

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

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HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC) MEETING
Tuesday, November 22, 2022, 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 5:18 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

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

Board Liaisons:

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board (Morris, Sussex, & Warren)
Allison Delcalzo, Atlantic Health – CoC Chair
Sean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Jim Wong, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Morris County Department of Human Services
Shawna Bailey, Assistant Director of Aging and Disabilities
Kasey Errico, Morris County Director Department of Human Services

II. Approval of October 28, 2022, Minutes

Motion to approve October 28, 2022, meeting minutes as submitted made by Mr. Pawelczyk and seconded by Mr. Oexle. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

III. Chair Report

Ms. Sherrod stated that the HSAC did submit a letter providing our recommendations and support to the New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) for the virtual budget listening session held on November 3, 2022.

Ms. Sherrod mentioned that during the leadership meeting, we discussed having our funded providers do presentations about the programs funded by HSAC. Possibly in January, a presentation on Childcare, and in February, Code Blue. We are asking for suggestions for other programs the committee is interested in hearing about.

IV. New Jersey Department of Human Services – no report

**V. New Jersey Department of Children & Families
Division of Child Protection & Permanency**

Morris East

Criteria	October 2022
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	2
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	1
New	66
Reopens	39
Active	2
CPS	94
CWS	11
DV	29
SA	25
Homelessness	0
SPRU	17
Spanish Speaking	22
< 90 Day Re-opens	8

Morris West

Criteria	October 2022
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	2
New	46
Reopens	74
Active	7
CPS	101
CWS	19
DV	20
Sex Abuse	7
Homelessness/ Youth Homelessness	2 & 1
SPRU	21
Spanish Speaking	17
< 90 Day Re-opens	11
Substance Use	21
Child on Child Sex Abuse	1

VI. Staff Reports

Human Services – Ms. Amy Archer

Thank you to everyone that participated in the 2023 Funding Review process. Our recommendations were submitted to the Commissioners and passed a resolution at last night’s meeting. We are moving forward with our contracts.

Ms. Archer stated that the Mental Health Administrator’s state meeting yesterday discussed school youth-based services and how those existing programs would be stopped. The state wants to develop “hubs” for these programs to access state-wide. Due to the advocacy behind keeping those programs in our schools, the state has decided to keep them in place and issued an RFP on November 18th for services through a hub that will run simultaneously.

With mental health being a big topic, there is much discussion about different suicide initiatives. One initiative the state is working with is the Gun Research Center, Gun Storage Project. This is a community outreach about gun safety and how to safely store a gun in various situations..

The state will introduce a loan redemption program for behavioral health professionals working with children and adolescents. You can get \$50,000 every two years for six years. Additional information to follow.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and how callers get the local resources they need were discussed. We are gathering additional information and will share the information once received.

The Point-In-Time (PIT) Count will take place in January. This is a state-wide count. Homeless Solutions and Mental Health Association are heavily involved by going out into the communities and counting where the person slept on a given night to try and get an accurate reflection of what our homeless population might look like in Morris County. There were some discussions about the data from previous years since COVID. At this time, we are putting together the PIT committee.

Ms. Errico announced that the Advisory Committee on Women is accepting nominations for their Seeds of Change award. Information will be circulated soon.

Commissioner DeFillippo is retiring from the Commissioner Board. She was the Human Services Commissioner Liaison for many years, and Commissioner DeFillippo will be honored at the next Commissioner's Meeting.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Shawna Bailey

We have hired a new Veterans Service Officer, Mr. Jason Leffler. As of this week, he has completed his accreditation course.

We have received COVID booster postcards to help spread the word about 2nd round of COVID booster shots. Our providers, MAPS drivers, and our nutrition program will distribute them.

We received additional funding through the American Rescue Plan through the Older Americans Act. This is available for seniors over 60 years of age and their caregivers for evidence-based programming. We will make these funds available in early 2023 to our current providers.

We hosted a Community Open House on November 16th for the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. People could come in for meet and greets and discuss successes or barriers to transportation and their experiences in Morris County.

Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong

The WDB voted in November to change their name from Morris-Sussex-Warren WDB to the WDB of Northwest NJ. This name change was considered after a group of stakeholders developed and the WDB approved a name change for the local area. The local area One Stop Career Center partner services are now referred to as *Workforce*

Solutions of Northwest NJ. Proud Partner of the American Job Centers. Logos are in development.

Ms. Kim Whelan has joined the WDB. Her responsibilities include business services outreach and contract compliance. Ms. Whelan also has previous experience in talent acquisition and apprenticeship administration. The WDB plans to expand the support of apprenticeships in the tri-county area. To learn more about how non-profit organizations can be eligible for hiring and training funds or how to assist your clients with gaining employment, reach out to Ms. Whelan at KWhelan@co.morris.nj.us.

VII. Old Business – no comment

VIII. New Business

Ms. Sherrod announced that Mr. Robert Armstrong would not be returning next year. Thank you for your 6+ years of dedication to serving Morris County’s citizens and the HSAC.

Ms. Fodali stated that Code Blue season has begun with colder weather upon us. Homeless Solutions Warming Center will be opening from December 1st until March 31st. In partnership with the Morris County Department of Human Services and the Office of Temporary Assistants, Homeless Solutions can accommodate up to 16 guests per night and provide meals, cots, showers and full bathrooms, and locker storage space for the guests who want to store possessions overnight. We also utilize Market Street Mission and hotel placements for emergency overnight shelters.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

Child Care – Ms. Sherrod

- State of Child Care in Morris County
 - Total Number of Registered FCC Providers September 35
 - 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 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 a \$54.5 million Child Care Facilities Improvement Pilot Program to strengthen vital sectors and support working families.
 - Phase 1 is to Launch in the 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 to pay 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. Pawelczyk
With the investigation work concluded, Morris County has many resources for classes, counseling, and community outreach addressing workplace stress and burnout. More information to come in the future.

