

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

P.O. Box 900
Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0900

Board of County Commissioners

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Deborah Smith



County Administrator
John Bonanni

Department Director
Katharine A. Errico
973.285.6863

Deputy Director
Gary L. Denamen
973326.7240

Division Director
Amy Archer
973-285-6852

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)
Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 5:15 pm via Webex Meeting
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Ms. Rebecca Sherrod, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Representative
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative
Joann Bjornson, Family Promise of Morris County
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Ken Oexle, Citizen Representative
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, North Jersey Health Collaborative
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative – Vice-Chair
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey
David Saltzman, Esq., Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources – Chair
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

Board Liaisons:

Sean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP)
Christine Rivera, Morris County Division Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP)
Nelson Troche, New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS)
Kara Vincelli, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP)

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Morris County Department of Human Services
Kasey Errico, Morris County Director of Human Services
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance

II. Approval of March 22, 2022, Minutes

Motion to approve the March 22 meeting minutes with the below correction made by Mr. Pawelczyk, Vice-Chair, and seconded by Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

- a. Page 3, paragraph 3; Mr. Roers to Ms. Roers
- b. Page 4, paragraph 6; added, "Team De-Stig," an initiative of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce-the Health and Wellness Committee."
- c. Page 4, paragraph 7, Assistants to Assistance
- d. Page 5, paragraph 2, federal to Federal
- e. Page 5, Section VII, create to created
- f. Page 6, paragraph 5, condition to in need

III. Chair Report – Ms. Sherrod

Everyone should have signed up for two Subcommittees. At this time, five members have not signed up at all. There are two Subcommittees, Bylaws and Legislative, that do not have any members at all; we would like to put those five members on those two subcommittees. Ms. Bjornson stated that assigning people to the empty subcommittee doesn't guarantee participation; maybe by explaining the subcommittees again, members might reconsider their choice and switch. Ms. Sherrod did a brief review of the subcommittees, and a discussion ensued. Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis volunteered for the Bylaws and Legislative Subcommittees, and Mr. Bashe volunteered for the Nominating Subcommittee. Committee members were encouraged to email Anna Marie Hess with any additions or revisions to their subcommittee requests.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The 2022-2025 NJ Statewide Prevention Plan was distributed before the meeting for your review.

IV. New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) – Mr. Troche

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posted on April 18, 2022, two Federal Register notices on Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ukraine and Sudan. These notices provide information about registering for TPS under each country's designation. The registration process for both countries began on April 19, 2022. All individuals who want to request TPS under the designation of Ukraine and Sudan must apply.

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-821>

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients are now eligible for discounted internet services. More information to follow.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) – no report

Since the pandemic started, Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis mentioned that this Division had not been represented during HSAC meetings. Ms. Archer stated she would reach out to the DDD to get representation. Discussion ensued.

V. **Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP)**
Morris East Local Office

Criteria	March 2022
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	5
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	4
New	28
Reopens	56
Active	5
CPS	81
CWS	8
DV	15
SA	16
Homelessness	1
SPRU	14
Spanish Speaking	8
< 90 Day Re-opens	10

Morris West Local Office

Criteria	March 2022
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	n/a (?)
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	4
New	45
Reopens	52
Active	43
CPS	103
CWS	15
DV	22
SA	9

Homelessness	0
SPRU	18
Spanish Speaking	8
< 90 Day Re-opens	7

VI. Staff Reports – Ms. Archer

Ms. Archer reported the Morris County Home American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Public Stakeholder Meetings will be held in two identical sessions; May 4, 2022, 10:00 am -11:30 am, and May 5, 2022, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm. Please join us to learn about the \$3,075,544 of HOME-ARP funds received by Morris County, the Qualifying Populations that may receive assistance, and eligible uses of program funding. Stakeholders will be asked to identify community housing needs and gaps in services related to this program; for additional details about HOME-ARP, <https://vimeo.com/701705670/4b0f271d58>. Discussion ensued.

The Community Development 2022 Annual Action Plan has been posted in the paper and on the County website:

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.morriscountynj.gov%2fDepartments%2fCommunity-Development&c=E,1,ljZEg4_zafKs9YsOTWkXMqboE9IBcziUO_tor1aHJQIB5zEs_IDzKnDiDSBiLpSRBYHjsZbXyTQu2fEbaJ72dsKH8UZAEM05BOK81zWjRihScmbTualq6zehF_O&typo=1

The County of Morris will hold a public hearing on May 23, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. to solicit comments on the Annual Action Plan for FY 2022, covering the program period from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. The public is cordially invited to attend and participate in the hearing, held virtually via WebEx.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The Planning Subcommittee of the MHASAB met and is reaching out to Morris County Providers to provide a short video about stress relievers, self-care tips, and anything pertinent to our consumers related to mental health, i.e., yoga, meditation. Providers are asked to post the videos to their websites and the links to these videos will be provided on the County of Morris website.

