

**MORRIS COUNTY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING,  
DISABILITIES & VETERANS  
340 West Hanover Avenue, Ground Floor,  
Morris Township  
Minutes, ACADV  
Meeting**

**September 12, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**STAFF PRESENT**

Amy Archer  
Shawna Bailey  
Ken Brenzel  
Fay Campbell  
Christine Hellyer  
Pat Petrillo  
Maria Rosario  
Jennifer Van Natta  
Sharon Yoo

**GUESTS**

Faith Scott

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 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 June 13, 2018

**Motion: *Emerson Crooks*  
*Matt Adamczyk***

## **Chairperson's Report- Matt Adamczyk**

I would like to begin with a moment of silence honoring those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Advisory Council members are needed for the Nominating Committee to nominate a slate of officers for the 2020 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

Anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee can contact Maria Rosario.

## **Staff Reports-**

### **Director of Aging, Disabilities, and Community**

#### **Programming – Christine Hellyer**

- Introduced Sharon Yoo, the new Director of Human Services to the Council.
- Laurie Becker, Director, Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services will retire on September 30, 2019. *Amy Archer* formerly of Office of Temporary Assistance, will replace her, she has been with the County since 2007 serving in many areas.  
*Sharon Yoo* added in addition to being the Director, *Amy* will also be the Mental Health Administrator
- We are currently processing 2020 Funding, the *Area Plan Contract* grants will be finalized no later than October 23, 2109. The *Grant-in-Aid* funding will be done in conjunction with the other GIA funding later in the fall. This is the first year the grants are being done separately, because we are doing a true RFP for *APC* grants, the way they should have been done previously. We hope next year to have them completed together.
- We will hold an *Executive* meeting following this meeting, to review the funding process. We can't discuss the awards openly, until they are granted by the freeholder.
- The 2020 *Area Plan Contract* our *Department* receives from the *State of NJ* is being worked on now. We generally receive 2.5 million dollars and we award \$960,000 to the Providers form the *Older American's Act*. This is a 3 year cycle we are reapplying for, due October 15, 2019.
- September 17, 2019 at 6pm will be the next *Commander Summit Meeting*, after the summer hiatus. All are welcome to attend. RSVP is needed, a light dinner served.
- *VA Munch & Learn* will be held October 15, 2019 at 6pm here at 340 West Hanover Ave., and the guest speaker will be David Brimmer, a VA outreach coordinator doing a presentation.  
*Ken* added it's for *VA Healthcare*.

## **Office Reports-**

### **Veteran's Report- Ken Brenzel**

924 Veteran related telephone calls made/received.

2,115 Veteran issue related emails sent/received.

110 Faxes Sent

139 Office visits with veterans, re: VA Claims, various social issues/problems.

119 VA Claims or Intent to File Claims, VA forms, records requests submitted.

49 referrals made.

14 Off-Site: Training, meetings (committee, event, vet organization), out-reach.

3 Home Visits.

2 Medical Facility Visits

255 Veterans assisted up to the VA outpatient clinic.

826 Individual veterans assisted

***Attached see 2018 report to compare prior year activities.***

*Jim Cavanaugh* thanked committee for this attachment, but again requested an excel sheet, suggesting one sheet for the comparison.

*Emerson* are home visits is it for claims?

*Ken* Yes, for the disabled, elderly homebound veterans.

*Emerson* added if you know a veteran has issues with the VA, please let me know.

I'm on a committee at the VA hospital that takes complaints.

*Ken* added the vast majority of vets he assist with have good things to say about NJ VA healthcare. There are 2 sides: healthcare administration and benefits administration. The benefits side is in need of improvement.

*Tom* added he has a 73 year old veteran, \$1300 social security monthly, and works nights at a supermarket for \$250 per week, having legal/financial difficulties: credit card debt/alimony. I have tried *Legal Services* for assistance to no avail. And four different phone numbers and there is no assistance for him, *County or State*.

*Emerson* said *Jim Cavanaugh*, *Welcome Home Vets* can help with legal issues and offered his assistance also.

*Sharon Yoo* suggested the *Legal Services* has an income limit probably the reason they can't help him. The *Morris County Bar Association* they have lawyer referral line with sliding scale for income.

*Tom* replied this individual doesn't have the mental capacity to proceed with it.

*Christine* suggested to discuss this issue after the meeting.

### **ADRC- Maria Rosario**

Information & Assistance and case management phone calls for June, July and August, totaled 621 calls. Monthly calls listed below:

- June: 157
- July: 228
- August: 236

## **Nutrition- Christine Hellyer**

The Nutrition Project provided the following number of meals:

### **June:**

Congregate Meals	7,031
Home Delivered Meal	19,167
Weekend Meals	1,902
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,100</b>

### **July:**

Congregate Meals	7,894
Home Delivered Meals	21,695
Weekend	1,496
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,085</b>

### **August:**

Congregate Meals	8,065
Home Delivered Meals	21,595
Weekend	1,895
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,555</b>

Nutrition Program held their summer picnics at the congregate sites, they were successful events.

