

**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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**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)**  
**Tuesday, September 27, 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 5:17 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

**Board Members:**

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative  
Joann Bjornson, Family Promise of Morris County  
Teresa Connolly, Nourish NJ  
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative  
David Johnston, Deirdre O'Brien Child Advocacy Center  
Kenneth Oxle, Citizen Representative  
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, North Jersey Health Collaborative  
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative – Vice-Chair  
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources – Chair

**Board Liaisons:**

Jane Armstrong, Workforce Development Board  
Allison Delcalzo, Atlantic Health  
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  
Nelson Troche, New Jersey Department of Human Services  
Kara Vincelli, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency

**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  
Christine Hellyer, Morris County Division on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans  
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Department of Human Services

**Others in Attendance:**

Kayla Gieger, Child & Family Resources

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

Motion to approve the May 24, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted made by Mr. Pawelczyk, Vice-Chair, and seconded by Mr. Bashe. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

**Approval of June 28, 2022, Minutes**

Motion to approve the June 28, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted made by Mr. Pawelczyk, Vice-Chair, and seconded by Ms. Csengeto. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

**III. Action Item: Closed Session – Vote**

**2023 HSAC GIA, SSH, & Navigating Hope Funding Recommendations**

Ms. Sherrod, Chair, asked that anyone in conflict with Grant Funding and anyone from the public leave the call. Ms. Archer read the Morris County Conflict of Interest statement and the following people left the meeting call: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Bjornson, Ms. Delcalzo, Ms. Fodali, Ms. Hellyer, Ms. Humphrey, Mr. Johnston, Mr. McGinnis, Ms. Rivera, Ms. Sherrod, Mr. Troche, Ms. Vincelli, Ms. Gieger. The motion to close the general meeting was made by Ms. Csengeto and seconded by Mr. Bashe. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting under P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meeting Act at 5:20 pm.

Return to Meeting

The meeting was reopened at 6:02 pm. The following people reentered the call: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Bjornson, Ms. Delcalzo, Ms. Fodali, Ms. Hellyer, Ms. Humphrey, Mr. Johnston, Mr. McGinnis, Ms. Rivera, Ms. Sherrod, Mr. Troche, Ms. Vincelli, Ms. Gieger.

Action Resulting from Closed Session

Mr. Pawelczyk, the Vice-Chair, stated the Program Review Subcommittee met, reviewed, and provided recommendations for the 2023 HSAC GIA, SSH, and Navigating Hope applications for Funding. The record reflects that the board voted to approve the funding recommendations presented in the closed session. We need a motion in an open session on the same. Ms. Connelly motioned to approve the recommendations as discussed in the closed session, and Mr. Bashe seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion Carried.

**IV. Chair Report**

The Nominating Committee will meet in November to discuss the 2023 Chair and Vice-Chair nominees. Please submit your nominations to Ms. Archer at [aarcher@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:aarcher@co.morris.nj.us) or Ms. Hess at [ahess@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:ahess@co.morris.nj.us). Please keep in mind that Ms. Sherrod will be on maternity leave starting March 2023.

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

The department has been active, attending outdoor festivals and various events, and reconnecting with our communities.

The Commissioner has begun working on the budget and is close to announcing a budget hearing date.

**VI. New Jersey Department of Children and Families  
Division of Child Protection and Permanency**

Morris East Local Office

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>August 2022</b>
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	2
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	4
New	18
Reopens	39
Active	10
CPS	63
CWS	8
DV	21
SA	23
Homelessness	2
SPRU	10
Spanish Speaking	19
< 90 Day Re-opens	3

Morris West Local Office

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>August 2022</b>
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	0
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	3
New	49
Reopens	44
Active	7
CPS	83
CWS	10
DV	36
Sex Abuse	3
Homelessness/ Youth Homelessness	2
SPRU	21
Spanish Speaking	13
< 90 Day Re-opens	1
Substance Use	26
Child on Child Sex Abuse	0

**VII. Staff Reports**

**Human Services – Ms. Archer**

Ms. Archer thanked those that attended the Overdose Awareness Day event held on August 31<sup>st</sup> at the Human Services building in Morris Plains. Thank you to Ms. Suarez, the Addictions Coordinator, for organizing the event, it was a success.

