

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

P.O. Box 900
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Board of County Commissioners

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HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)
Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 5:15 pm via Webex Only
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Ms. Rebecca Sherrod, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Joann Bjornson, Family Promise
Terry Connolly, Nourish NJ
Ken Oexle, Citizen Representative
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, Citizen Representative
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative – Vice-Chair
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources – Chair

Morris County Commissioner:

Christine Myers, Morris County Deputy Director, Commissioner Liaison

Board Liaisons:

Christine Rivera, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Lenora Humphrey, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Sean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Morris County Department of Human Services
Kasey Errico, Morris County Director Department of Human Services
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Department of Human Services

Others in Attendance:

Jeff Bashe

Kayla Gieger, Child & Family Resources

Jane Shivas

II. Nominating Committee – 2023 Slate Officers

Ms. Shivas stated that the nominees presented at our November meeting were Ms. Rebecca Sherrod for Chair and Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk for Vice-Chair. No other nominees were presented to the committee from the floor. Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis motioned to accept Ms. Sherrod as Chair, Mr. Pawelczyk as Vice-Chair, and Ms. Bjornson seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

III. Approval of November 22, 2022, Minutes

Motion to approve November 22, 2022, meeting minutes as submitted with one correction as follows:

- On page 6, Planning section, second line
 - Remove the word “an”; the line should read
 - With the investigation work concluded, Morris County has many resources for classes, counseling, and community outreach addressing workplace stress and burnout.

Mr. Pawelczyk motioned to approve the minutes with correction and seconded by Ms. Sherrod. All were in favor, with no opposition and three abstentions. Motion carried.

IV. Open to the Public

Mr. Bashe stated he was not reappointed to the HSAC for 2023, and it has been a pleasure working with this group, and he will continue to attend meetings.

Ms. Errico introduced Ms. Christine Myers, Deputy Director of Morris County Commissioners, as the Human Services Liaison. Thank you for joining us; we look forward to working with you this year.

V. Chair Report – Ms. Sherrod

- Since the completion of the 2022 funding cycle, there has been discussion about how our funding programs are measuring up to our priorities. If there is a community program and agency you would like to recommend for a presentation, please contact me at rsherrod@cformorris.org or Ms. Hess at ahess@co.morris.nj.us with your suggestions.
- Ms. Linda Csengeto was not reappointed to the HSAC for 2023. Therefore, we seek someone willing to attend the Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) meetings. This person will act as a liaison and report HSAC updates to the MHASAB. If you are interested, please get in touch with Ms. Archer at aarcher@co.morris.nj.us or Ms. Hess at ahess@co.morris.nj.us for additional information.

VI. Committee Orientation

Ms. Archer gave a PowerPoint presentation related to HSAC orientation. This PowerPoint will be posted on the County website shortly

<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/files/sharedassets/public/departments/human-services/a.-hess-hsac/2023-orientation-hsac.pdf>.

VII. New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) – no report

**VIII. New Jersey Department of Children & Families
Division of Child Protection & Permanence**

Morris East

Criteria	December 2022
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	2
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	0
New	49
Reopens	42
Active	5
CPS	79
CWS	12
DV	8
SA	0
Homelessness	8
SPRU	5
Spanish Speaking	2
< 90 Day Re-opens	2

Morris West

Criteria	December 2022
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	2
New	33
Reopens	43
Active	8
CPS	88
CWS	11
DV	24
Sex Abuse	6
Homelessness/ Youth Homelessness	1(adolescent)
SPRU	23
Spanish Speaking	19
< 90 Day Re-opens	11
Substance Use	27
Child on Child Sex Abuse	1

- **Questions**

- Ms. Errico asked if there are feedback/analysis/trends of the numbers throughout the year that DCPD would like to provide.
 - Ms. Humphrey stated that with the increase of Hispanic families moving to Morris County from the Tri-State (New York, New Jersey & Connecticut) area, there is an increase in Spanish-speaking cases that have been reported. This is a state-wide issue, not just a county boundary. Due to COVID-19 and the great resignation, there is a large gap between Spanish-speaking providers and services available in New Jersey. It is not being able to fill these positions that, until the pandemic, were provided through funded programs.
 - Mr. McGinnis added that the “reopened” cases reflect that DCPD was involved at some point, the case was closed, and a new investigation request was received. In most cases, the lack of staff to handle the language barriers has caused these cases to be reopened since the family’s needs have not been met. We have been using interpreter services for these families but cannot provide the help needed

effectively due to the hiring freeze in-house and the lack of outside providers.

- Ms. Rivera stated that historically, reported cases had increased from September through March since schools reopened from summer break and June, right before school lets out. During the fall and winter months, children return to school and have access to teachers and resources to get their families the help they need. During the school year, some issues may not have been reported until the end of the school year, so that is why we see the increase in June.
- Ms. Sherrod asked, “is the Child Protective Service (CPS) category mean that those are the number of children that have been removed from the home?”
 - Mr. McGinnis stated that the CPS numbers are referrals where allegations of a child are believed to be abused or neglected. The Child Welfare Service (CWS) category means a child or family may need help with housing/homelessness, food, or counseling.
- Ms. O’Reilly-Stanzilis asked, “when a Spanish-speaking family is identified as a family in need, are they referred to a wraparound program for English as a Second Language (ESL) program offered to help empower and teach them how to communicate better?”
 - Mr. McGinnis stated they are referred to the few programs in Morris County, including the County College of Morris ESL class.