## **Committee Reports-**

### **Community Relations- Christine Hellyer**

The Community Relations Committee met on Thursday, July 11, 2019 to discuss ACADV issues/concerns which should be shared with the public.

1. The appointment of Jennifer Lange Jacobs, new Medicaid Director.
2. New Jersey ombudsman for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, Paul Aronsohn.
3. National Disability Institute offers affordable loans to New Jersey residents for assisted technology.

### **Legislative Review- Robert Hughes**

The Committee met on Thursday July 11, 2019 and reviewed the following bills and recommend the endorsement of the ACADV:

**Assembly No. 5316-** Requires Department of Consumer's Affairs(DCA) to establish county assistance programs aiding senior citizens in property tax lien foreclosure; require notification of certain county offices upon senior citizen property tax lien sale; requires collector to provide requested lien satisfaction within 7 days.

**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 153-** Proposes constitutional amendment to provide that disabled veterans may have served at any time in order to receive benefits provided by Constitution or by law.

**Senate No. 3616-** Provides that denial of services based on a person's disability or perceived disability by domestic violence shelters is unlawful discrimination.

**Motion: Jim Cavanaugh/Barbara Anderson**

## **Planning/Program Review-Loretta White**

### **Providers- Christine Hellyer**

- We had a guest speaker, Thomas A. Gillis, Partnership Specialist U.S. Census Bureau
  - It's important for all constituents to answer the Census, so that an accurate and correct count. This year it will be available via mail and online, and if you don't respond they will visit your home.
  - A variety of funding may be effected on how much we receive in the Community, by responding/non responding.

### **HSAC- Christine Hellyer**

- Legal Services Northwest Jersey (LSNWJ) along with Employment and Training Services are hosting a Service Provider Forum on October 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Academy. The forum is open to social services providers from Morris, Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon Counties. Light breakfast will be provided. The forum topics will be:
  - Housing & Tenant's Rights – Elliott Harris, Esq. LSNWJ;
  - Debt Collection - David Saltzman, Esq., LSNWJ;
  - Expungement – Scott Dranoff, Esq., LSNWJ; and
  - Career Services – NJ Dept. of Labor; MC One-Stop Career Center.
- New Jersey Department of Children & Families shared their Keeping Children & Families Safe, Healthy and Connected; CP&P 2018/2019 Practice Priorities listed below:
  - Leadership Development;
  - Plan of Safe Care;
  - Address Post-Reunification Maltreatment and Re-Entry To Placement;
  - Defining Resource Practice;
  - Strengthen Concurrent Planning Practice and Accountability; and
  - Strengthen NJ DCF's Statewide Focus on Understanding Practice and Promote a Culture that Prioritizes Family Engagement and Success.For further information go to <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/>
- New Jersey Community College is offering tuition free community college to recent high school graduates, returning students and working adults who have not earned a degree. The total household adjusted gross income cannot exceed \$65,000. Other rules and information are on their website. Apply now at your local county college at [www.njccc.org/ccog](http://www.njccc.org/ccog) or go to the Community College Opportunity Grant Details and Information website at <https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/ccog.aspx>.

## **Announcements-**

- *Christine* introduced *Faith Scott*, Visiting Nurse Association of Northern NJ, CEO. Our services include: home health aides, caregiver education, Adult Day care in Boonton, and mental health counseling.
- *Shawwna Bailey* announced our Agency has a 9 week free course and material, Stressbuster for Caregivers, has 2 1/2 hour class per week starting September 19, 2019, at 9:30am and 1pm. This is for caregivers tending to 60 and older clients through the OOA funding guidelines. Registration is required. This focus on caregiver's techniques they can do at home to increase their own wellness. If interested please call me. *Caregiver* stress is a nationwide concern facing the *Community* due to the increase of caregiving. *Christine* added this is an evidence based program nationwide and has been proven nationwide and tested to be effective. Also, caregiving is not only in the home, it can be distance: next town/state over, down the street, the financial aspect, checking in with home health aide.
- *Emerson* announced he is trying to get the Movable Viet Nam Wall to Morris County. It has been to all NJ Counties except Morris.
- The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) released an alarming report Friday showing that at least 60,000 veterans died by suicide between 2008 and 2017, with little sign that the crisis is abating despite suicide prevention being the VA's top priority.
- Although the total population of veterans declined by 18% during that span of years, more than 6,000 veterans died by suicide annually, according to the VA's 2019 *National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report*.

**Adjournment: 1:27 pm**

**Motion: Anthony Romano/Barbara Anderson**

**Next Meeting: November 14, 2019**

**1 Medical Drive**