The rollout of 988, a nationwide three-digit dialing code for Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention, began on July 16<sup>th</sup>. At the last Mental Health Administrators Statewide meeting it was stated there was a 45% response increase nationally and a 41% increase at the state level. This number can text, chat, or speak directly to a counselor, possibly contributing to the increase in responses from last year's stats.

There was a past discussion on the HOME-ARP Funding. The Office of Community Development received \$3 million for HOME "type" funding. There were stakeholder meetings held earlier this year, and the department is working closely with our

consultants to analyze the gaps in Morris County and the changes to the HUD process for these funds. More information to follow.

All site monitoring has been completed.

**Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Hellyer**

Veterans:

Pleased to announce, Andrew Cornwallis, Joined the Staff as a Veteran Service Officer (VSO), and completed his training course in the first week of his employment. We also welcome Jason Leffler as a part-time VSO, who started last week and will complete his training later this year.

Nutrition:

Twelve of the fourteen sites are open for seniors to eat and congregate.

MAPS:

We recently became aware of a transportation program, “Ride United Transportation Access”. It is a partnership between United Way Worldwide and NJ 2-1-1. It provides up to 3 free or discounted round trip rides via LYFT for all NJ residents 18 years of age and older in need of transportation services for the following: medical, employment, food, education, legal, housing, and financial services.

MAPS Public Hearing will be held, Thursday, October 12, 2022, at 10:00 am, at 1 Medical Drive.

Morris County has partnered with researchers from Rutgers Transportation on a project to draft the County’s Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP).

- Morris Moves Objective – Morris County CHSTP to support the continued development of an integrated and collaborative framework for providing human services transportation in the County
- What is a CHSTP – A Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirement for entities receiving federal funding for human services transportation un 49 U.S.C Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. CHSTP focuses on:
  - Identifying mobility needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, people with low incomes, and others
  - Providing strategies for meeting these needs
  - Prioritizing transportation services for funding and implementation
- Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, at the County Human Services Building is the listening session for the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

**Workforce Development Board – Ms. Armstrong**

ETS is the procured provider of services for the Morris Sussex Warren Workforce Development Board and this role provides services to adults, youth, and dislocated

workers. The flyers explain their services and should be distributed by committee members to their clients. We also collect ETS performance data such as numbers served.

- Employment Resources – Text MSW to 973.834.6955
  - Job Leads
  - Free Training
  - Career Support Services
  - Youth Services
  - Literacy Resources
  - Unemployment Information
- Free Career Training – To learn more and to check eligibility call 973.285.6880
  - Medical Assistant
  - CDL
  - HVAC
  - Project Management
- Free Classes – To Register or for more information, call 862.505.4494 or 862.505.4766
  - Workforce Computer Skills
  - English as a Second Language
- Virtual Work Readiness Services – Contact 973.285.6880 and Reference “WORK READINESS SERVICES”
  - Exclusively for Clients Receiving
    - General Assistance (GA)
    - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
    - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Services are Focused on 4 Areas of Success
    - Work Readiness
    - Resume Writing
    - Job Search
    - Interviewing
- Are you 16-24 Years Old? – You May Be Eligible to Receive a Federal Training Grant of up to \$5,000. Call or text 973.796.4116 today and speak with a Supervising Employment Specialist or email [Kimberly.Johnson2@dol.nj.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Johnson2@dol.nj.gov) or visit us at [www.msw-jobtraining.org](http://www.msw-jobtraining.org)
  - Program Offerings
    - Instruction & Tutoring Leading to a High School Diploma
    - Job Skills Training for Demand Occupations (i.e., Healthcare, IT, Trades)
    - Paid and Unpaid Work Experience
    - Mentoring/Job Readiness Assistance
    - On-the-Job Training
    - Support Services
  - Employment Barriers
    - Basic Skills Deficient in Reading, Math, and/or Language
    - High School Dropout
    - Pregnant or Parenting

- Offender (Juvenil Justice)
- Homeless, Runaway, or Forster Child
- Lack of Skills Needed for Today's Job Market

**VIII. Old Business**

Mr. Bashe asked, "Is the County Commissioner Liaison or Alternate Liaison aware of when our meetings are being held and the request from the HSAC for their attendance at our meetings?" Ms. Errico stated, "They are aware of these meetings and will attend when schedules allow for it." Ms. Sherrod suggested the HSAC wait for the County Commissioner Reorganization Meeting in January, to make a new request for either the HSAC Liaison or Alternate Liaison to attend our meetings. Giving a fresh start to both the new HSAC members and County Commissioners. Discussion ensued.

