

**MORRIS COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING, DISABILITIES &
VETERANS
Morris Township
April 7, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rebecca Abenanate
Debra Casha
Emerson Crooks
Tom Mazzaccaro
Anthony Romano

Staff Present

Shawna Bailey
Christine Hellyer
Carmen Kenny
Maria Pilone-Metz
Patricia Petrillo
Maria Rosario
Maria Salazar
Jessica Tomalo
Jen Van Natta

Guest

Kristen Carew DAWN cil
Joan Jensen -MCCOOPO (Morris County Council of Older Persons organization)
Shayne Daly

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by *Tom Mazzaccaro*, the 2022 Chairman of the Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The February 3, 2022, minutes were accepted and approved.

Motion: D.C./C.B.

Chairperson's Report-Tom Mazzacarro

At the last meeting we discussed member responsibilities. There was a Signatory Page and a Biographical Profile in the orientation folder. Members, who have not already done so, should complete the forms, and return them to Maria Rosario today.

The following was submitted by Tom Mazzacarro:

At the February 3rd meeting and in subsequent correspondence, members were asked to complete the Signatory Page and Biographical Profile found in the orientation folder. Maria will let the Council members know who is outstanding. This is a requirement of County Administration.

I'd like to thank all members and staff that attended the three Sub-Committee meetings for which the reports are on the agenda. These meetings are important to the Staff to allow them to fulfill the administrative objectives of the Advisory Council. Also, want to acknowledge the Lead Persons, namely, Debra Casha, Community Relations, Emerson Crooks, Legislative and Christina Brino, Planning Program Review.

As a Personal Goal this year as Chairman, I would like to emphasize Public Relations and Communication of the ACADV Programs offered by Morris County. I feel more can be done visually with billboard signage, County signage and personal interaction with each community in Morris County to publicize our programs. In this endeavor, I ask the Community Relations Subcommittee to place this topic for discussion on its next meeting agenda.

On the issue of meeting attendance, it is important to have a quorum to conduct business. This includes Regular, Subcommittee and Special meetings. Please advise Maria Rosario, Pat Petrillo, and/or your Committee Lead Person if you are not able to attend. A lot of effort goes into scheduling and setting up the activities of a meeting and a quorum is required to proceed. It appears that going forward most meetings will be Hybrid, so attendance is much more attainable. Thank you for your consideration it is very much appreciated.

Thank You

Debra asked if Community Relations staff member can meet with team members and discuss how the Community is currently made aware of the Aging Department's **updates and activities**.

Christine: Shawna and I will discuss and get back to you.

Christine said maybe Jill Jantzen can help with this project.

Emerson what are some of the hurdles getting information out to the Community?

Christine I think we should become more well-known at the municipal level in the County

We are the "best kept secret". We do want people to know we have services to offer.

Yet if you tell too many, you might not have enough services available

We utilize social media, internet presence. We also have staff that attend County functions. *I don't think we are well known at the municipal level. The municipal level is an area that can tangibly be done in 2022, with our brochures on transportation, caregivers, County directories.*

Christine added last year our commissioner liaison Kathryn DeFillippo, reached out to the fifteen municipalities in Morris County, with a letter asking them to send me their contact information so that when The County has emergency funds, event giveaways I can reach out to them. We received five replies.

Emerson said churches are an area also.

Staff Reports

Director of Aging- Christine Hellyer

Public Relations comment

It is always a benefit for us to get the input of the Community Relations members to determine areas how we can increase our public awareness.

I do ask that the Committee be cognizant and be willing to put in some of the work, and we will be more successful. They can bring us reasonable ideas and resources to review, and something we can put through in 2023.

Small Business Grant Program is still accepting on-line applications to aid local small companies, entrepreneurs, and non-profits impacted by the pandemic.

Details: may be found at morriscountysmallbusinessgrant.com on eligibility guidelines, supporting documents required to submit an application and more.

MAPS

On April 11, 2022, MAPS Paratransit will offer a new trip purpose for registered riders: Transportation for the following trip purposes can be booked from 10am-4:30pm depending on availability:

- Grocery Shopping (shopping policy must be followed)
- Pharmacy
- Bank
- Personal Care: such as hairdressers/barber

Regardless of trip purpose, MAPS vehicles do not wait for individuals at the destination.

*Return trips must be booked a **minimum of thirty minutes** after initial drop off. This is a shared ride service. Vehicles **will not** wait for individuals to complete their transaction.*

This is a shared ride service, that will piggyback off our pilot Lyft Program with Trans- Options.

Individuals must be mobile and have a cell phone with text ability for this service.

This will allow MAPS to provide medical transportation and assist in generating these

new trips. MAPS will provide transportation to wheelchair individuals when they can for this new trip purposes.

Tom How does the Community know about this service?

