

**MORRIS COUNTY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING, DISABILITIES &  
VETERANS  
Morris Township  
February 2, 2023**

***Members Present***

Christina Brino  
Debra Eckert-Casha  
Joan Jensen  
Tom Mazzaccaro

**Staff Present**

Shawna Bailey  
Andrew Cornwallis  
Christine Hellyer  
Carmen Kenny  
Maria Pilone-Metz  
Patricia Petrillo  
Maria Rosario  
Jessica Tomalo  
Jennifer Van Natta  
Rhea Young

**Guest**

Marc Molde

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 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 November 3, 2022.**

***Motion: C.B./D.C.***

**Chairperson's Report- Tom Mazzaccaro**

(Read) Roles and Responsibilities of Advisory Council members. Each member is requested to sign a form yearly.

Each member must fill out a biographical Form.

We need your approval to share contact information with other committee members.

*ACADV* folder includes a list of *Advisory Council* meeting dates, sub-committee meeting dates and a list of sub-committee members. Also annual reports from ADRC, Veterans, and Nutrition programs.

**Director of Aging- Christine Hellyer**

**County Announcements**

**Statewide initiative:**

The end of the "Public Health Emergency" will affect *Medicaid and SNAP* benefits.

**Medicaid**

Will resume redeterminations for *all recipients*. They had previously been suspended due to COVID 19 pandemic.

Clients will receive redetermination letters this month and will start with those due April 2020, 2021, or 2022.

(State and County clients). April clients will be completed first.

**SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)**

*February 2023* will be the last month for recipients to receive emergency benefits of \$200. (nation-wide expiration) Many households will be adjusted appropriately and see a significant decrease in their benefits.

**Example:**

Household of one received -\$200 maximum allotment, and previously received \$75, and in March it will be \$75.

Some households received the minimum \$23: those who were homeowners.

*Beginning in March all eligible SNAP households will receive their minimum \$50 monthly benefit. New Jersey is the first state to do this in efforts to increase the minimum benefit an eligible household can receive. The federal minimum benefit is \$23.*

Starting in **March SNAP** eligible households in New Jersey will only receive their regular SNAP payment loaded to their *EBT* (electronic benefit card).

- **February 7, 2023, Gov. Murphy signed bill that will ensure every SNAP household will receive at least \$95 monthly benefit.**

**ANCHOR PROGRAM EXTENSION**

This program replaced the "Homestead Benefit" , property tax relief program.

The new deadline date is February 28, 2023. This is for the 2019 fiscal year.

**Live Webinar: NJ Dept of Treasury**

February 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm-3pm for Providers live question and answer session.

**Facebook Live:** February 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm question and answer session.  
**Section 8**

A total of 20,000 households will be selected through a lottery system and be placed on the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program list. February 3, 2023, is the deadline.

Christina asked if the Anchor Program was for renters also?  
Christine both renters and owners are eligible.

Our *Caregiver Coordinator, Brittany Statuto*, is working on outreach program, "Public Awareness", to let the *Community* know what services the County provides.

We have and *RFP (Request for Proposal)* for additional ARP funding due back February 7, 2023. This is for "**new services**" only. This is not to expand *APC (Area Plan Contract)* services. For *GIA (Grant-in-Aid) Providers* you would have to comply with APC contract funding requirements.

**Office Reports**  
**ADRC Maria Rosario**

Information & Assistance and case management phone calls for November and December, 2022 totaled 605 calls. Monthly calls listed below:

- November: 370
- December: 235

**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
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,597</b>

**October:**

Congregate Meals	3,534
Home Delivered Meals	26,780
Weekend	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,314</b>

**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 Program Coordinator to assist the Nutrition Program. Former staff member Carol Stoltz agreed to the position. One of her responsibilities will be to visit each nutrition site manager determine are the needs of the Congregate clients. And to recruit volunteers to assist at nutrition sites. This week was her first week at Jefferson/Roxbury where she filled the needs requested. Her next project will be Mt. Olive. She also reached out to mayors of Jefferson offering to put on their Facebook page.*

*She will also recruit community residents to volunteer for the Nutrition Program.*

*Tom asked if Carol Stoltz can attend one of our future meetings.*

*Tom asked Rhea where the Congregate sites are at in attendees.*

*replied the Congregate sites are slowly getting back to pre-pandemic participation.*

### **Veterans Report-Jessica Tomalo**

The recent passing of The Pact Act (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics) and the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, has required every veteran with an **3open/approved claim** in Morris County will file a new claim.