**IX. New Business – no comment**

**X. Partnership Announcements**

**Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Delcalzo**

The CoC's July meeting was canceled. The last meeting was on September 22. The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the adoption of the Advisory Board Committee (ABC) as an ad hoc committee. The EC Chair will designate a chair for the new committee as well as a request mission statement. The Executive Committee reviewed the collaborative application to HUD in preparation for the deadline of September 30.

The next regular meeting of the EC is November 17. Providers and community members are invited to participate in office hours if they have specific questions or discussion points for members of EC leadership. The next office hours are scheduled for October 27.

Lived Experience Advisory Board

The Morris Advisory Board Committee (ABC) has met with members of the Morris Executive Committee and has also met with members of other advisory boards across the state. ABC members have worked on their mission and vision statement and policies and procedures and are reviewing policies related to CE.

Permanent Housing

Meeting on 9/29/22 for the next steps in Implementation Plans for the Strategic Planning Goals assigned to the Permanent Housing Committee.

Data Governance

2 Data Governance Committee Meetings; 1 "Office Hours" session over the summer with individual agencies, HMFA, Monarch, and committee co-chairs.

Coordinated Entry Leadership

CE Leadership is utilizing the help of Data Governance to modify CE discharge procedures; CE Leadership is working on levels of engagement for CE partnerships; case

conferencing committees are now piloting client de-identification during meetings; several new Housing Authorities have joined the CE system (Madison and Dover); most MOUs and confidentiality pledges have been received with a "final call" in the process; identification of a new chair for the prevention committee is in process.

#### Community Assistance Services (CAS)

June 14: CAS Committee and workgroups met

July: Provider Resource Committee - canceled

August: CAS Committee - canceled

September 14: Provider Resource Committee met

September 16: Community Resource Networking Event

#### Strategic Planning Committee

3rd quarter meeting is in early September. Implementation teams submitted preliminary implementation plans. Review teams met to prepare recommendations and comments on implementation plans.

#### Nominating Committee

The committee is preparing the ballot for the 2023 CoC Executive Committee roster and is accepting nominations for Chair (2-year term), Vice Chair (1-year interim term), and Secretary (2-year term).

#### Allocations

The CoC application and budget will be posted on September 27. The Allocation Committee released project monitoring scores in August and will be releasing project narrative feedback in January 2023, followed by debriefing sessions on the 2022 allocations process.

## **XI. Subcommittee Reports**

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

#### State of Child Care in Morris County

- Total number of Registered FCC Providers in September is 35 with 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 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 childcare facilities improvement pilot program to strengthen the vital sector and support working families
  - Phase 1 to launch in the next month with \$15 million in grants to Licensed Childcare Centers statewide.
  - Phase 1 of the Childcare Facilities Improvement Pilot Program will launch this summer and 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 Update** – Mr. Pawelczyk, Vice-Chair

The Workplace Task Force focused on the issues being experienced in the workplace. In general, providers generally referred to an array of issues being experienced in the workplace by their staff and those served as trauma.

The task force members met several times over the summer to define its purpose and goals, and then began conversations with several non-profits. Members of the Workplace Task Force from HSAC are Joann Bjornson (Family Promise), Terry Connolly (Nourish NJ), and Joe Pawelczyk (Citizen Representative) with the assistance of Kelly Martins (EDGE) and Diane Williams (JBWS) because of their expertise in trauma-informed training, etc. Ms. Martins has recently agreed to serve on the task force.

Purpose Statement

The task force is to address trauma related to local/regional/world events affecting our staff and those served by Morris County non-profits.

