

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
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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
973326.7240

Division Director
Amy Archer
973-285-6852

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)
Tuesday, October 25, 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 5:15 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Jeffrey Bashe, Citizen Representative
Robert Armstrong, Citizen Representative
Teresa Connolly, Nourish NJ
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Kenneth 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
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources – Chair
Jane Shivas, Project Self-Sufficiency

Board Liaisons:

Allison Delcalzo, Atlantic Health, CoC Chair
Lenora Humphrey, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Sean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Christine Rivera, 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
Kasey Errico, Morris County Director Department of Human Services
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Department of Human Services

II. Approval of September 27, 2022, Minutes

Motion to approve September 27, 2022, meeting minutes as submitted made by Ms. Shivas and seconded by Ms. Csengeto. All were in favor with no opposition and four abstentions. Motion carried.

III. Chair Report

Ms. Sherrod announced that the New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) will be holding a virtual budget listening session on Thursday, November 3, 2022. In the past, the HSAC has submitted a letter providing recommendations and support but did not do so in 2021. Ms. Archer and Ms. Sherrod will draft a letter, distribute it to the HSAC for approval, and send it to NJ DHS for the listening session. Discussion ensued.

IV. New Jersey Department of Human Services – no report

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

Several members commented on the new spreadsheet that gives the numbers throughout the year. It is easy to see trends monthly and having the key to abbreviations clarifies the data collected.

Morris East

Criteria	September 2022
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	4
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	1
New	34
Reopens	53
Active	3
CPS	82
CWS	5
DV	26
SA	23
Homelessness	2
SPRU	26
Spanish Speaking	17
< 90-Day Re-opens	10

Morris West

Criteria	September 2022
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	0
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	0
New	37
Reopens	62
Active	4
CPS	94
CWS	9
DV	28
Sex Abuse	11
Homelessness/ Youth Homelessness	0
SPRU	19
Spanish Speaking	13
< 90-Day Re-opens	6
Substance Use	23
Child on-Child Sex Abuse	2

VI. Staff Reports

Human Services – Ms. Amy Archer

Ms. Archer announced JBWS, and The Morris Family Justice Center is hosting a domestic violence awareness month event on Friday, October 28, 2022, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at 10 Court Street, Morristown, New Jersey.

Ms. Archer stated, Ms. Suarez, Morris County Addiction Coordinator may attend the November meeting to begin discussions related to prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery support services as part of the County Comprehensive Plan process. Part of the plan is to look at what we are currently doing and what is working and identify gaps and barriers and discuss how we can close these gaps.

The Morris County Youth Services Coordinator, Ms. Jessica Mondino, has been doing a lot of community outreach lately. Bringing the Youth Services programs in the County to light, for those that might not know what programs are available; Firesetter, Cyberbullying, and Sexting just to name a few. If you would like more information about these programs or others that are offered, please contact Ms. Archer for more information.

At the last Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board (MHASAB) meeting, the need for translation of services documents into other languages besides English and Spanish was discussed. Discussion ensued.

Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – no report

Workforce Development Board – no report

VII. Subcommittee Reports

Child Care – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod - Chair

- State of Child Care in Morris County
 - Total number of Registered Family Care Center (FCC) Providers as of September is 35 with 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, 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 the 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
 - Phase 1 is to launch in the next month with \$15 million in grants to licensed childcare centers statewide. Phase 1 of the Child Care Facilities Improvement Pilot Program will launch this summer and will make grants between \$50,00 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 and toilets.

Planning – Workplace Task Force – Mr. Joseph Pawelczyk – Vice-Chair

- The Workplace Task Force met on October 17, 2022, to assess the data obtained from the interviews and then discuss its recommendations. The task force discussed and thought through the next steps and what could be accomplished going forward.
 - Key concerns learned about clients
 - They are experiencing more frequent and more severe trauma

- There is an increase in:
 - Presenting in crisis
 - Demand for mental health services
 - Substance abuse
 - Number of 911 calls to psychiatric emergency services
 - Key items learned about how the staff is fairing
 - Feeling burnt out or unwell
 - Generally, there is not an increase in absenteeism
 - Generally, there is no decrease in work output
 - More are sharing mental health concerns
 - Clinical staff seem to have a higher rate of burnout than in the past while lower-level positions are consistent with the past
- With a series of measures, organizations have been proactive in supporting and validating their staff. Support comes in the form of team-building sessions, raises, work-from-home, and flexible schedules.
 - Specific training needs from the interviews include:
 - Crisis intervention
 - Domestic violence
 - Child abuse recognition
 - Higher level drug recognition
 - Conflict resolution
 - Trauma-informed care
 - NARCAN
 - Impact of trauma/vicarious trauma
 - Boundaries
 - People management – a higher level of skill and knowledge to meet staff expectations
 - Thoughts on training formats:
 - If virtual, smaller is preferred to be more interactive
 - In-person would permit face-to-face connections
 - Alternate virtual with in-person
- After the interviews, observations, and suggestions were explored to learn what could be a possible outcome to achieve the task force goal to deliver existing and available resources to organizations immediately. The following thoughts are offered for further consideration.
 - Hold a one-hour session with organization leadership (CEO, CFO, COO, Program Directors) in January 2023 to share what we heard, why they should sign on as a participant, and explain the program components
 - Organizations would sign on to do the training
 - Explore offering CEUs for the training
 - Training modules offered in 2023 (combination synchronous and asynchronous, offered by free consultants and agency staff who have expertise in each area) and with a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) lens:
 - Safety