IX. Staff Reports

- **Human Services – Ms. Archer**
 - HOME ARP Allocation Plan was submitted to HUD and is under 45-day review. Thank you to the HSAC members that participated in this process. Additional information to follow.
 - At the end of December 2022, our division received 1,500 Rapid COVID-19 tests. They were distributed to our community agencies and outreach programs. We will receive additional test kits to distribute to the community.
 - The Office of Community Development is accepting Program Year (PY) 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and HOME applications. These applications are due Tuesday, February 21, 2023, and the ESG applications will be reviewed by the HSAC Funding Subcommittee. Please see the County website for additional information and applications <https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Community-Development>
 - The Point in Time (PIT) Count will occur tonight, January 24, 2023. This report aims to indicate what our homeless population looks like in Morris County. The PIT team consists of representatives from Mental Health Association (MHA), Homeless Solutions, Morris County Human Services, and Monarch Housing Association. MHA and Hope One will go out on January 26th from 6:00 am – 9:00 am. They plan on visiting six locations;

Morristown Train Station, Staples in Morristown, Walmart in Cedar Knowles, Rockaway ShopRite, Dover Train Station, and Edna's Haven at Trinity Lutheran Church. The team will poll the homeless encampments at these locations and provide outreach information and personal hygiene products.

- **Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans** – no report
- **Workforce Development Board** – no report

X. Old Business

- Ms. Roers announced that an ALICE report focusing on veterans was released on Veteran's Day. Please visit the website <http://www.unitedforalice.org/focus-veterans>
- Ms. Bjornson reported that the Housing Alliance is meeting with Commissioner Myers and the Homeless Trust Fund Committee. More information to follow as it becomes available.

XI. New Business – no comment

XII. Subcommittee Reports

- **Child Care**
 - State of Child Care in Morris County
 - Total number of registered FCC Providers as of September is 35, and three prospects
 - 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 top of the childcare assistance rate paid by the state on behalf of the family.
 - There is an enrollment study being administered by DHS/DFD to understand the significance and difference to parents and providers by paying on enrollment rather than attendance
 - Waiving co-payments in the state's childcare subsidy
 - NJEDA to create \$54.5 million childcare facilities improvement pilot program to strengthen vital sector and support working families
 - Phase 1 will launch next month with \$15 Million in Grants to Licensed Child Care Centers Statewide. Phase 1 of the Child Care Facilities Improvement Pilot Program will launch this summer. It will make grants between \$50,000 to

\$200,000 for improvements that foster high-quality early childhood learning environments. These interior and exterior improvements could include but are not limited to, installing energy-efficient windows, creating additional classroom space, purchasing new playground equipment, replacing flooring, remediating environmental hazards such as lead or mold, or putting in child-height sinks or toilets

- **Planning**
 - Workplace Task Force
 - Ms. Archer stated there would be another committee meeting to determine the next steps. More information to follow
- **Legislative** – no report

XIII. Advisory Committee Reports

- **Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee** – Ms. Martins
 - The HIV Morris, Warren, Sussex Advisory Board’s mission is to serve as a united voice for individuals living with HIV, affected consumers, service providers, and county governments. It will serve as the primary coordinating, planning, and policy development entity on issues related to HIV/AIDS in the region. We will have our first meeting of the year this upcoming Monday, January 30th, from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM via Zoom. The committee meets on the last Monday of every month except for August and December. This year we will continue to focus our efforts on supporting the Strategic Plan to End the HIV Epidemic in New Jersey by 2025, which works on addressing the following areas
 - Reduce the number of new HIV infections by 75%
 - Promote access to testing so 100% of individuals living with HIV/AIDS know their status
 - Promote access/linkage to care, so 90% of those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are virally suppressed
 - The HIV Morris, Warren, Sussex Advisory Board works together to discuss opportunities for community engagement by bringing awareness, education, and testing opportunities to the community
- **Advisory Committee on Women** – Ms. Bjornson
 - The purpose of a Strategic Focus aims to understand the impact on women in the critically 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-focused 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
 - We have moved to meet every other month rather than monthly to allow the sub-committees time to work on projects

- Seeds of Change Award- Inspired by Leanna Brown, the Seeds of Change Award seeks to highlight and celebrate women who build up other women. We have selected an award recipient, more information to come about the recipient and the award presentation at one of the March Board of Commissioner Meetings, which is also Women’s Month
- Next meeting – March 15, 2023
- **Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Committee** – Ms. Archer
 - We are starting to plan the Mental Health Public Forum for 2023. We have been unable to hold one for the past few years due to COVID-19. This is an opportunity for the people from the community and different organizations to come together to discuss mental health issues, barriers, and gaps in care that the community is facing. More information to follow.
 - Our 12 and 48-hour Intoxicated Driver Resource Center providers could not continue their programs this year. As a stopgap Camden County Community College is running 12-hour classes for Morris County residents. If any Morris County residents need to schedule or reschedule their 48-hour classes, please contact Ms. Suarez at rosuarez@co.morris.nj.us. She will contact New Hope, the intake coordinator, for a friendly transfer for any 48-hour IDRC requests.
- **Youth Services Advisory Committee** – no report

XIV. Partnership Advancements

- **Continuum of Care (CoC)** – Ms. Delcalzo, CoC Chair
 - Our next meeting is Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 10:00 am via Webex.

XV. Adjournment

Ms. Roers motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Pawelczyk seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II