Legislative

- Homeless Trust Fund – Ms. Bjornson
In 2022 a letter of support was submitted to the County Commissions. It was determined the Housing Alliance and Nonprofit Executives will be taking over the efforts to further the Homeless Trust Fund efforts.

X. Advisory Committee Reports

Morris and Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Armstrong

- World AIDS Day is Thursday, December 1st. EDGE New Jersey will host an event at the EDGE CAN Wellness Center located at 295 East Main St. Denville, NJ, from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm with a Ribbons of Remembrance Ceremony, candlelight vigil and a reception for “An Unstill Life” art exhibit by Ronald P. Ritzie and Robert Armstrong.

Nominating Committee – Ms. Shivas

- The slate of officers nominated for the 2023 HSAC is Ms. Rebecca Sherrod for Chair and Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk for Vice-Chair. The vote will take place at our January meeting.

Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Committee – Ms. Csengeto

- The New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) announces the availability of funding for Gambling Disorder Clinician Services Programs in both licensed Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Mental Health (MH) treatment programs. DMHAS issues this RFP to develop gambling disorder services rendered through a Gambling Disorder Clinician to provide treatment and case management for individuals with a primary diagnosis of Gambling Disorder or a dual disorder of gambling and MH issues and/or SUD.
- The NJ Supreme Court directive requires that all initial involuntary civil commitment hearings commence in person on March 1, 2023. This does not yet include review and CEPP hearings, though it is anticipated that there will be a gradual return to in-person hearings at some point

- The Office of New Americans has developed a Welcome Booklet for Newcomers to support information, referral, and navigation of critical services and resources available to newly arrived immigrants. This tool is essential as we welcome more newcomers to New Jersey communities. The booklet outlines the immediate services, legal support, food assistance, and healthcare that can assist newly arrived immigrants to New Jersey (*available on the website*).
- The DMHAS initiated the MHCovid-19 reimbursement program for contracted, community-based, non-profit MH providers for eligible pandemic-related expenses. Expenses incurred between October 15, 2021, and February 1, 2023, will be eligible for this program. Eligible expenses (*available on the website*) must be documented as new costs incurred during this time and not already reimbursed through DMHAS contracts or any other federal, state, or county relief program. All claims will require supporting documentation to be reviewed by DMHAS Fiscal staff before payment. Further, all claims will be subject to audit, and any payments deemed improper based on further documentation review will be recovered.
- New Jersey is expected to receive \$641 million from the Johnson & Johnson Opioid Settlement. The money will be split 50/50, meaning the State will receive 50%, and Counties and participating Municipalities will receive 50%. The money is to be used towards recommendations for treatment, prevention, and other strategies. A virtual webinar was held on Wednesday, November 9th, which was an overview of the settlement and funds. Additional information to follow.
- All division award and declination letters were sent out yesterday. The resolution for our recommendation is expected to go through at the next Commissioner's meeting, and our goal is to have contracts go out for signing in December. Additional information to follow.
- The Leadership Advisory Committee comprises the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of our advisory committees. They will continue to review the funding application process and recommend how we can efficiently acquire the information and paperwork needed to complete the application.

Advisory Committee on Women – Ms. Bjornson

- A Strategic Focus aims to understand the impact on women in a critical relevant 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.
- We have moved to meet every other month rather than monthly to allow the sub-committees time to work on projects.
- Membership Development Committee – actively inviting women *and men* representing diversity in age, race, ethnicity, LGBTQ

- Membership application
(<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/Advisory-Committee-on-Women>)
- Recruited new member from JobCorps- she will be a great resource to our providers and will present at local meetings in January 2023
- Housing as Healthcare Committee- actively focusing on projects that impact both areas, for preventive health, reduction of costs in hospitals, and more. Let us know if you are working on a healthcare project or team. Reach out to Donna Boyce boyce.dae@gmail.com
- Seeds of Change Award- Inspired by Leanna Brown, the Seeds of Change Award seeks to highlight and celebrate women who build up other women- see attached.
- [Seeds of Change Award Nomination Form](#)
- **Next meeting-** January 18th, 2023

Youth Services Advisory Committee – no report

XI. Partnership Announcements

Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Delcalzo

- The CoC Executive Committee last met on November 17, 2022. The Advisory Board Committee (ABC) Chair, Alicia Alvarez, presented ABC’s newly formulated mission statement, governance charter, and membership registration form. The Executive Committee approved the 2023 Allocation calendar and 2023 Allocation Committee membership slate, the minutes from the May and September meetings, and the officers for 2023. Ashni Matthew from Monarch Housing Associates presented data, including the CoC system map, racial equity data, and Point in Time (PIT) Count findings from the 2022 Count. The Executive Committee will have an electronic vote at the end of December to approve the 2023 PIT methodology. CAS has approved three new members for positions on the Executive Committee effective January 1, 2023: Dominique Bordenabe, Clarence Curry, and Raquel Kooper.
- The next regular meeting of the EC is January 26, 2023. After the meeting, the lead agency will host a listening session for CoC-funded providers and community members. The December CoC leadership meeting and CoC office hours have been canceled.

XII. Public Comment – no comment

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Pawelczyk motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Oexle seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II