

**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

*Director*  
Tayfun Selen

*Deputy Director*  
John Krickus

Douglas R. Cabana  
Kathryn A. DeFillippo  
Thomas J. Mastrangelo  
Stephen H. Shaw  
Deborah Smith



*County Administrator*  
John Bonanni

*Department Director*  
Katharine A. Errico  
973.285.6863

*Deputy Director*  
Gary L. Denamen  
973.326.7240

*Division Director*  
Amy Archer  
973-285-6852

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)**  
**Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 5:15 pm via Webex/In-Person**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

Ms. Rebecca Sherrod, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

**Board Members:**

Robert Armstrong, Citizen Representative  
Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative  
Joann Bjornson, Family Promise  
Terry Connolly, Nourish NJ  
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative  
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative - Vice Chair  
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources – Chair  
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

**Board Liaisons:**

Lenora Humphrey, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP)  
Dean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP)  
Nelson Troche, NJ Department of Human Services

**Morris County Staff:**

Amy Archer, MC Department of Human Services

**Others in Attendance:**

Michelle Blanchfield, Zufall Health Center

**II. Approval of the May 24, 2022, Minutes**

Ms. Sherrod stated, due to a family emergency, Ms. Hess could not distribute the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. This vote will be tabled until our next meeting, September 28, 2022.

**III. New Jersey Department of Human Services – Mr. Nelson Troche**

Naloxone Program for First Responders will be centrally located so they can access it directly. Additional information to follow.

**IV. New Jersey Department of Children and Families**

**Division of Child Protection and Permanency – Mr. Sean McGinnis & Ms. Lenora Humphrey**

**Morris East Local Office**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>May 2022</b>
Children < 5 years old, Mother <30 -years old	4
Substance abuse affected newborn cases, aka Safe Care	1
New	35
Reopens	42
Active	7
CPS	77
CWS	7
DV	6
SA	10
Homelessness	0
SPRU	6
Spanish Speaking	3
< 90 Day Re-opens	10

**Morris West Local Office**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>May 2022</b>
Children < 5 years old, Mother <30 -years old	0
Substance abuse affected newborn cases, aka Safe Care	4
New	34

Reopens	42
Active	14
CPS	77
CWS	13
DV	19
SA	5
Homelessness	2 & 1
SPRU	13
Spanish Speaking	0
< 90 Day Re-opens	3

**V. Staff Reports**

**Human Services – Ms. Amy Archer**

Ms. Archer announced three new staff members in the Community Development office. They will be out and about in the community and visiting different agencies. An email will be sent announcing our new team members.

2023 Grant in Aid, Social Services for the Homeless, Chapter 51, and Juvenile Justice Funding Applications were due Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. We are reviewing all applications, and the funding review meetings will be held for all advisories in either August or September. Additional information to follow.

2022 Site Monitoring will take place this summer. Available dates and times will be sent to funded agencies and the HSAC Program Review committee within the next few weeks. All site monitoring meetings will be held virtually.

August 31<sup>st</sup> is Morris County’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Overdose Awareness Day. This event will be held at the Human Services building at 1 Medical Drive outside the conference rooms. Senator Bucco, Sheriff Gannon, Commissioner Selen, and other keynote speakers will attend.

You may have heard that on July 16, 2022, 988 will become the nationwide 3-digit dialing code for mental health crisis and suicide prevention. It will replace the 1-800 number currently used by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. On this date, when someone calls 988, all phones in the U.S. (mobile and landline) will connect with the mental health crisis/suicide prevention system. This will allow anyone in the U.S. to call 988 and get help explicitly designed for someone dealing with a mental health crisis. Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services has created this presentation to provide you with an overview

<https://youtu.be/ZuKhq-VPVjU>. If you have questions after watching this presentation, please contact our direct email address: [988Questions@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:988Questions@dhs.nj.gov).

**Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans** – no report

**Workforce Development Board** - no report

**VI. Old Business** – no comment

**VII. New Business** – no comment

**VIII. Subcommittee Reports**

**Child Care Update** – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod, Chair

- State of Child Care in Morris County
  - Total number of Registered FCC Providers – 35
    - 3 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 administered by DHS/DFD to understand the significance and difference to parents and providers by paying enrollment rather than attendance.
  - Waiving co-payments in the state’s childcare subsidy
- Summer Camps are available from May 9<sup>th</sup> until August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - Grant funds must be used across two categories
    - Financial Assistance to Families (50%)
    - Staff Recruitment/Hiring and Operational Expenses (50%)
- The NJ ARP Stabilization Grant is accepting applications from June 6, 2022, through July 8, 2022, for new providers (open and operating after March 11, 2021) and those providers who were eligible but did not apply previously
  - These non-competitive grants provide up to \$120,000 for licensed childcare providers (depending on license capacity and estimated monthly expenses) and \$4,000 in payments for family childcare providers. Payments will be made in two installments
- NJEDA to create a \$54.5 million childcare facilities improvement pilot program to strengthen the vital sector and support working families
  - Phase 1 to launch in Summer 2022 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 pay \$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 – Mr. Joe Pawelczyk**

The committee comprises Ms. Joanne Bjornson, Family Promise, Ms. Terry Connolly, Nourish NJ, Ms. Diane Williams, JBWS, and Mr. Pawelczyk. We are still recruiting members.

Our focus is on the effects COVID-19 had on our community and navigating our way through the new normal. During the pandemic, we have seen racial issues, war, mass shootings, and an increase in aggression and violence not only in our community but in the workplace. We will be looking into the education and training of staff at local agencies on responding to the trauma from their clients seeking services. Our goal is to provide resources to assist with reducing the violence of self and staff during these difficult times.

