

**MORRIS COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING, DISABILITIES &
VETERANS
340 West Hanover Avenue, Ground Floor, Morris
Township
Minutes, ACADV**

April 11, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matthew Adamczyk
Barbara Anderson
James Cavanaugh
Emerson Crooks
Robert Hughes
Scott Kansky
Joe Leal
Tom Mazzaccaro
Erica Moreno
Jeannette Perlman
Anthony Romano

STAFF PRESENT

Tammi Brown
Fay Campbell
Christine Hellyer
Pat Petrillo
Maria Rosario
Jennifer Van Natta

Guests

Wendy Long –St. Clare's

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm, by Matt Adamczyk, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and passed to accept and approve the minutes of February 14, 2019.

Motion: Barbara Anderson/Bob Hughes

Chairperson's Report- Matt Adamczyk

At the last meeting we discussed member responsibilities. There was a Signatory Page and a Biographical Profile in the orientation folder. Members, who have not already done so, should complete the forms, and return them to Maria today.

Also, at the last meeting, a phone list was passed around. If you did not attend the last meeting or did not get a chance to complete it and want to make your information available to the council members, please fill out the form.

Staff Reports-

Director of Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming- Christine Hellyer

- We hosted the March 21, 2019 Veterans Commanders Summit Conference. The topics were the Veterans ID card program from the County Clerks Office, and our Communications Director discussing the updates on our web page. These are held the 3rd Tuesday of every other month. All veterans and public are welcome to attend.

Joe Leal, President of the Blind Veterans Association, added that he attended that meeting and handed out his business cards, and because of that he received an e-mail. A blind person needing help because of that meeting. next meeting is May 6, 2019, we will have a new Director of Human Services, to be announced at our next meeting.

- We will be holding Munch and Learns starting in June (the opposite month from Commanders)
- Older American's Month is in May. This year we decided to have a web-based campaign, on our County web site, as well as our social media events, and highlight volunteer opportunities in our community, working with our County Communications Director.

This years' theme is:

Connect with friends, family and services that support participation.

Create engage in activities, that promote learning and health and personal enrichment.

Contribute time, talent and life experiences to benefit others.

- Also in May **NORWESCAP** is hosting the Annual Art Show for Seniors and disabled, at the County library.

Someone requested the web-site address: www.hsmorriscounty.gov/adv/

- The Older Americans Act is up for reauthorization this year. The Aging Community is encouraged to advocate for the reauthorization and to increase funding.

We have templates for advocacy available for you to send to your legislators/congressmen to show your support of this act.

Our Department's primary funding that we give to our Providers comes from this Act.

Bob Hughes asked how often does this OAA request come up?

Christine replied every three years.

- **The State level JACC Morris County** funding, will have a decrease in funding for 2019-2020 fiscal year. Last year it was decreased, but the State found additional funding, to keep it flat.

We do not know what Morris County's decrease will be, but the good news is no one will be removed from the program. If you are on the program you will stay on for current enrollees. We may not be able to enroll new members.

- **Social Security Administration** is scanning PSA's (public service announcements) television and web based advertisement to allow individuals to be more aware of Social Security scamming, in the spring and summer.
- A NJ Law was signed, **FMLI/TDI** (Family Medical Leave Insurance Act and Temporary Disability Insurance) can be used for Caretakers to receive twelve weeks consecutive of paid leave during a twelve month period beginning in July 2020. (It currently is six weeks.) ***Please check the new requirements.*** On the Federal level, FMLA is a form of job security for individuals, and New Jersey is one of three other States that have additional insurance that give patients payment for leave.

Bob Hughes said he wasn't aware that the employee's paid into it too.

- Our **Veterans Clinic (VSO)** parking lot is undergoing construction, to improve it, started on April 8, for three weeks. Some days its partial closure and others is a full. We did send Commanders letters to update them on this, and it's also on our web-site. We do have assistance available at the front of Morris View for veterans that help to and from the veteran clinic.

Emerson Crooks inquired about his concern for the project he has for Veterans Center temporary behavioral counseling that is held on Fridays with Dave Cathart, at Morris View that he had with Jen Carpinteri and now she isn't with County anymore. This is one of five in New Jersey. She promised us a more comfortable area in Morris View to be renovated for this purpose. We would like to know who the contact will be.

He explained this Center offer free counseling for combat veterans from the Viet Nam War, who are not comfortable going to Veteran Clinics/hospitals .

I would also like to bring someone from this Center to a future meeting to explain What they do.

Christine replied she will connect you with the new Director when she takes over in May. You can also keep in contact with myself and Shawna Bailey in the meantime. If you need that area for other days then Friday, I will let the Deputy Director know.

Wendy Long suggested St Clare's might be an option for this.

