

**MORRIS COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING,
DISABILITIES & VETERANS
1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains, NJ 07950
Meeting**

November 14, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matthew Adamczyk
Barbara Anderson
James Cavanaugh
Emerson Crooks
Robert Hughes
Joseph Leal
Thomas Mazzaccaro
Jean Perlman
Anthony Romano

STAFF PRESENT

Bertha Cornego-More
Christine Hellyer
Pat Petrillo
Maria Pilone-Metz
Maria Rosario
Sharon Yoo

GUESTS

Judith Leal

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:19 P.M. by Matt Adamczyk, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and passed to accept and approve the minutes of September 12, 2019.

Motion: Tom Mazzaccaro

Joe Leal

Chairperson's Report- Matt Adamczyk

The nominating committee met on September 12th, the following members was nominated for Chairperson and Co-Chairperson for 2020.

Chairperson: Matthew Adamczyk

Co-Chairperson: Loretta White

Staff Reports-

Director of Aging, Disabilities, and Community

Programming – Christine Hellyer

The **Dignity in Aging Act of 2019** would extend the Older American's Act (OAA) for five years was voted unanimously by the House of Representatives. It is now up to the Senate to **act** on **OAA** reauthorization.

Giving Americans the support they need to live at home with independence and dignity has always been a bedrock goal of OAA, and it has been remarkably successful.

While Sept. 30 this act expired for reauthorizing the Older Americans Act, if Congress fails to make a move that doesn't mean that funding for programs like Meals on Wheels and caregiver supports will be cut off immediately. Historically, Congress has provided money for such programs even when the reauthorizations have lagged behind.

This is our *Agency's Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming*, largest funding source. The programs it funds are:

- Our staff for *Social Services, Care Management and Adult Protective Services*.
- *Nutrition* program receives funding from OAA.
- *Provider's* that this *Council* recommended in *August* also come from this funding source.

The *Affordable Care Act* open enrollment for *Non-Medicare* recipient's open enrollment is open until Dec 15th, and open enrollment for *Medicare* is open until December 7th.

This week is *New Jersey Snap Awareness Week* (formerly Food Stamps). It now comes in the form of an EBT card (similar to debit card). The application for *SNAP*, automatically enrolls client in home energy assistance programs. We do recognize that there are many eligible seniors throughout the State.

The website is: www.njsnap.gov

They have made the application easier to apply: in person, online or through the mail. I will have this e-mailed to each member by next week.

Barbara asked if this form is included in the package available that enrolls client in numerous programs?

Christine No, that's *NJ Save* available through *PAAD and Senior Gold* application.

Tom asked how is the information being distributed throughout the community?

Christine replied this information is currently distributed via radio, t.v., newspapers and for you the committee and council members to bring it back to your fellow members.

Morris County has *Navigating Hope* (the sister of *Hope One*) is partnered with Office of Temporary Assistance & Family Promise. The goal is for them to visit all municipalities throughout *Morris County*, goes to shopping centers and senior citizens centers and has a case worker on board to assist with these applications. The *Navigating Hope* staff can also link clients to other *Providers* in *Morris County* for services.

Our Caregiver /Disability Coordinator present Public Awareness when they visit certain areas in the Community.

Tom M asked about the Senate bill **Senate No. 3725-** Permits self-verification of unearned income, household size, residency, identity, and shelter expenses on New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program application senior citizens.

He was advised this bill will be presented in the Legislative Review coming up shortly.

Christine offered to get the Council an update on this bill when available.

The 2020 Area Plan Contract grants were awarded in October and the 2020 Grant-in Aid grants awarded the end of this week.

In 2020 to meet Freeholder meeting deadlines with our official business, I am recommending to change our Advisory Council meeting to the first Thursday of the month, so we meet the first Freeholder's meeting of the month.

If this Council agrees to this change it will take effect February 6, 2020.

Council agreed.

Motion: Matt A./Robert H.