Next month we will be offering hybrid (virtual and in-person) meetings. Please let Ms. Hess know how you plan on attending the meeting so she may plan refreshments accordingly.

There will be a Planning Subcommittee meeting to review our priorities for the upcoming funding season within the next two weeks.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

Planning – Child Care Update – Ms. Sherrod

State of Child Care in Morris County

- 22 childcare centers permanently closed since March 2020
- Total number of Registered FCC Providers as of March 2022 is 34

NJ DHS DFD Initiatives

- Continuing to help eligible families by covering the additional amount they may owe for fees or the difference between what the state pays and the provider charges. This assistance began in September and is now extended to December 2023. These additional payments provide up to \$300 for full-time care, or \$150 for part-time care, per eligible child, per month on the childcare assistance rate paid by the state on behalf of the family.
- Waiving co-payments in the state's childcare subsidy
- Summer Camp grants will be available on May 9th
- Grant for capital improvement will be available in Fall 2022

Recruiting and Supporting Childcare Workers

- To increase childcare capacity, \$1000 bonuses will be provided beginning this winter to help providers recruit new childcare employees and retain current childcare.

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports Council on Aging Disabilities & Veterans – as submitted

AGING

- Our staff is still on a hybrid office/work from home (WFH) schedule.
- May is Older Americans Month, and this year's theme is "Age My Way." It will focus on how older adults can age and stay in their homes, live independently, and be involved in the community.

Nutrition Program

- Offering socialization events at the Congregate sites, currently serving 150 clients
- Events to be determined

County Announcements

- Small Business Grant Program is still accepting online applications to aid local small companies, entrepreneurs, and non-profits impacted by the pandemic. Details can be found at morriscountysmallbusinessgrant.com for eligibility guidelines, supporting documents required to apply, etc.
- The NJ Moratorium utility shutoff grace period ended March 15, 2022. Any resident that applied for assistance before June 15, 2022 but has not received a decision will continue to receive service. Individuals facing eviction can reach out to our office and the Office of Temporary Assistance for Morris County funds for rental assistance.

MAPS

- On April 11, 2022, MAPS Paratransit will offer a new trip purpose for registered riders. Transportation for the following trip purposes can be booked from 10:00 am – 4:30 pm depending on availability:
 - Grocery Shopping (shopping policy must be followed)

- Pharmacy
- Bank
- Personal Care (hairdressers/barber)

This is a shared-ride service that will piggyback off our pilot Lyft Program with individuals who must be mobile and have a cell phone with texting ability for this service.

- Allowing MAPS to provide medical transportation and assist in generating these new trips
- MAPS will provide transportation to wheelchair individuals when requested
- MAPS vehicles do not wait for individuals at the destination
- Return trips must be booked a minimum of thirty minutes after the initial drop off

Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board – Ms. Csengeto

State Announcements

- There is an RFP for Mobile Access to Medications for Substance Use Disorder and another RFP for Contingency Management and other Strategies for the Treatment of Stimulant Use Disorders Purpose; See the DMHAS website for deadlines and other information.
- There will be a CSS Spring Documentation Training
- There is a RLI (Request for Letters of Interest) to provide funds for staffing and response structure to five current NJ Lifeline member centers so they can respond to at least 90% of Lifeline calls originating from New Jersey

Funding Subcommittee

- Met on April 12, 2022, to review the 2023 Grant in Aid (GIA) and Chapter 51 priorities
 - There is a gap in services for community case management for consumers who don't qualify for ICMS but need more than weekly case management services. This may be referred to as Intensive Support Services

Planning Subcommittee

- Met on April 13, 2022
 - Community Day is May 6th from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Interfaith Food Pantry. It's a collaboration between the Sheriff's Office and Community Services. Hope One and Navigating Hope will attend
 - Consumers can apply for SNAP, cash assistance, utility assistance, Narcan Training, Mental Health & Addiction resources
 - Free clothing

- Overdose Awareness Day is August 31st
 - Personal Statements from consumers and different speakers
 - Discussion of a possible candlelight vigil
- Possible Presentations
 - Greystone Psychiatric Hospital
 - Harm Reduction
 - Fentanyl
 - Long Term COVID effects

Ukrainian Response Team

- For anyone feeling anxious, angry, or overwhelmed by the War in Ukraine, call Mental Health Association at 973.509.9777 to be connected to their Response Team to receive counseling or more information

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Armstrong

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee and the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) met on March 28, 2022. These two organizations meet as an HIV consortium.