- De-escalation
- Active assailant
- Trauma
 - Vicarious trauma
 - Grief & Loss
- Client and Staff Experience
 - Agency & Staff Culture (pay equity)
 - Best practices on the client experience/engagement
 - Trauma-informed care

Legislative – Homeless Trust Fund

Ms. Errico stated Commissioner DeFillippo has met with the County subcommittee and Human Services staff. At this time talks continue about what the next steps will be. As more information becomes available it will be shared with the HSAC.

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

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

- From the July 25th Meeting
 - Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) priority populations (those who are at the highest risk for HIV transmission) are
 - LGBTQ+ community
 - Men having sex with men (MSM) of color, including young men having sex with men (YMSM)
 - Transgender people
 - People who inject drugs
 - Hispanic/Latina people
 - Non-Hispanic, Black African Americas aged 25-34 years old
 - People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) aged 45+ years old
 - Chair Kelly Martins reiterated that this year’s overarching goal is to ensure that all providers and community members are aware of the importance of these priority populations. The goal is to develop a working best practice model among the collaborative that ensures a trauma-informed, welcoming approach in which we target these high risks communities and work to get them into care and treatment.
 - A Syringe Access & Harm Reduction Presentation was moderated by Georgett Watson, COO, of South Jersey AIDS Alliance. According to HIV.GOV: “People who inject drugs remain at significant risk for getting HIV.” Harm Reduction Centers (HRC), also known as Syringe Access Programs (SAP), are community-based programs that provide a safe and welcoming space for people who use drugs to access sterile syringes, needles, injection equipment, and life-saving drug naloxone, along with education on safer use, overdose prevention and safe disposal of used equipment. NJ Pharmacies are permitted by law to sell 10 syringes to customers who can show through a valid photo ID or evidence accepted by the Pharmacist that they are over 18 years old. This is a voluntary

program and not all pharmacies sell syringes without a prescription. There are currently seven HRCs locations in New Jersey: Newark, Paterson, Jersey City, Camden, Trenton, Asbury Park, and Atlantic City.

- The Family Health Center of Morristown Medical Center, also known as the Ryan White Center, has changed its department from HIV Counseling Testing Referral Center to Sexual Health Center headed by Allison Delcalzo-Berens. The Sexual Health Center continues to have HIV testing and counseling walk-in hours and is not a vaccine location.
- Zufall Health Center has opened a new ID Clinic in West Orange providing ID services with expanded hours. This had doubled Zufall's team for HIV Services/ Ryan White Services. Zufall has Morris County locations in Dover and Morristown.
- From the September 20th Meeting
 - Courtney Sartain MPH, Public Health Epidemiologist, Warren County NJ Health Department announced that Sussex County has determined to end its involvement with the Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee. The HIV Advisory Committee has determined that the next step is to better engage Sussex County service providers and consumers with research on potential providers to invite.
 - The Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee has had bylaws reviewed with draft revisions.
 - Catholic Charities Hope House's 50th anniversary was celebrated on September 23rd. Hope House has been a pioneer for HIV/AIDS services in Morris County.
 - EDGE NJ announced that Care subscription boxes are available. Clients can receive a box full of assorted hygiene, household, clothing, and other products.
 - The United States Conference on HIV/AIDS (USCHA) 2022 was held in Puerto Rico, October 8-11, 2022. This year's theme: Fighting For Our Lives.
 - The 24th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2022) was held in Montreal, Canada, and Virtually, July 29-August 2, 2022. This year's theme: Re-gage and Follow the Science.
 - For World AIDS Day on December 1st, EDGE NJ is opening an exhibit in their new Art Gallery featuring the works of Robert Armstrong and Ronald Ritzie. The exhibit will be up for six months at EDGE NJ, 295 E Main St, Denville. You are cordially invited.
 - The next virtual meeting of the Morris-Sussex-Warren HIV Advisory Committee is scheduled for November 15, 2022, at 1:00 pm.

Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Committee (MHASAB) – Ms. Csengeto

- **Presentation** – Mr. Ray Freaney, Rotary Club of Madison, District 7475
Mr. Freaney has been in the Rotary for 27 years and was District Governor from 2019-2020. He spent 17 years in the Phillipsburg Rotary and the past 10 years with Madison. As of July 1, 2022, he started a cause-based club, the Rotary Club of Mental Health Advocates. The goal is to partner, collaborate, and support

organizations and agencies dedicated to mental health and SUD. They meet twice monthly via Zoom and will plan to do as many presentations as possible in person.

