

**MORRIS COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING, DISABILITIES &
VETERANS
Morris Township
Minutes, ACADV Executive
Meeting
virtual
November 5, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rebecca Abenante
Barbara Anderson
Emerson Crooks
Tom Mazzaccaro
Loretta White

STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Bailey
Christine Hellyer
Pat Petrillo
Maria Rosario

Guest

Heather Darling, County Surrogate
Fawn Zwicker

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm by Loretta White, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Christine welcomed our guests today, Morris County Surrogate Heather Darling, and Fran Zwicker.

We plan to continue next year's meetings on a virtual platform. In February if we can't meet in person, I plan to also have it hybrid.

Christine announced the meeting was being recorded.

Chairperson's Report-Maria Rosario

The nominating committee met via conference call on October 19. The following members was nominated for *Chairperson* and *Co-Chairperson* for 2021.

Chairperson: Thomas Mazzaccaro

Co-Chairperson: James Cavanaugh

Motion: L.W./B.A.

Staff Reports-Christine Hellyer

We are happy to announce that Katharine Errico, will be the new Director of Human Services, on November 9, 2020.

*We have the following changes in the **Veterans Service Office**:*

Ken Brenzel, moved on in his career, and Michael Williams will be the Veterans Service Officer.

Bertha Cornego-More will transition to a position in the Office on Aging Department.

Lisa Ostella will be her replacement at the Veterans Office.

November 19, 2020 will be a virtual Veterans Summit meeting. If you are interested and did not receive an invite please reach out to me.

The office is still closed to the public. We are still transporting veterans to the clinic when needed, with the clinics limited schedule.

I want to thank all of you on the Council for responding to our e-mails, approving to get the contracts for these services to the Community in a timely manner.

Our office with these additional dollars we have planned the following events

We received **additional** funding from CARES dollars (*Coronavirus aid, relief, and economic security*) and ADRC funding for disabled adults under 60 years of age, for the following:

And the Council approved the following via e-mail correspondence:

CARES dollars provide and expand extra services for seniors/disabled to the following seven Providers:

Cornerstone Family Program Assisted Technology to provide laptops/tablets to low income senior.

DAWN- Caregivers 55 and older and caregivers of disabled adults virtual socialization, and *recreation, group education, information and assistance*

NJ CARES- Grocery Shopping funded trips

NORWESCAP- virtual education, socialization for seniors and grocery shopping

(the difference between *NORWESCAP*: no credit/debit card needed

NJ CARES: requires credit/debit card)

United Way- Caregiver series of group education, socialization, and recreation virtual

One of the hot topics was socialization seniors and adults with disabilities are the most vulnerable population during COVID. So those with access to technology have the ability to still connect with family, doctors, etc.

Our office with these additional dollars we have planned the following events:

Emergency Preparedness starter kit for

Seniors and Adults with Disabilities that will include: 4 shelf stable meals, mini-first aid kit, and 2 pamphlets from FEMA with emergency preparedness information available for pick-up.

- The distribution will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 23, at the Morris County Library, 30 East Hanover Ave., Whippany.

This is an outside event. Homebound residents can call 973-285-6848, to determine if a kit can be delivered. All Morris County residents who are 60 or over and adults with disabilities qualify.

- Navigating Hope, Morris County's mobile social services vehicle, will be on site during the distribution for anyone who would like more information on County services.

We also partnered with **MAPS** (50) and **NORWESCAP** (75) to make deliveries to the homebound and disabled. These deliveries will be made Nov. 23th, 24th, or 25th.

Atlantic Health Systems and our department have teamed up to have access to 80 flu vaccines to homebound seniors 60 and over or disabled adults, we are waiting for contract approval. We are making an unofficial waitlist. So please call *myself* or Shawna.

Emergency Services available to *Morris County* seniors sixty (60) and older.

- **Emergency Food**
- **Shelter Assistance**
- **Utility Assistance**
- **Minor Home Repairs**
- **Other Emergency Services (microwave, stove issues)**

These services can only be provided if the situation cannot be alleviated through any other means or source. Our Office may refer the senior to Office of Temporary Assistance or other Providers to verify no other funding source is available.

The following information is needed in order to be eligible:

- *Provide demographic information as well as address*
- *Verification that no other funds are available in order to complete the request.*

Aging Grant is allowing us to provide the following;

Providers with a PPE kit which includes:

100 surgical masks	10-4oz hand sanitizer bottles
2-32oz hand sanitizer bottles	Alcohol wipes 100
	1 Disinfectant Spray
Infrared Thermometer	1 Windex all purpose spray

Participant Kits

10 surgical masks	3-4oz hand sanitizer bottles
Alcohol wipes 100 wipes	Seven day pill box
Coloring book, colored pencils	
Reusable bag	

Our office is still closed to the public. All our services are virtual or over the phone. Face to face service is available if needed with the PPE we have available, particularly APS (Adult Protective Services).

Rebecca asked for flyers/brochures on the above information.

*Christine replied yes Pat will share them with you this week.
Christine also added feel free to share or post our information.*

In the midst of all of this activity, we are applying for our Area Plan Contract for 2021, due this Monday.

Tom asked if we were looking for additional Advisory Council members?

