish. NJ, CoC Liaison
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Maria Fodali, OTA
Joann McEniry, NJAS
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, No. Jersey Health Collaborative
Joe Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey - Morristown
David Saltzman, Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
Jane Shivas, Project Self Sufficiency
Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources, Inc. - Chair

Also Attending:

Kathy DeFillippo, Freeholder Liaison

MC Staff in Attendance:

Amy Archer, MCDHS
Jane Armstrong, MC Workforce Development Board
Shelia Carter, MCDHS
Anna Marie Hess, MCDHS
Pat Mocarski, MCDHS

State Staff in Attendance:

Mary Giorlando, NJ Department of Human Services, DDD
Lenora Humphrey, NJ Department of Child Protection & Permanency, DYFS

II. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed.

III. Approval of Feb. 25, 2020 Minutes

Two corrections noted to the Feb. 25 minutes. Ms. Connolly is the CoC Liaison and not Mr. Bashe. In addition, Ms. O'Reilly Stanzilis asked she be listed with the North Jersey Health Collaborative. Motion to approve the Feb. 25 meeting minutes made by Mr. Ken Oexle and seconded by Ms. Linda Csengeto with the noted changes. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

IV. County of Morris Department of Human Services — Ms. Archer Reporting for Ms. Yoo

COVID-19 Updates:

- Dover OTA office is closed to the public. The office is operating via phone and online
- Main OTA Office in Morris Twp. is closed to the public. The staff is in place and clients can apply over the phone or online. Documentation may be mailed in or dropped off.
- Nutrition is operational and delivering frozen meals to all recipients twice a week – Monday and Thursday. New referrals are taking between 7 – 10 days to add.
- Morris Area Paratransit System (MAPS) is providing life-sustaining rides to individuals that have no other way to get to their appointment.
- Navigating Hope trips are suspended but they are assisting in other ways around the County.
- County vouchers are still being processed.

Ms. Fodali reported that Homeless Solutions Warming Center is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Guests are not being asked to leave in the morning.

Mr. Bashe asked if the county staff is working from the office or home. Ms. Archer stated that some people are working in the office as needed but most are working remotely.

**V. New Jersey Department of Human Services – No Report
Division of Developmental Disabilities – Ms. Mary Giorlando**

The staff is not in the office but they are open for business. Their on call system is working. They have access to the state with staff answering questions. Their website has COVID-19 information. DDD communications are providing regular updates. They have a hiring portal to help those that have lost their jobs or had their hours cut.

On March 13, the Assistant Commissioner announced that their staff dispensed with face-to-face meetings. Their day programs are closed and community outings discontinued.

Frequently asked questions are on their website. Today waiver modifications were presented concerning face-to-face business and remote business. The waivers were approved in New Jersey and some other states.

Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis stated that since DDD closed their day programs for consumers living at home or in supportive housing, she wonders if they are getting additional supports to help them. Ms. Giorlando is not aware of additional supports other than that they will pay agencies two weeks to cover the cost of the day programs. They are utilizing some staff in residential programs and trying to keep staff and provide a bump up to pay agencies to provide more care. Those in group homes also need more help and additional funding is being provided.

Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis was the Executive Director of Easter Seals. They began engaging and connecting with Director level personnel, public health officials and county offices to try to get the disabled registered. NJ Register Ready/211 is the NJ Special Needs Registry. The Registry is a voluntary and free program that will assist first responders and emergency planners to identify residents that may need assistance. Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis spoke with NJ 211 and heard that many folks are not registered. She would like to take the lead or assist with this. Ms. Giorlando asked her to send an email with this information. She will pass it on and appreciates all help. Staff is doing a great job during this tough time.

Ms. Zydel said this is very interesting. She just got an encouraging message. NJ 211 sent a text alert to sign up for COVID-19. She signed up and it triggered a link to Register Ready. Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis said that Register Ready is a database for those with special needs or disabilities for use in case of an emergency or disaster. Once folks are registered, they can be identified, sought out and served. This register is also for those with diabetes, dialysis, seniors that need support and those with trouble walking, etc.

Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis that in addition to Register Ready Reverse 911 is important. All should be in contact with their local health department.

VI. New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Child Protection & Permanency – Ms. Lenora Humphrey

They are working remotely.

- Morris East received 17 child welfare (CWS) reports and 72 child protection(CPS) reports;
- Morris West received 21 CWS and 75 CPS for the month of March.

VII. Staff Reports – Amy Archer, Shelia Carter Combined Report

We are encouraging everyone to look at the County of Morris, Human Services and the Office of Emergency Management's websites for ongoing current information about COVID-19.

Pat Mocarski is retiring on May 1. This will be her last HSAC meeting. Due to the current situation, there is no retirement celebration in place at this time. Once plans are made all will be notified. Please feel free to email Pat with well wishes.

Ms. Shivas asked about funding. In terms of expenses with the COVID situation, how will it impact the county grants. Ms. Archer said the Division sent out an email to providers asking if they need to make modifications to GIA subgrants. We want to try to be flexible due to the current situation.