Goals

Task force goals are:

- Safety of both staff and clients
- Help frontline staff (including clerical, receptionist, etc.) understand their trauma responses and those of the clients coming to their organization. Provide resources for them to process their trauma and training to understand how to respond
- Reduction of violent episodes (to self, to staff)
- Create timely responses for a major event of the client community

The task force is discussing how it could achieve its goals. A framework is evolving and will become clear when the interview data is fully analyzed. What seems to be evolving is:

- Staff:
  - Training on trauma – their own and clients
  - Provide ongoing resources

- Those served:
  - Grief and loss – acknowledgment, validation, information
  - Workshops
  - Regular suicide screenings
  - Safe spaces
  - Healthy eating, rest, exercise
- Training
  - Use our local non-profits organizations

The method to move forward was to have one-on-one conversations rather than meet in large groups.

### Questionnaire

For conversations with non-profits, a questionnaire was developed to get input data. The questions for the non-profits were:

- 1) Have you seen a change in clients' presenting with:
  - a) Trauma-related concerns?
  - b) Increased mental health concerns? Increased substance abuse?
  - c) Increased frustration, self-harm, aggression, or violence?
  - d) Grief or loss?

How have you addressed this, and what would you recommend to other organizations experiencing the same issues?
- 2) How are your staff faring?
  - a) Staff self-reports of feeling burnt out/unwell?
  - b) Increased absenteeism?
  - c) Decreased work output?
  - d) Mental health concerns? Physical concerns?
  - e) Have you noticed a different impact on clinical vs. non-clinical staff?

How have you addressed this, and what would you recommend to other organizations experiencing the same issues?
- 3) Do you have training needs?
- 4) Do you have training resources/trainers/expertise you can share with others?
- 5) Do you have suggestions for training formats that would work well for your staff?  
(In person, virtual, on-demand, etc.)
- 6) Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

### Current Status

We are almost done with the initial interviews. To date, nine interviews have been completed. The summary theme of the interviews:

- Across the board there is increased mental health and substance use in clients.
- Staff burnout seems to be directly impacted by the culture of the organization. Employees who feel validated and supported by the administration are faring well, those who are not are experiencing health and mental health concerns. There does not seem to be a difference between clerical and front-line staff.
- The training was requested on crisis intervention and de-escalation techniques.

Many organizations have the expertise they can share via training.

#### Next Steps

- Complete the interviews
- Review the raw data
- Put together the best practices
- Develop the final approach
- Report at the next meeting

**Legislative Update** – no report

## **XII. Advisory Committee Reports**

**Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory** – no report

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

State Liaison Report

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

*Prevention Services for LGBTQ Youth in NJ Middle or High Schools-*

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for Prevention Services for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered or Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) youth in New Jersey middle or high schools. Funding for services will be provided by the Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Total annualized funding is \$450,000, subject to Federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making two \$225,000 awards - one in the central and another in the state's southern region, as indicated below. DMHAS currently funds a program that serves LGBTQ youth in northern New Jersey.

*Community Peer Recovery Center*

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to expand regional Community Peer Recovery Centers (CPRC) to Mercer and Salem counties. The CPRC will be a place where individuals can access peer support, information about substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, recovery support services, and other community resources in a supportive substance-free environment. This RFP is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response to Grants (SOR) funding. The SOR grant funding period is through September 29, 2022; however, other funding sources may be available depending on federal appropriations. Contracts are intended to be for one year. Total funding is \$200,000, subject to federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to two (2) awards for \$100,000 each. The CPRC will ensure that the services provided ensure diversity, inclusion, equity, and cultural and linguistic competence to the target population.

*The NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Division of Housing and Community Resources, has released a Recovery Housing RFP for developing Temporary Housing opportunities for individuals in recovery from a SUD.*

The purpose of the Recovery Housing Program (RHP) is to assist units of local government and nonprofit organizations in providing safe, supportive, and stable temporary housing for individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder for 18-24 months.