We are currently seeking individuals, seniors, disabled or veterans to serve on our *Advisory Council* for 2021. There are five regular meetings and five sub-committee meetings. When serving on the Advisory Council you will also be required to serve on one of the three sub-committees: Community Relations, Legislative, and Planned Program Review. If you know of anyone interested please let me or Maria know.

Office Reports-see attached (ADRC,Veterans)

Nutrition- Christine Hellyer

In November we have moved forward to 5 hot meals daily and an additional box lunch on Friday.

Prior to this the clients were receiving a hot meal and a frozen, a hot meal and a hot and a box lunch.

We are going to continue the additional six meal through the end of the year, due to the additional CARES dollars we received.

*We average home delivered meals 850-950, and pick-ups 400 per week
The furloughed nutrition staff has been recalled.*

Committee Reports see attached.

Community Relations-

The Committee met on October 1, 2020 and discussed the following, see attachments

- Notice of Alternative Eviction Procedures.
- Naloxone Saves Lives
- New-Bridge Services Tame the Pain program, in collaboration with LIFE Center Stage and the Sysygy Dance Project present Seniors in Motion.

Legislative Review

The following bills that the Committee recommended for the Advisory Council to endorse were supported:

Assembly No 154

Motion: B.A./J.C

Assembly No.803

Motion E.C./B.A.

Sen. No. 1989

Motion:T.M./B.A.

Planning Program Review

Shawwna said the *Committee* recommended to use the same survey as last year; a hybrid version, distributing hard copies throughout the Community and also have it online on the County web-site.

The following recommendations were:

- An area to add additional topics of interest, services needed in the Community
- On-line version, and posting on social media pages.

Last year we received more responses on-line than paper, an increase from previous years.

Motion: T.M. J.C.

Tom requested going forward with the *Agenda*, can we please include the person's name that will be reading each report.(this is how it is usually done, but this meeting it wasn't)

New Business-Christine

If you do not have a computer or a tablet, we can provide you with a loaner tablet (to be returned at the end of your term) for the Advisory Council for those that have wireless internet. Please let Maria know by November 20th. You can get access to these meetings, your e-mails. It is very user friendly.

And if and when we can meet in person we can offer the hybrid version, for those not comfortable meeting in person.

I want to bring to your attention if the Council would be interested in advocating for the aged, disabled and veterans in the upcoming year. This subject came up at a Directors meeting a couple of months ago that other Counties Advisory Councils advocated to have the Senior tax freeze reopened and it was.

I know our Council's main focus is funding, because Morris County is such a large County and we have large amounts from Older American's Act, and County grant funding; but I wanted to know if this would be an area of interest that you would be able to discuss and seek a larger role in advocacy for the Aged, Disabled, and Veterans.

Tom and Jim, and Emerson replied they were interested.

Tom asked if the Staff can let him know when we learn of anything of interest to the Community, such as the Senior Tax freeze.

Emerson suggested advocating for the Active Vet Center for Morris County. a Vet Center is a community based-behavioral drop in center for veterans suffering from stress, started by Viet Nam Vets. Jersey. And on their own they would do their own group therapy at local bars, and that led to alcoholism. And this is not New Jersey based, it is Washington, DC.

He also said they have trust and isolation issues.

Christine said before Sharon Yoo, (the previous Director of HS), left that the head of Veteran Centers weren't prepared to move forward on that project.

Christine suggested she would bring this subject up to the new Director of Department of Human Services.

Emerson said he learned this morning that the head of Veteran Centers wants to start looking for a place to rent. I would still like your assistance on this.

Christine replied because of COVID, County offices are closed. And I don't know when it will come to fruition, because of COVID.

Fawn added that she would like to assist Emerson with the veterans and their issues.

Surrogate Heather Darling thanked everyone for their tremendous involvement in the things that you do, and also for the informative reports provided.

Christine said the technical barrier has been more apparent during COVID time-frame.

In 2021 by January/February, one of our State grants will allow us to provide a minimal amount of Morris County seniors with user friendly tablets as one of our services.

So in 2021 we are looking to provide some seniors 60 and over with assisted technology, (tablets user friendly with special programming, and dedicated technical assistance when needed), that the State grant program, is allowing us to provide with their funding. And this will provide one year of cellular service paid by us when we purchase tablet.

Rebecca suggested the connection with Telehealth would be beneficial.

We have to work with the Purchasing department to explore the best avenues for this project.

Surrogate Heather Darling added a cellphone is more practical for homeless, and with the seniors they might have Wi-Fi service

In 2021 by January/February, one of our State grants will allow us to provide a minimal amount of Morris County seniors with user friendly tablets as one of our services.

I regret to inform you of the passing of former member of Advisory Council, Tom Pappas

passed away this past June.

Jim is more comfortable with ZOOM, has trouble with Web-ex. He also expressed his concern about not feeling comfortable using a tablet at this point.

Christine added the County does not support ZOOM, a cost issue, but she will ask again.

Jim said he understands it for security reasons, but for these meetings they don't have to have a concern. I can also send them the last minutes of this meeting with your concerns.

Fawn added her school uses Zoom for free for the forty minutes sign out and re-sign in on the same link.

Christine added because we use County property, and we have to go by County regulations, I have to get County IT approval to use ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned at 1:28pm

Motion: L.W./E.C.