- When I submitted our Older Americans Grant application, I was notified that the By-Laws for this committee were not on our letterhead and dated.

Motion: Barbara Anderson/Tom Mazzaccaro

ADRC- Maria Rosario

Signed copies of the 2019 Area Plan Contract (APC), Grant-In-Aid (GIA) sub-grants have been signed by the Freeholder Director and sent to the providers.

Information & Assistance and Case Management phone calls for January, February and March 2019 totaled 591 calls. Monthly calls listed below:

January: 194
February: 176
March: 221

Veterans- Shawna Bailey

943 veteran related telephone calls made/received
1,887 veteran issue related emails & faxes sent/received
46 Office visits with veterans, re: VA Claims, various social issues/problems
94 VA Claims or Intent to File Claims, VA Forms, Records Requests submitted
39 Referrals made
8 Off-Site: Training, meetings (committees, events, vet organizations), out-reach
5 Home visits
250 veterans assisted to the VA Outpatient Clinic
670 Individual veterans assisted.

Jim Cavanaugh requested to have a report for comparison from last years to this years.

Nutrition- Tammi Brown

The Nutrition Project provided the following number of meals:

JANUARY:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Congregate Meals | 7,225 |
| Home Delivered Meals | 22,100 |
| Weekend Meals | 1,484 |
| Total- | 30,809 |

FEBRUARY:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Congregate Meals | 6,717 |
| Home Delivered Meals | 20,208 |
| Weekend Meals | 1,548 |
| Total- | 28,473 |

MARCH:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Congregate Meals | 7,375 |
| Home Delivered Meals | 20,280 |
| Weekend Meals | 1,884 |
| Total- | 29,539 |

Committee Reports

Community Relations- Scott Kansky

The Community Relations Committee met on Thursday, March 14, 2018 to discuss ACADV issues/concerns which should be shared with the public.

1. Volunteer income tax centers in Morris County.
2. New Providers in Morris County 2019. See flyer

- Atlantic Private Care – Assisted transportation and housekeeping
- Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset- senior chair yoga at their Day Care Center

Jim Cavanaugh asked where the flyer was?

Legislative Review – Bob Hughes

Before I give my report I have been on this Committee for five years and our name changed? The minutes have one heading and the letter from Ken has another?

Maria responded our office name did change to "Office on Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming". And this Council's name remains the same.

Joe Leal asked why was "Veteran's" taken out? It should be on the letterhead.

Christine replied that it is beyond her scope. These are decided at a administration level. The following our divisions within the decision: Nutrition, MAPS, Veterans. But she promised to get an answer. The letterhead we are required to use is the Department's Head letterhead.

Bob Hughes was satisfied with the explanation.

The Committee met on Thursday March 14, 2019 and reviewed the following bills and recommend the endorsement of the ACADV:

Assembly No. 1067- Requires hiring preference for veterans in non-civil jurisdictions.

Assembly No. 3015 – Exempts senior citizens and blind or disabled persons from certain realty transfers.

Wendy Long stated that St. Clare's is working on a 2 bills with our Legislators to be passed and could our Committee discuss it at a future meeting. The bill she referred to isn't in the scope of what our Council covers at their committee meetings, it's for non-emergency angioplasty. The bills they discuss are bills they think would be of benefit to seniors, disabled, and veterans in the County. Is this a forum or a group I can bring this to and have them agree to support these bills.

Bob Hughes stated he didn't think this is pertinent to him and doesn't think you need our permission to bring that to legislators attention. You want support with our Committee?

Wendy yes.

Christine said Wendy can ask to attend the Legislative Review meeting in May, and what advocacy you are looking for. And the Committee can decide if its applicable to our Committee.

Pat Petrillo replied that our Legislative Committee researches bills that concern seniors, disabled, and veterans in the County and the State.

Tom Mazzaccaro questioned why bill is only submitted by one Assemblyman?

Bob Hughes said that's not a concern of ours.

Bob also read a letter from Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, in regards to the letter our office sent November 14, 2018, to him asking for his support of bills Assembly bill #124, #306, and #976.

Motion: Barbara Anderson/Scott Kansky

Disability Community Report- Erika Moreno

- I am currently serving 37 active clients and three pending intakes.
- We have restructuring at our agency and have Kristen Carew, Assistant Executive Director.
- We are having our "Family Fun Day" on June 2, 2019.

HSAC- Barbara Anderson

(Received late and passed out to members before reading.)

- Ms. Donna Buchanan, Workforce Development Board, provided an organizational overview of Morris/Sussex/Warren Employment and Training Services (ETS) and the populations supported by this MC DHS Division. In addition to training and employment support provided to dislocated, low income and youth residents, ETS also provides case management and employment services support to Morris County residents receiving public assistance (GA, TANF and SNAP) through New Jersey's welfare reform program, Work First New Jersey (WFNJ). All individuals deemed employable by OTA are referred to ETS and assigned to WFNJ work activities.