Mr. Bashe asked if with the change in the Code Blue Services at Homeless Solutions and their staying open 24 hours a day he wonders if they being compensated for that service. Ms. Carter said yes they are working on compensation for the additional services.

The warming Center extending their hours has been helpful. The extended hours will continue through May 31.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

Planning – Child Care (Voucher System Update)- Rebekka Zydel

- There is **no waiting list for childcare subsidies**. We are serving all eligible applicants.
 - In January we received 58 childcare assistance applications
- Dedicated Voucher Inventory
 - Starting Total: 350
 - March: 330
- 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 Bears Child Care Center–41 E Blackwell St, Dover, NJ 07801973-366-2707

Little Bears Child Care Center- 22 Evans Pl, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444 973-616-0306

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 –21 Bowling Green Pkwy, Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849 973-663-6210

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

- Providers with active childcare subsidy agreements:
 - Licensed: 136
 - Registered Family Child Care: 15
- CCDBG (Child Care Development Block Grant) Implementation
 - No update
- Grow NJ Kids
 - 25 Rated Programs
 - 4 Star (8)
 - 3 Star (17)
- Grooming to Grow
 - 2 Programs (Program Administration Scale (PAS)- GIA Funded)

- Serves as a recruitment program for GrowNJ Kids
- COVID-19
 - Collecting data on providers
 - DFD distributed a survey to assess capacity
 - Operating status
 - Open/Closed Short-term/Closed Long-term
 - Food Security
 - Extending programs
 - Needs
 - NJ DHS Division of Family Development (DFD) released a Policy Snapshot related to Emergency and Disaster Child Care Policy
 - Additional Closure Days
 - Co-Payment Adjustments for Families
 - Increased Rates for Open Providers
 - Additional Absent Days
 - Extended Documentation Submission Timeline
 - Continued Child Care
 - Sanitizing and Cleaning Grants (For Licensed Centers and Family Child Care Providers)
 - NJ Department of Children and Families released temporary measures regarding licensing requirements for child care centers
 - Suspending enforcement of required minimum indoor play space
 - Enforcement of staff education and experience qualifications suspended
 - Director on-site time requirement will not be enforced
 - Group size limitations will not be enforced
 - Existing CARI and CHRI checks will be sufficient at another center if the employee has had no break in employment
 - Monthly fire and lock down drills will not be enforced
 - Limitation on hours of care will not be enforced
 - The requirement for a “hands on” component to complement online CPR training & Understanding Licensing training within 90 days of hire are suspended

Ms. Zydel said that as of today, about 95% of licensed childcare centers are closed and 65% of childcare providers are closed. Certain municipalities required the centers closed. They are working with the providers and the health care industry.

IX. Youth Homelessness – No Report

X. Advisory Committee Reports

Workforce Investment Board- Jane Armstrong

Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Development Board

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), WDB staff will be working from home starting Wednesday, March 18. We (Jane, Sallie and Manuela) will have access to our

work email addresses and the files on our work computers, and will be sending and receiving emails during our normal working hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

One-Stop Operator - Employment and Training Services

In an effort to minimize the COVID-19 spread and in accordance with the March 17, 2020 County of Morris' COVID-19 Administrative Directive, Employment and Training Services (ETS) staff supporting career training and Work First New Jersey operations have been directed to work remotely beginning March 19, 2020. During this period of operational uncertainty, continuity plans have been put in place to ensure that valued customers continue to receive needed services. Electronic messaging via emails and voice protocols will be enacted; eligibility determinations will be conducted by telephone and email; training provider operations/schedules will continue to be monitored for both youth and adult services; and fiscal operations will be closely managed to ensure vendor payments are processed as quickly as possible. Supervisors will staff the office two days per week to address any in-office required activity (e.g., client files/personal information).

All customers interested in training services should direct their calls to the following numbers beginning Thursday, March 19:

- Morris County: **(973) 285-6880**
- Sussex County: **(973) 383-1048**
- Warren County: **(908) 329-9153 or (908) 329-9154**

For Training Providers: The New Jersey Department of Labor (NJDOL) is relaxing the 60-day notice requirement to change approved training programs from in-person to online instruction until further notice and requests notification; see details at: <https://www.nj.gov/labor/lwdhome/coei/teu.html>

One-Stop Career Centers / Unemployment Insurance (UI)

Effective March 18, 2020, all One-Stop offices are closed until further notice. All re-employment groups, job clubs and individual appointments are cancelled. Individuals who need to submit Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims should visit www.myemployment.nj.gov or call any of the following UI Call Centers:

- North Jersey: **201-601-4100**
- Central Jersey: **732-761-2020**
- Southern Jersey: **856-507-2340**

Many resources, information and a job portal can be accessed at <https://COVID19.nj.gov>

Morris Sussex Warren HIV Advisory – Robert Armstrong

The Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee (MSW/HIV Advisory) in conjunction with the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC), also known as the HIV Collaborative, met via a web-based conference call on Tuesday, March 17,

2020 at 11:00 a.m. The in-person Lunch and Learn was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.