The funding will create at least three new recovery houses through rehabilitation or acquisition. The housing will be in one of the following counties: Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Monmouth, or Ocean. Please use this link to SAGE to access the [Recovery Housing 2023](https://dcasage.intelligrants.com/RFPMAILINGREQUEST_LIST.ASP) RFP: [https://dcasage.intelligrants.com/RFPMAILINGREQUEST\\_LIST.ASP](https://dcasage.intelligrants.com/RFPMAILINGREQUEST_LIST.ASP)

#### Municipal Alliance Coordinator

Mr. Nebesni reported that they are halfway finished closing out Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. FY 2023 is underway.

#### Addiction Services Coordinator

Ms. Suarez stated she had received the award letter for the Chapter 51 funding.

Overdose Awareness Day turned out to be a beautiful event. Mark and Maria Broadhurst, founders of Joshua's Peace, [www.joshuaspeace.org](http://www.joshuaspeace.org), Long Valley residents, who lost their son Josh to accidental overdose, shared their story. Everyone that attended received a purple ribbon pin, the trees had purple ribbons around them, and we had 85 purple flags representing the lives lost in Morris County in 2021.

Prevention is Key will be hosting a Harm Reduction Legislative Breakfast on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, to discuss the value of harm reduction and strategies throughout New Jersey.

#### Mental Health Administrator

Ms. Archer stated are in the process of completing our site monitoring for mental health and substance use. We asked our providers, "are you seeing an increase in mental health services with a link to the legalization of marijuana?" Providers have reported increased anxiety and depression, and patients are admitting to using marijuana. Still, it is too early to determine whether there is a link between two. It was also reported that many people use street marijuana because of the cost. Discussion ensued.

Modivcare was the other issue the site monitoring brought to light. As we have reported, Modivcare, formerly known as Logisticare, a non-emergency medical transportation provider funded through the state Medicaid contract, is still not getting residents to their appointments on time, not picking up after appointments, or not picking up at all. Our providers that attend state meetings with this vendor state the vendor is having staffing issues due to Covid, but these have been ongoing issues before the pandemic. Ms.

Archer stated that this could be an area of interest for the Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee.

### **Advisory Committee on Women – no report**

### **Youth Services Advisory Committee – Mr. Johnston** Presentations

Shanice Labeach from Arc Morris presented:

- Goal is to dedicate care, support, and advantages to people with I/DD and related disabilities and their families.
- Eligibility – individuals must be NJ residents and enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid.
- Two types of waivers - support waivers and community care waivers
- Two types of applications for DDD services – full and short – short are used for youth who have been determined eligible through DCF or perform care.
- Guardianship – in NJ, all individuals reach the legal age of maturity, which means parents can no longer make decisions on behalf of the child, two types of guardianship. general guardianship – full care of a child and limited guardianship – can choose what parents will be responsible for. Some families will sign guardianship over to agencies such as the ARC
- Arc Morris provides residential programs, “day hab” day programs, recreation, aftercare, and weekend respite programs. Expanding services
- 18 group homes, three supervised apartments, and one respite home
- Dayhab – day program m-f 8:30-2:30
- Mcgarp – m-f 5:30-7:30 community-based rec and leisure program
- More information <https://arcmorris.org/>

### General Announcements

- Maria Augustowicz - CMO funded two programs through community development funding – both geared towards LGBTQ youth – Kaleidoscope through Center for Family Services- youth ages up to 18, groups, and statewide hotline. Edge NJ will have a mentoring program for youth up to age 21.
- Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro from CFS- Kaleidoscope program – Morris Sussex – community base GSA strives to have youth lead meetings in a safe, supportive environment. We will collaborate with Neighborhood house in Morris and CPC in Sussex county. Hoping to launch in October.
- Loren Toto - promising path to success. Two programs have been interviewing CIACC members looking for volunteers. Here is more information about how the CIACCs fit into our evaluation: <https://go.rutgers.edu/jbdkbjfi>. Contact information: Loren Toto [lg410@ssw.rutgers.edu](mailto:lg410@ssw.rutgers.edu)
- Patricia Houston FSO – Currently looking for family support partners. Continuing to host support groups, youth partnerships, and NHA - <https://familypartnersms.org/>

**XIII. Public Comment** – no comment

**XIV. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II