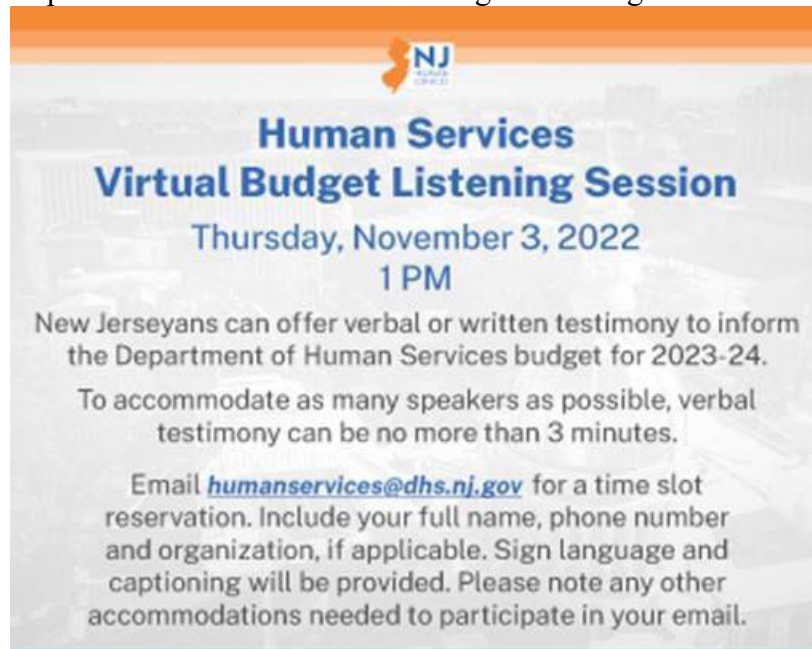
- **Chair Report** – Mr. Chernick

The voting members held an emergency meeting to vote on the 2023 Grant In Aid and Chapter 51 Funding. Thank you to the Board and our funding coordinators for your participation in reviewing and approving the funding recommendations.

- The State of New Jersey wants public input on how the opioid settlement funds should be used. The Portal will be open for CY2023 submissions from August 31 – October 31, 2022.

https://www.nj.gov/opioidfunds/?utm_campaign=20220902_nwsltr&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdeliver

- Narcan information: Emergent Solutions (Narcan vendor) can supply schools and colleges with free Narcan Kits. Please see attached flyer for more information
- Department of Human Services Budget Listening Session



- **Municipal Alliance Coordinator** – Mr. Nebesni
 - The award letters for the supplemental and the DMHAS funding have been mailed out.
- **Mental Health Administrator** – Ms. Archer
 - We are currently working through the funding process throughout the County. We are looking at ways to improve our application for next year. More discussion will take place in the next several months.
- **General Announcements**
 - There was a hearing for an increase in Medicaid reimbursement for in-person adult behavioral health partial care and substance use disorder treatment by a substantial amount. The bill number is A3792. This would be an increase in payment to those providing these services.

- There is Assembly Bill number A2286 that will eliminate certain practice restrictions for advanced practice nurses. During the pandemic, Governor Murphy passed Executive Order #112, which waived the requirement to practice in collaboration with a psychiatrist to provide primary care and specialty care services. Thus, filling the gap between mental health professionals in New Jersey by providing services to vulnerable populations.
- The proposal for New Jersey school-based youth services programs funding to be reduced in the budget. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) produced a concept paper, developing a statewide student support service, NJ4S, to be handled by 17 hubs to serve the 90+ school districts within the state. Additional information will be provided.

Advisory Committee on Women – no report

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Ms. Mondino

- There was a discussion around the NJ4S network plan to replace School Based Youth Program. Kasey Errico read over the commissioner's notes on the new Hub and Network system plan. A discussion followed on how this will look for Morris and what concerns we may have. The YSAC committee would like to have someone from the state speak to the committee and help address the concerns we have around the network. This will be an ongoing discussion through the next few months at YSAC and other youth-serving meetings.
- DCF announced that they will be having a newborn visiting program which is a program where nurses will be visiting homes to make sure families have everything they need once they are home from the hospital with their newborns. There will also be a cultural and linguistic competence component. Mrs. Errico also discussed the opioid settlement money that the state has received – they are looking to fund 2 programs – a pediatric training for screening for pediatricians' earlier identification of substance use in youth; and a child trauma response concerning a child attached to someone who has overdosed.
- Neighborhood House has started a program called teen RAP - Resilience and Purpose open to all teens. They have also resumed open gym on Tuesdays from 6-8 at no cost to community alternates between soccer and basketball. They will most likely be adding a Sunday session soon.
- CMO community resource development dollars will be available again. Maria Augustowicz will send RFP out via Jessica Mondino after the holidays.
- Family Support Organization receiving a lot of phone calls from families looking for help with rental assistance.
- Deirdre's House is currently registering agencies for the Game of Life. They have several dates planned already - Dover Middle School on December 16: waiting on a February date, and Pequannock Middle School in April. They are hiring a 3rd full-time bilingual advocate. The annual Gala will be held on November 18.

Nominating Committee – Ms. Shivas

The nominating will convene to discuss the slate of officers and present the nominees to the HSAC at the November meeting to prepare for a vote in January.

IX. Partnership Announcements

Continuum of Care (CoC) – no report

X. Public Comment – no comment

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Pawelczyk made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Bashe seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II