Office Reports-

Veteran's Report- Bertha Cornejo-More

See attached

ADRC- Maria Rosario

Information & Assistance and case management phone calls for September and October totaled 603 calls. Monthly calls listed below:

- September : 202
- October : 401

Nutrition- Christine Hellyer

The *Nutrition Project* provided the following number of meals:

August:

Congregate Meals	8,065
Home Delivered Meals	21,595
Weekend	1,895
Total	31,555

September:

Congregate Meals	6,995
Home Delivered Meals	18,770
Weekend	1,530
Total	27,297

October:

Congregate Meals	7,889
Home Delivered Meals	21,555
Weekend	1,530
Total	30,974

Legislative Review- Robert Hughes

The Committee met on Thursday October 10, 2019 and reviewed the following bills and recommend the endorsement of the ACADV:

Assembly No. 5303- Requires State employees to be trained in disability law and etiquette.

Senate No. 3725- Permits self-verification of unearned income, household size, residency, identity, and shelter expenses on New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program application for certain senior citizens.

The committee did not vote on the following bill presented, more information needed.

Senate 3663-Establishes "Military Pro Bono Program" to provide pro veterans of military.

Motion: Tom M./Anthony R.

Christine asked the Council if they preferred the Office reports prepared in excel format? Reply was yes.

Motion: Tom M./Robert H.

Planning/Program Review- Matt Adamczyk

The subcommittee met on October 10, 2019 and discussed what tool the agency should use in determining the priorities for 2020. A survey was recommended, samples of survey was given to the member who attend the meeting, committee will make a decision at the next meeting.

HSAC- Christine Hellyer

See attached

Providers- Christine Hellyer

The VNA of Somerset Hills announced they merged with Atlantic Health Systems. This is not the VNA of Northern New Jersey.

Morris County Office of Hispanic Affairs announced this is the first year they have not received funding for JCP&L clients.

We had the following presentations yesterday at our meeting:

- *HomeSharing* (Jill Stein) is a service for people who want or need to share their homes for economic, service, or companionship reasons or who need help in finding affordable housing. Their goal is to match provider with home seekers so that both needs are met. See brochure
- *Reverse Mortgage* (Rick Schluter) to be eligible for a HECM reverse mortgage the homeowner and their property have to meet strict FHA criteria:
 - Federally insured FDA loans
Example of new calculations are: The homeowners age minus twenty-five. So, an example would be an 80 year old can only borrow 55% value of the home. A 65 year old can only take 40% value of the home.

- Must be 62 years of age or older
- Home must be primary residence
- Equity in home must be sufficient
- Income/and or assets must be sufficient to pay property tax, homeowners insurance, association fees, and basic maintenance.
- Owe nothing to the government
- Competent to complete FHA mandated independent counseling.
- Monies received in the following form:
 - ✓ Lump sum
 - ✓ Monthly payments
 - ✓ Line of credit
 - ✓ Or a combination of the 3 above

If you plan to leave your home within two to five years this is not good for you.

New Business:

MAPS Paratransit Program that services our elderly and disabled population will be soon undergo some changes in December and early first quarter 2020.

- All vehicles will be equipped with *Ecolane* tablets, a change in our software program.
- This will increase real time scheduling and completing efficiency of all trips.
- Ability to make reservations from one week to three days before trip.
- There will be a pick up time window of twenty minutes at 9:00-9:20 am.
They must be ready at 9am even though pick up might be 9:15 am. Driver will enforce the wait period of four minutes only, and then move on to next client. And, then that client will be put on will call schedule, this will assist us increasing ridership trips.
- Future focus on scheduling and cancelling trips by client
- Eventually include recreational trips to supermarkets, nutrition services, malls, by the end of 2020 instead of just medical and employment trips.
- Accountability of drivers and vehicles and more accurate grant reporting
- Provide will calls for return of medical appointments.
- It will increase ridership and trips.

Public Comments:

Closed Session

Adjournment: 2:15pm

Motion: Robert H./Joseph L.

Planning/Program Review-

Providers- Christine Hellyer

New Business- Christine Hellyer

We are going to see changes in MAPS in 2020. We are installing tablets in our vehicles from Ecolane, that will enhance our transportation service in Morris County. We will be able to schedule rides from one week in advance to three days.

Announcements-

Adjournment: 1:27 pm

Motion: Anthony Romano/Barbara Anderson