The goal of the WFNJ program is to assist individuals and couples in getting off public assistance, secure employment and become self-sufficient through job training, education and state required work activities. Those activities include; 1) a 30-day work readiness training facilitated by ETS covering resume development, interviewing techniques, job search practices; 2) assignment to the Community Work Experience Program (CWEP), a non-paid work experience at a not-for-profit or governmental agency. This assignment exposes participants to work environments to enrich their time management, communication and networking skills. Lastly, work-ready clients may be approved for occupational or vocational training with an ETS approved training vendor.

Ms. Buchanan also reported that ETS is sponsoring free ESL training at 1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains location. Call (973) 829-8115 for an appointment and further information.

- Presentation by Wes Gaynor, Homeless Solutions, Inc. Nadine Venezia and Danielle Pera of the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, Inc. (MHAEM) on the Safe Haven Program. Since 1995, Homeless Solutions has partnered with the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, to address long-term housing and service needs of county residents who are chronically homeless and mentally ill. The Safe Haven Program is staffed 24-hours a day, 7 days a week

and provides emergency shelter to 20 homeless individuals in a safe and secure environment. All guests receive dual case management and have a program length stay of up to 18 months. Homeless Solutions and MHAEM actively collaborate with guests to expedite their transition into housing.

Federal funding sources under Continuum of Care funding are migrating to permanent supportive housing programs. This migration has resulted in a loss of hundreds of thousands for Safe Haven Programs. The last of which, remained in Morris County. This has forced Homeless Solutions and MHAEM to adjust service provisions and effective July 2019, the Safe Haven Model will be transitioning to a permanent supportive housing model. The transition will occur in two phases. Ten people, prioritized by their chronic homelessness, will be provided permanent supportive housing vouchers. Eventually, the plan is for the remaining ten to transition.

Tom Mazzaccaro asked if there are statistics and success stories on the Workforce Program?

Christine Yes.

Barbara Anderson asked where these educational programs are held?

Christine answered at the *Employment & Training Center on Schuyler Place and One-Stop locations*.

This report is from another *Department* that gives us an update on their meeting and we also give them an update on ours. Some of the information doesn't concern our clients.

Providers- Christine Hellyer

We don't have a printed report because our meeting was yesterday afternoon. The updates were:

- **Atlantic Private Care Assisted Transportation** provides a home health aide to go with client, that must have mobility issues. They are also looking to team up with Uber/Lyft.
- **United Way** is hosting a Caregivers Conference, April 27 at the Oaks in Denville, "Substance abuse across the Lifespan." Registration is required.
- **Employment Horizons** is offering a Certified Health Aid training program. There is also financial aid available through One-Stop and DVR.
- **Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris** has added **Tammi Freeman**, In-Home Counseling Therapist on staff. Her hours are flexible so family members are able to attend also.

We do have a success story with this agency with this service. We had a wheel-chair bound client that needed transportation to the doctor, but he husband couldn't lift more than 10lbs, and was unable to push chair, so Private care took wife to doctor, husband accompanied father-in-law to doctor, and VNA provided respite services so husband could return to his workplace, using our Provider network.

Barbara asked the fee for transportation with St. Clare's and Atlantic Private Care.

Wendy said St. Clare's is \$20 round trip if mobile and \$40 if not

Christine said Atlantic is free.

Planning/Program Review- Barbara Anderson

The subcommittee met on March 14, 2019 and discussed about "The 2019 Needs Assessment Survey" for the funding priorities. Three thousand copies were distributed to providers, care managers and nutrition sites, to be given to their consumers for ranking. Members of the Committee also took several to hand out to various groups.

The subcommittee then discussed the "Scoring Sheet" that was utilized during the 2019 Funding Application meeting. It was agreed that the scoring needs to be revised to better reflect the program that is being applied for rather than the content of the application itself. Aging staff will supply information for possible changes during the next subcommittee meeting.

Announcements-

Bob Hughes stated the "Buddy Poppy Drive" in May kicks off this event. Many people don't know what the poppy represents.

The Buddy Poppy represents the blood shed by American military service members and is a reminder of their sacrifices. This meaning for the poppy flower can be traced back to the poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae, which describes a battlefield of crosses dotted with red poppies. The poppy became known as a memorial flower.

All proceeds from the Buddy Poppy drives are used for the aid, relief and comfort of veterans, members of the armed forces and their dependents.

Adjournment: 1:43pm

Motion: Anthony Romano/ Bob Hughes

Next Meeting:

June 13, 2019

Human Services Building

340 West Hanover Ave

Morris Township, NJ 07950