Christine We let our Providers and MAP CAC, ACADV.

We do soft openings for our programs. For the next two months it will be "word of mouth". Depending on its success we will then do a campaign: a newspaper article on our web-site.

Is there a charge to the rider?

Christine no MAPS is free of service, but is donations based. It is curb to curb service, wheelchair accessible, available, Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:30pm. Most rides are available between 9:30am- 3pm. You must register and be 60 years of age or older, disabled or a veteran.

Tom Lyft is there a time limit?

Christine yes, currently the same hours as MAPS. We do not have ADA

(American Disabilities Act) accommodations for the Lyft service after business hours.

Tom *do Lyft drivers wait for riders?*

Christine *I cannot answer that, we can't make that call.*

May is Older Americans Month, and this year's theme is. **"Age My Way"**.

It will focus on how older adults can age and stay in their homes, live independently, and be involved in the community.

The Nutrition program is offering socialization events at the Congregate sites, currently serving 150 clients. It will include karaoke, building bird houses, painting party.

The NJ moratorium utility shutoff grace period ended March 15, 2022. Any resident that applied for assistance before June 15, 2022, but have not received a decision will continue to receive service.

For rental assistance individuals facing eviction, can reach out to our office and the Office on Temporary Assistance for Morris County funds.

Office Reports

ADRC-Maria Rosario

Information & Assistance and Case Management phone calls for January, February and March 2022 totaled 657 calls. Monthly calls listed below:

- January : 283
- February : 149
- March : 225

Shawwna The Council previously requested a breakdown of the ADRC.

I ran a report (136 pages) and the top three requests were:

- Home Delivered Meals
- Home Health Aides
- Personal Care

Shawwna- maybe you can let me know exactly what you want.

I will reach out to SAMS to get help with the report, because it has more information that I need. For the 1st quarter of 2022, there were 94 topics.

Rebecca The top five

Shawwna That's doable

Tom weirdest/strange requests

Shawwna haircuts, pet food

Nutrition-Rhea Young

The Nutrition Project provided the following number of meals:

JANUARY:

Congregate Meals	-----
Home Delivered Meals	25,605
Weekend Meals	1,502
Total	27,107

FEBRUARY:

Congregate Meals	-----
Home Delivered Meals	24,995
Weekend Meals	1,568
Total	26,563

MARCH:

Congregate Meals	1760
Home Delivered Meals	28,283
Weekend Meals	1,584
Total	31,627

HIGHLIGHTS

- **1/3/22**- Temporarily shut down congregate dining due to the rising cases of Omicron variant through February 28th, 2022.
- **2/23/22**- Initiated a Breakfast Menu Pilot with Butler and Mount Olive consumers. Each consumer at these locations began receiving an additional frozen or shelf stable breakfast meal. Menu was created by nutritionist Pat Gibbons.
- **2/25/22**- Distributed nutrition education for March Nutritional Month. This years' theme was Celebrate a World of Flavors. Consumers were educated on different spices and their benefits that can be incorporated when cooking instead of using salt.
- **3/1/22** – Reopened congregate dining at Butler, Morris Mews, Mount Olive, Montville, Roxbury.
- **3/1/22**- Morris Mews began providing daily soups for their congregate diners. Soups are made in house by the staff. Consumer participation in the congregate setting has since increased.
- **3/30/22**- Confirmed two additional reopening's. **Long hill**- April 5th (only on Tuesday's) and **Rockaway**- April 19th (Tue, Wed & Fri)

Joan asked how do you determine eligibility for this program?

Needs based/register.

Christine the Farmers Market Voucher Program (State) is a different funding source and is needs based.

Most of our programs are not needs based at all.

- Home delivered meal clients are assessed to validate they are homebound and meet certain criteria.
- Congregate clients no needs testing, just register ahead of time.
- Call our nutrition intake line 973-285-6856

Joan Do you have a list of the sites?

Yes we will give you one before you leave.

Breakfast Pilot (replacing the additional box lunch meal we provided with CARES dollars last year) has had good feedback. Each consumer received an additional frozen or shelf stable breakfast meal. We plan to expand this program. It was offered at Butler and Mt. Olive nutrition sites.

The annual "Farmers Market Voucher Program," a \$30 voucher that clients can use at local farms for their produce purchases.

This year we are partnering with "Ort Farms" again offering produce pre-filled bags. We feel this is an effective way to bring the farm to those not able to get out. The residents of six senior housing buildings can use their \$30 voucher for their Purchase:

Pleasant View in Randolph, Butler Senior Housing, Morris Mews, Mount Olive Manor and Jefferson and India Brook.

Tom Can we have a breakdown of how many Congregates participate?

Rhea Butler 20, Long Valley 15, Montville 15/ Tuesday and 20/Thursday, Morris Mews 11, Mount Olive 30, Rockaway 20, Roxbury 30; a total of 146 attendees.

