

**MORRIS COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING, DISABILITIES &
VETERANS
Morris Township
November 3, 2022**

Members Present

Christina Brino
Debra Eckert-Casha
Emerson Crooks
Tom Mazzaccaro
Anthony Romano

Staff Present

Shawna Bailey
Kasey Errico
Christine Hellyer
Amy Keyishian
Jason Leffler
Patricia Petrillo
Maria Rosario
Jennifer Van Natta
Rhea Young

Guests

Director Tayfun Selen
Commissioner Deborah Smith
Kristen Carew

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm by *Tom Mazzaccaro*, the 2022 Chairman of the Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Christine did the roll call for Council and Staff members.

The approval of September 1, 2022, minutes, with minor edits.

Motion: C.B./E.C.

Tom thanked Commissioner Smith and Director Selen for attending today.

Chairperson's Report- Tom Mazzaccaro

The nominating committee met via conference call on September 20, 2022. The following members was nominated for Chairperson and Co-Chairperson for 2023.

Chairperson: Thomas Mazzaccaro

Co-Chairperson: Debra Casha

Motion:C.B./A.R.

Commissioner Deborah Smith thanked the County Staff for all they do and most of all Council members (volunteers) for participating and reaching out to the Community. You reach the most critical and *necessary* population. We receive monthly reports from Kasey Errico, on the Department of Human Services highlights, but to be here in person I wanted to thank you all.

Staff Reports

Director of Aging- Christine Hellyer

County Announcements

We have hired a part-time VSO to the *Veteran's Service Office, with the support of the Commissioners, Jason Leffler*. He will be taking the accreditation test later this month.

Jason introduced himself with his background.

Christine added in February 2023 she wants to hold a "Veteran's Benefits" presentation. The Providers of Morris County and non-profit organizations will be available to assist veterans with their services.

Tom suggested the Commissioners hold a "Morris County Veteran Picnic". That idea was well received by the Council and staff.

Kasey added this past September, Morris County held a presentation for all Morris County municipalities to learn about the services available and bring back to their community.

Chatham Library on November 13th, 3pm-5pm will hold a volunteer fair. The purpose is to connect people to volunteers for non-profit and government agencies. Registration is required.

November 16th, 11am-2pm, (fifteen-minute intervals), "Community Open House", hosted by *Rutgers/CHSTP* (Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan) here in the ground floor conference room, *Rutgers* will be holding a "Meet and Greet" for the community to bring their needs and issues. We want to hear what we are doing right, where there are gaps. There is an option on our website "Tell us your Story", or there is an e-mail if you prefer.

We also have "Covid Booster" postcards to get the word out on 2nd boosters.

We will be partnering with our *Providers* for that distribution.

Some council members suggested *MAPS* and *DAR* vehicles, nutrition clients for distribution.

Christine advised them that we want to reach people who didn't receive the literature last time. But if any are left-over, we will give it to them.

Area Plan Contract (Older Americans Act) has received additional funding through the *American Rescue Plan (ARP)*. (not from the County). This is for seniors over 60 years of age, *caregivers, evidence-based programs*. These funds will be available early 2023 to our current providers first and then new *Providers*.

We also go out to RFP (Request for Proposal) for new programming, or funding out there and underfunded. One example is the core service the CHORE program. We currently have one program in GIA (Grant-in Aid) funding, and it's a service needed in the Community.

Office Reports

ADRC Maria Rosario

Information & Assistance and case management phone calls for September and October 2022 totaled 883 calls. Monthly calls listed below:

September: 448

October : 435

Nutrition-Rhea Young

The Nutrition Project provided the following number of meals:

September:

Congregate Meals	3,604
Home Delivered Meals	27,411
Weekend	1,582
Total	32,597

October:

Congregate Meals	3,534
Home Delivered Meals	26,780
Weekend	2,000
Total	32,314

HIGHLIGHTS

- **9/1/22-** September was Hunger Action Month. Distributed Nutrition Education on "**Ways to Stretch your Dollar**" and *Resources for food insecurity*
- **9/1 – 9/7/22-** Delivered second offering of produce bag deliveries to three senior housing units. Mt. Olive Manor (21), Butler Senior Housing (10) & Jefferson Chase (17)
- **9/15/22** Distributed placemats for Falls Prevention month and Nutrition Education
- **9/30/22-** Distributed IZZI puzzles to home delivered consumers to help relieve social isolation
- **10/24/22-** Began distribution of emergency shelf-stable meal. Meals were accompanied with Emergency Meal Flyer, Nutrition Education and Emergency Preparedness Notice

Christine added with ARP (American Rescue Plan) funds we will be hiring a Volunteer Coordinator to assist the Nutrition Program. Former staff member Carol Stoltz agreed to the position.

Committee Reports

Community Relations- Debra Eckert-Casha

The Community Relations Committee met on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, via web-ex to discuss ACADV issues/concerns which should be shared with the public.

- **ANCHOR PROGRAM** replaces the [*Homestead Benefit*](#) program.
This program provides property tax relief to New Jersey residents who owned or rented their principal residence (main home) on October 1, 2019 and met the income limits.
- **Water Assistance Program**-The Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a federally funded program designed to help low- income households reduce the balances they have on their residential water and wastewater bills.
 - Suggestion: to mail Mayors/Finance Dept. the Water Assistance information.

The Committee recommended the **Anchor Program** and **Water Assistance Program** be shared in the Community via posting at Nutrition Congregate sites.

Another thought was to use the e-mails from their Matrix they have now to share this information.

The Medicare and Suicide Prevention information be shared at this meeting with full Council members.

- **Medicare** open enrollment – also known as **the annual election period or annual coordinated election period** – refers to the annual period (October 15 through December 7) during which Medicare plan enrollees can reevaluate their coverage.
Generally, we advise people to file for Medicare benefits **3 months before age 65**. Remember, *Medicare* benefits can begin no earlier than age 65.
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**
988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

The *Committee* also discussed their Municipality Contacts Matrix that they have been working on, and the issue of not being able to contact person/persons that will help complete the project.

Tom added he will ask County Commissioners to help obtain contact information. The Committee feels this is a valuable way to get information to the Community. The municipalities can make copies and post at their locations.

Also recommended that County staff, not Committee members maintain

Matrix and distribute the e-mail blasts.

Also, to be determined by County staff if it would be possible to enclose this information to the Nutrition Home Delivered clients.

Legislative Review-Emerson Crooks

The Committee met on *Thursday October 27, 2022*, reviewed the following bills, and recommended the following to the *Advisory Council* to endorse:

Assembly Bill No. A1225

This bill would upgrade the crime of endangering a person with a 45 disability or a person who is elderly.

Motion: *The members in attendance fully support this bill as written.*

Assembly Bill No. A310

Excludes veterans' benefits from calculation of financial obligation for care at psychiatric facility

Motion: *The members in attendance fully support this bill as written.*

Assembly Bill No. A468

Requires State agencies to make their websites accessible to people with disabilities and on mobile devices.

Motion: *The members in attendance fully support this bill as written.*

Planning Program Review

The subcommittee met (via Teams) on November 2, 2022 and discussed what tool the agency should use in determining the priorities for 2023. A survey was recommended, committee will make a decision at the next meeting.

Announcements

Joan Jensen, president of MCCOPO (Morris County Council of Older Persons Organizations), will be resuming their first meeting since Covid 19, on September 6, 2022, 1pm here in this room. Many senior clubs have dissolved, due to inactivity. We hope to revive and rebuild. I recently have been in contact via e-mail, with previous presidents and delegates to invite them. I intend to share information from this meeting with the attendees at MCCOPO meeting.

We were planning to go into closed session after this meeting today, but we don't have quorum, because Emerson Crooks has a conflict of interest.

We will have to do the vote digitally, with the members that do not have conflicts of interest, the recommendations of the Committee. We need a quick turn-around these results have to reported by Monday.

Adjournment: 2:31pm

Motion: E.C./A.R.