Ms. Tania Guaman from the Newark EMA HIV Health Services Planning Council gave a presentation on what the Planning Council is and does in order to inform and encourage client involvement.

The HIV Provider Advisory Board met in February to focus on forming new collaborations with providers in Sussex and Warren Counties in light of the New Jersey Ending the HIV Epidemic (ETE) plan initiated by the governor.

Due to COVID-19 concerns:

Hope House in Dover has canceled all support groups and one-to-one interactions. All case managers are working from home, calling and checking in on clients. Hope House is also providing transportation for clients to medical appointments, unless medical facilities are cancelling.

Family Health Center: their building is closed to the public. Staff will offer support to patients via telephone.

EDGE NJ (formerly New Jersey AIDS Services/NJAS): the office in Morris Plains is closed. All case managers are available to handle case management needs remotely and schedule rides with Logisticare and ride-sharing on a case-by-case basis. The CAN Community Health and EDGE Wellness Center in Denville is closed for in-person appointments. Medical services to HIV clients are being offered through the Telehealth patient portal program.

Ms. Joann McEniry commented that EDGE NJ is contacting their clients twice a week. There is a high demand for food and assistance. They are delivering food baskets and medicines daily. They are hosting behavioral health conferencing using special software sessions. They are running support groups virtually and processing rent checks remotely.

Zufall Health Center: Zufall is open and operating normally; however staff is taking temperatures and screening all patients. The Zufall dental clinic is closing for all non-urgent dental visits. Ancillary staff members are working from home. Staff are sending people who present with symptoms to the emergency department.

Screening for HIV testing is being offered through a hotline: 862-260-3199.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 19 at Zufall Wellness Center, Morristown.

Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board – Jane Shivas

- The meeting was held via phone conference due to COVID-19.
- New Jersey Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has cancelled all meetings and trainings. The department will be holding meetings via phone conference and webinars for training. DMHAS is still open and operational.
- The Stigma Free meeting will be held on March 17, 2020 via conference call.

- The Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) Public Forum will be held on June 16 at the Public Safety Academy in the gym. This move comes due to the lack of space at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. The Academy will provide more space for our clients and providers to be able to mingle, and interaction easier.
- Recommendations for the use of Municipal Alliance Funding was approved for FY2021.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – No Report

Youth Services Advisory Board – No Report

**XI. Partnership Announcements
Continuum of Care (CoC) – No Report**

**XII. Old Business –
Homeless Trust Fund – No Report**

Ms. Zydel said that things in the state are going day to day. At the last meeting, Ms. Bjornson asked about Operation Helping Hands. They are working on it.

XIII. New Business

Ms. Shivas asked if the Needs Assessment is on hold. Ms. Archer said we contacted the state to see if we can get an extension. If there is no extension, we will figure out a way to do this through zoom or some other streaming platform. Mr. Pawelczyk asked what will happen with the summer monitoring and how we will conduct them this year. Ms. Archer said we are looking into it this and we will let everyone know about the monitoring and our game plan for the Needs Assessment once we have more information. Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis said she signed up for the subcommittee for the Needs Assessment and is happy to help when we begin the process.

Ms. Roers said the United Way opened an ALICE recovery fund. The Jets donated \$1 million to three different United Ways. This COVID-19 is hitting folks hard. She will share further information as it comes.

Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis asked how the food pantry is doing and what are the most urgent needs? Ms. McEniry said they are making packages available that people can pick up but no people are permitted in the building. They are also allowing others to pick up for clients. Mr. Bashe said he knows they are reaching out to donors for support since they are spending more than usual.

Ms. Zydel said due to the Governor's order more people are staying home. She is curious if those in need may not be accessing resources. She thinks 211 would be a good mechanism. Mr. Connolly said that Nourish, NJ is giving take out packages and their deliveries are skyrocketing for homebound seniors. They are doing a lot more than usual and giving food to hundreds of people daily. Many are reaching out for help. Ms. McEniry said most clients don't drive and they are also making food deliveries which

they did not do before. Ms. Connolly said there is a need to develop a mobile strategy and how we can get the food out there.

Ms. Roers asked if Navigating Hope is working. Ms. Archer said they are working with OTA and the Nutrition Team to deliver meals. Mr. Bashe asked if the Navigating Hope vehicle is going out. Ms. Archer said the van is not going out but the driver is helping with some deliveries. Ms. McEniry said maybe the county could organize a conference call for all providers to talk about what we are doing. Ms. Archer said she would look into a conference call.

Mr. Bashe asked about the next steps for Grant-in-Aid. Ms. Archer said the next grant cycle is coming up. The County was hoping to push the dates up a little this year but not sure with all going on now. There will be more information soon.

Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis asked if there is an indication that the county will use the DRCC. Ms. Archer said the county is not currently deploying the DRCC. Some counties in NJ are deploying the DRCC's through phone us and other counties have chosen not to deploy at this time.

XIV. Public Comment - None

XV. Adjournment –

Mr. Rebekka Zydel adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Patricia MocarSKI
Administrative Secretary**