War Talley from the City of Newark moderated a discussion on End the HIV Epidemic (EHE) and the Status Neutral approach. The EHE initiative has three levels: national, state and county.

- 1) *Ending the HIV Epidemic: New Jersey Strategic Plan for Essex and Hudson Counties,*

2020-2030. This serves as a Morris County template and a supplemental document to NJ's statewide plan.

- 1) *New Jersey Ends the HIV Epidemic: A Strategic Plan, 2019-2025.*
- 2) *National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States 2022 – 2025* issued by the White House

The HIV Advisory Committee received an update for The Lived Experience Project, a new program focusing on education and training for consumers intended for empowerment. The Lived Experience Project runs for eight sessions with a cohort of 5-6 people. All four Morris County HIV providers are participating.

AIDS Watch was held virtually on April 6, 2022, when HIV+ advocates nationwide met with their legislators to discuss matters pertinent to People Living With HIV/AIDS needs. Residents from Morris County participated. Topics included: 1) reauthorization for Ryan White legislation; 2) support for a bill in the House that would extend insurance coverage for PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) which utilizes HIV medication; 3) expanding funds through HUD, including HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People Living with AIDS); and 4) reduction of copays for Medicare recipients.

On Sunday, May 1st, The Walk (formerly AIDS Walk) is hosted by EDGE NJ, assembling at 3 Executive Drive, Morris Plains. The event is newly branded *The Walk*,

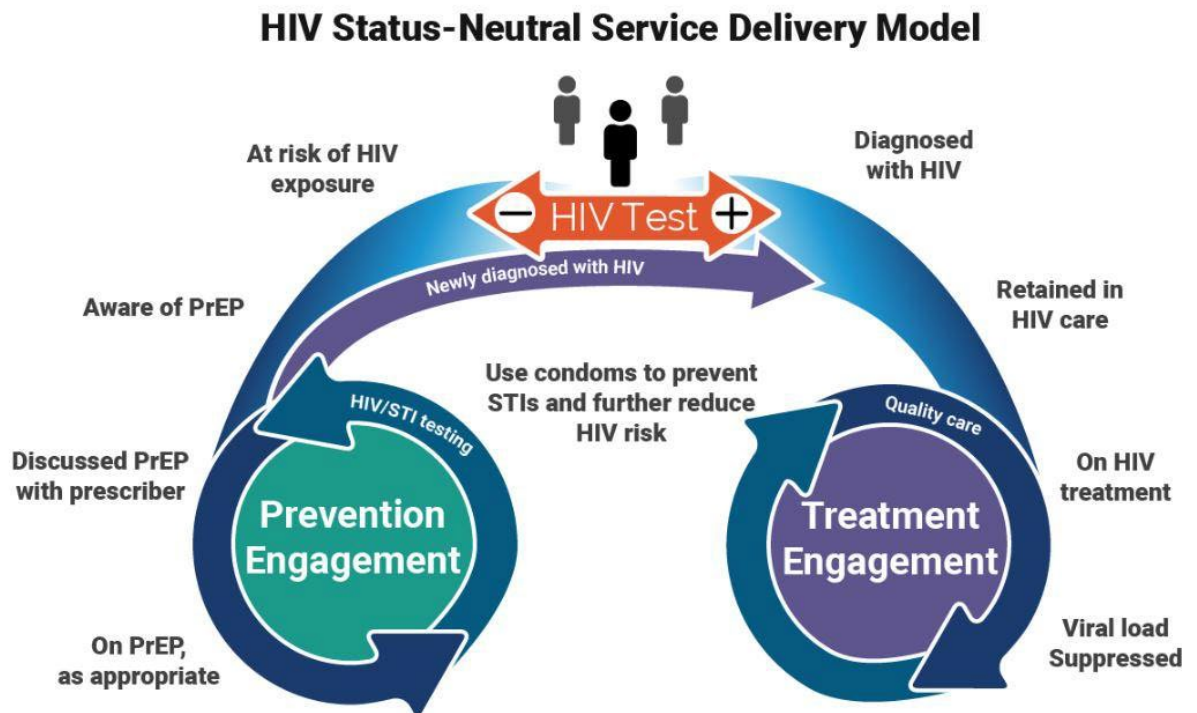
NJAW: Ending Epidemics Together Walk. This event is being held simultaneously in five locations in New Jersey: Atlantic City, Asbury Park, Newark, Bergen/Passaic in Saddle Brook, and Morris County. All the money raised at each event location goes directly back to the local organization.