This effort will ensure that they receive any compensation/benefits they are entitled to.

Tom added he hopes the "Fire Pits" and Commander Meetings will resume this year.

Joan asked for the direct phone number for the Veterans Office: 973-285-6866

### **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.

*Christine thanked the Community Relations members for their work updating a Matrix contact list for the Communities in Morris County. The whole Community will benefit from this. We will also update the list annually.*

The *Committee* also discussed their Municipality Contacts Matrix that they have been working on, and the issue of not being able to contact

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.

Tom asked if we have college interns on staff in the summer.

Christine yes, we generally have them assist the Nutrition Department with the Farmer's Market Program. (a requirement for that program)  
We currently have an intern from Rutgers on the Aging staff.

*Kasey Errico*, is currently working with County College of Morris building a relationship for the Department of Human Services departments with a pilot program. This will ensure the right fit is made.

Debra asked if we work with other local colleges: Drew, Fairleigh Dickinson?

*Christine* we have a formal relationship with Rutgers. They reach out to us.

(Shawna added Rutgers offers social work courses).

*Office of Temporary Assistance* has long standing relationships with Drew, Fairleigh and College of St. Elizabeth.

## **Legislative Review Tom Mazzaccaro**

The Committee met on Thursday, *December 29, 2022*, virtually, reviewed the following bills, and recommended the following to the *Advisory Council* to endorse:

- **Assembly Bill No. A1802**  
Provides gross income tax credit for certain expenses paid or incurred for care and support of qualifying senior family member; designated as Caregiver's Assistance Act.  
**Motion:** *Council decided to postpone motion at this time.*
  
- **Assembly Bill No. A357 (S1871)**  
Requires *Adjutant General of DMVA* (department of military and veterans affairs) to create a program for veterans to receive evaluation and treatment for *PTSD* (post-traumatic stress disorder) and *TBI* (total brain injury).  
**Motion:** *D.C./C.B.*
  
- **Assembly Bill No. A3978**  
Authorizes home care for individuals who are disabled or elderly and requires health insurance coverage therefor.  
**C.B.:** The bill is providing funding?  
**Shawna :** The bill requires health insurance carriers to provide home care.  
**Motion:** *D.C./C.B.*

## **Planning Program Review-Christina Brino**

The subcommittee meet on December 27, 2022, and discussed the completed 2023 Survey of Priority Needs with minor changes. It was approved by the committee, and, as a result, copies will be made and distributed to the providers, care managers and nutrition sites, to be distributed to the consumers for their input.

**Motion:** *C.B./D.C.*

## **Announcements**

- **Jessica Tomalo**, Morris County Veteran Service Officer was appointed to Congresswoman Sherrill Veteran Advisory Board.
  
- **Christine:**  
The State of New Jersey provided 500 CLARIS tablets to the Morris County received 25. We partnered with Morris County Office of Hispanic Affairs to distribute to their senior group. They will be distributed by the end of this month. This is a loaner program. The State of New Jersey is offering internet services/wi-fi to low- income individuals. They are senior user friendly:
  - Data internet access until November 2023  
after November 2023:
    - NJ may extend service or allow County's to use ARP

- funds.
    - NJ will evaluate who has internet service.
    - Eligible for the NJ low-cost ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program) service.
    - If they don't have any of the above
  - Large buttons
  - Samsung otter case not cumbersome
  - Games, virtual bi-lingual classes
  - Bi-lingual messaging the tablet will ask the message recipient permission to accept message. This will eliminate SPAM.
  - Stickers applied to correlate with user guide.
  - USB plug is already installed.
  - Eventually ability face-time version, online grocery shopping and newspaper articles.
- **Joan Jensen asked for Veterans Service Office phone number: 973-285-6866**
- **The ADRC (Aging Disability Resource Center) number is 973-285-6848.**

The Council and the Aging staff discussed sub-committee future days, dates and times of upcoming meetings. When information is complete it will be forwarded to all.

**Adjournment: 2:55pm**

**Motion: C.B./D.C.**

**Next Meeting April 6, 2023.**