Ms. Connolly stated that this committee would be reaching out to all HSAC providers for their input on what they are seeing not only in the community but also in the workplace. Provider's input is valuable, and the services or training you may be able to provide to staff and the clients will be helpful in this process. Discussion ensued.

## **Legislative Update**

### **Homeless Trust Fund – Ms. Sherrod**

A letter was drafted, sent to the subcommittee for review, and was on the Commissioners Work Session Meeting Agenda. Commissioner DeFillippo addressed the Homeless Trust Fund. She requested that two Commissioners join her to set up a subcommittee to review the white paper and letters of support together so they can discuss comments, develop a list of questions, and coordinate additional discussion with our county committees engaged and supporting this initiative. Beyond that, the Commissioners have the benefit of reviewing how the Homeless Trust Fund is utilized in other counties, its success, and what modifications, if any, have taken place. The Commissioners committee will then make its recommendations to the full Board. Then if agreed to go forward, the HSAC will be tasked to coordinate with staff the ongoing collection, administration, service provisions/benefits, program monitoring, and reporting, as our administration has reminded us, will be the more complex components of this initiative. Commissioner DeFillippo realizes that if the Board agrees to go forward with the Homeless Trust Fund initiative, the more complex parts to set the Homeless Trust Fund up will likely extend beyond her retirement at the end of the year. Still, she offered to continue to share her nine years of knowledge as the alternate and then primary liaison in Human Services to the committee. Commissioners Cabana and Mastrangelo volunteered. Administrator Bonanni added that two weeks ago, Director Errico presented the Homeless ARPA funds we have. The Commissioners committee can investigate that.

## **IX. Advisory Committee Reports**

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

The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee and the Early Intervention and Retention Collaborative (EIRC) have not met since our last HSAC meeting. They will meet again on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm on Zoom. This month for the North Jersey Health Collaborative (NJHC), Mr. Armstrong compiled an HIV Resources Guide. This document covers the NJHC's territory of Morris, Sussex, Warren, Union, and Passaic Counties. The HIV Resources Guide available to HSAC members along with this report.

The following is a list of HIV/AIDS statistics:

- In the U. S. today, approximately 1.2 million people are living with HIV.
- In the U. S. the Northeast has the highest rate of people living with HIV. (The highest number is in the South.)
- In New Jersey, almost 40,000 people are living with HIV.
- In Morris County, the number of people living with HIV has been level for years and is now dropping.
- As of 2018, in Morris County, 873 people were living with HIV.
- As of June 2020, in Morris County, 851 people were living with HIV.
- In the U. S. new infections are on the decline. The rate of new HIV infections has declined 73% since 1984.
- From recent US data, new HIV infections have declined 8% since 2015 and have been in decline since 1998 after the availability of Protease Inhibitors—an effective medication in the treatment of HIV.
- Worldwide, 35 million people have died of AIDS since 1981.
- Worldwide, about 680,000 people died of AIDS in 2020.

### **Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board – Ms. Linda Csengeto**

There was a presentation by Ms. Patrice Reilly & Ms. Arielle Aigotti from Morris County Prevention is Key entitled “Escape the Vape.”

There were several RFPs advertised by the Division of Mental Health Addiction Services (DMHAS); however, Morris County was not listed as a targeted County to be awarded:

- RFP to develop a county-based mental health pilot program for justice-involved defendants subject to criminal justice reform and identified with a severe mental illness.
- RFP for a pilot program for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.
- RFP for an EISS program to provide rapid access to short-term, recovery-orientated crisis intervention services.

Naloxone kits will be distributed to all law enforcement departments Statewide. They will also be available to libraries and shelters.

DMHAS anticipates 988 starting in July. Email questions to [988Questions@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:988Questions@dhs.nj.gov).

Site monitoring for mental health funding and addiction services will take place this summer.

August 31 is Overdose Awareness Day.

There are 84 Morris County residents at GPPH.

Mental health and addiction providers are still reporting staff shortages within their agencies.

**Advisory Committee on Women** – no report

**Youth Services Advisory Committee** – no report

**X. Partnership Announcements  
Continuum of Care (CoC)**

The CoC had a special session of the Executive Committee on Thursday, April 14, 2022, to review the RFP and application tools for the 2023 funding cycle. All tools were reviewed and approved after a public comment period. These documents were posted to the CoC webpage. The 2022 applications were due on June 3, 2022 (deadline extended by a formal vote of the Executive Committee on Thursday, May 26). The Allocation Committee review teams are reviewing applications with a deadline for scoring by July 7.

The last meeting was on May 26. The Executive Committee (EC) reviewed and approved revisions to the Coordinated Entry (CE) MOU, a new CE Confidentiality Pledge, the Coordinated Entry Addendum to the CoC Application, and accompanying scoring criteria tool. The Committee also reviewed the Data Governance description and hierarchy chart and collected questions for the Data Monitoring. The Committee reviewed a presentation by Monarch Housing Associates that provided an overview of the 2021 NOFO application score and areas of opportunity. The EC is formulating a plan for preparing for the submission of the 2022 NOFO to improve scoring.

The next regular meeting of the EC is July 28. Providers and community members are invited to participate during office hours if they have specific questions or discussion points for members of EC leadership. The next office hours are scheduled for June 23.

**Links:**

- 7/28: CoC Regular Meeting - <https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Events/72822-CoC>

- 6/23: CoC Office Hours sign up - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrR2L0QzmlkEC9Rp3KjqbW4xI77TUglRTa-5i-c5ssIBjUsw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrR2L0QzmlkEC9Rp3KjqbW4xI77TUglRTa-5i-c5ssIBjUsw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

- General CoC info and meeting schedule -

<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Community-Behavioral-Health-Services/Continuum-of-Care>

**XI. Public Comment** – no comment

**XII. Adjournment**

Mr. Pawelczyk made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II