On May 19th, EDGE NJ (formerly NJ AIDS Services) is hosting a Grand Opening at their new facility in Denville on Route 53 next to the Denville train station.

A new model for HIV treatment and prevention is called **Status Neutral**. The model works like this:

A person is diagnosed with HIV. That person is linked to treatment engagement and can begin HIV treatment that same day. They are continuously provided with high-quality care that keeps them coming back and staying healthy with an undetectable viral load. They will not pass on HIV through sex.

A person tests HIV negative. They are linked to the prevention engagement side. That means starting PrEP or post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) immediately for some people. For others, it means ongoing testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). If they remain engaged, they will have the tools to stay HIV-negative and healthy.



Using a strategy like this requires intention, planning, and long-term follow-through. It also involves efforts to reach and engage people at high risk for HIV.

The next meeting of the Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee/EIRC will be held on May 23 at 1 pm on Zoom.

Advisory Committee on Women – Ms. Bjornson

Strategic Focus

A strategic focus aims to understand the impact on women in a relevant focus area, support local leaders and initiatives that address this focus, and advocate for responsible solutions. Our concentration is on Housing as Healthcare. This incorporates potential sub-focus areas such as employment, education, transportation, and childcare. The Covid effects on women and national and local emergent needs for safe housing, coupled with the unprecedented amount of federal, state, and local funding available, make this an impactful priority.

Guest speaker: Michelle Roers, LSW, DRCC

Ms. Roers is the Senior Director of Strategies for ALICE, United in Care & ALICE Action Network

Human Services committee meetings and/or Commissioner meetings: opportunity to attend and report back to the Women’s Committee.

Sub-committee updates

- Membership Development Committee – actively inviting women *and men* representing diversity in age, race, ethnicity, LGBTQ
 - We had one new member join us appointed through the Board of Commissioners, and we have one member still pending action
 - Membership application
<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/Advisory-Committee-on-Women>

Homeless Trust Fund

The committee is writing a support letter to the Board of Commissioners to present with other Advisory Committees in the upcoming months.

Next meeting- May 18, 2022

IX. Continuum of Care (CoC) – Mr. Saltzman

Discussion on funding priorities, performance reviews, strategic planning, and job descriptions occurred.

Homelessness Prevention Committee announced there is going to be additional funding. DCA stopped taking applications for homelessness on December 15, 2021. The new funding is designed to assist consumers who still owe money to their landlords from January 1st and may extend for six months.

Tenancy Court had five judges working five days, and Legal Services also staffed the courtrooms during the first week of April. They were able to hear 428 cases to address the backlog.

- Ms. Borden asked what programs are available for landlords facing foreclosure? Mr. Saltzman stated, The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency has Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) program that provides financial assistance for eligible homeowners who have experienced a significant decrease in income or increase in expenses due to COVID-19 and have been unable to remain current with their mortgage payments. Applicants may receive up to \$35,000 per household. Ms. Bjornson stated that there are programs for landlords, and Family Promise has a Litigation Fund for issues like these.
- Ms. Errico asked if tenants were able to access funding from the DCA during these hearings. Mr. Saltzman stated it is a little complicated when you are in court on the day of trial to apply for the DCA funding because the process is lengthy. Tenants were able to fill out New Jersey's Eviction Protections and Self-Certification form. This protects different household income levels. To ensure that your household benefits from these protections, you must complete the form to certify your income level. The Form also allows you to certify whether you had an economic impact from COVID-19, certify whether you have applied for rental assistance, and answer some additional questions, all of which will assist you.

Ms. Sherrod stated that the RFP and application materials from the Allocations Committee would go out on April 28, 2022.

The next CoC meeting is on April 28, 2022.

X. Old Business

Homeless Trust Fund – Mr. Bashe

We are receiving support from many non-profit agencies, business owners, and various congregations.

XI. New Business

Ms. Bjornson stated that Family Promise noticed increased violence and mental health crises among our clients. We have had an escalation of suicides, overdoses, and violent threats made to our staff. How can we coordinate with the MHASAB to address these issues? Ms. Archer stated that a program funded by MHASAB might be able to respond on a smaller scale and bring information back to the HSAC at the next meeting. Discussion ensued.

XII. Public Comment – no comment

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Saltzman made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Csengeto seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II