Tom can you include this on your future reports?

Yes

Emerson added he hears many positive comments about the Nutrition program

❖ We are seeking volunteers for our Nutrition Program.

Veterans -Shawna Bailey

We are currently in the process of revamping the Veterans Report monthly report:

- How many claims processed
- How many veterans seen

In January 120 veterans were served, and February 124.

The VSO'S are currently working on the back log cases when Morris County didn't have a VSO.

Christine added the prior Veteran's report didn't give a clear picture of the veterans serviced. We want it to include quality statistics. The **calls** are important but many of the calls are follow-up I&R calls, those numbers are not as important in the long run if they are follow-up calls on claims.

So, our numbers will be lower, but it will give you a better sense of actual work start to finish.

Tom Why was the "Spring into Action" cancelled in March?

Christine, I made an administration call because of low attendance.

(only 4 RSVP'd)

Committee Reports-Tom Mazzaccaro

The Committee met on March 22, 2022, and the following was discussed:

- ✓ Landlord Tenant Informational Webinar
 - Will be held March 30, 2022, 2:30-4:00pm via ZOOM
- ✓ March 1, 2022, New Jersey new safe passing law in effect:
 - It requires drivers to provide at least four (4) feet when passing vulnerable road users, like cyclists and joggers
- ✓ Veterans Round Table
 - The Morris County Veteran's Service office will host its second roundtable event on March 29, 2022.
This provides veterans an opportunity of varying eras to reconnect and *network with each other*.
All flyers attached for your review.
Tom added the "Moving Wall" information be added to this meeting.
It is a three-day event in July at County College of Morris.

Tom asked if the Veterans Roundtable was like the Fire Pit held last year? Shawna replied yes, this will be the "Spring Fire Pit". Tom suggested that we keep the name "Fire Pit" instead of Round Table. The Committee was urged to share any/all this information with the Community

Legislative Review- Emerson Crooks

The Committee met on *Thursday March 24, 2022*, and reviewed the following bills and recommend the following to the *Advisory Council* to endorse:

Assembly Bill No. 294- Permits person diagnosed with autism or communication disability to voluntarily make notation on driver's license, identification card, and in *MVC (Motor Vehicle Commission)* registry; establishes program to train law endorsement officers in interactions with persons with autism or communication disabilities.

Motion A.R./ R.A.

Assembly Bill No. 348- Permits dogs as service and emotional support animals at State's veteran facilities.

Assembly Bill No. 2245- "*Senior Citizens Property Tax Deferral Act*", allows certain seniors to defer property tax payments.

Motion: A.R./E.C

Senate Bill No. 2197- Permits dogs to visit at State veterans' facilities.

Motion R.A./A. R.

Planning Program Review-Christine Hellyer

The Subcommittee met at 10am on Friday, 3/25/2022. The following items were discussed:

- 2022 Needs Assessment Survey: The needs assessment survey is being

sent out to Providers to share with their consumers and will also be sent out to consumers of the Office on Aging. This year, the Office on Aging will also be sending them out to recent consumers who have called into the ADRC line and including prepaid envelopes in the hopes that individuals will be more likely to return them. Additional information on Agency Services will be included with the survey.

- Recommendations from the committee members included adding an incentive for return (either a giveaway or emphasizing the importance to funding for services), larger type on next year's survey, and adding an email option to return surveys
 - Budget Modification for DAWN
 - Request to adjust units within their subgrant due to carryover allowance from CARES contract from 2021.
 - No change to subgrant amount or unit prices
 - Allows better usage of the CARES dollars first, followed by usage of APC subgrant
 - Members recommend support of modification by the full ACADV
 - Members discussed committees and how information is disseminated regarding meeting dates, members, and reports
 - New document to be created by staff indicating in one document:
 - Members
 - Lead member in each committee who will be responsible for reporting to full ACADV at meetings
 - Staff liaison for each subcommittee
 - Dates of all meetings, both ACADV full meetings and subcommittees
- ❖ Document was emailed to all ACADV members after the meeting

By-Laws

Christine suggested amending/updating the Council's by-laws to include:

- Hybrid/virtual meetings: doesn't say we can't, and we do
- Electronic voting: doesn't say we can't, and we have

She also asked for three volunteers from the Council to serve on the committee to amend/update the bylaws. If she doesn't receive volunteers by this time next week, she will assign the task to the Planning Program Review committee. Tom and Emerson volunteered; one more is needed.

(Tom added Debra)

Tom Its important to have in person attendance. By-laws should say "Hybrid is always permissible". I like the "hybrid", but in person meetings more is accomplished.

Emerson added face to face has more impact for especially people making a point. And virtual has a tendency of create cross talk, because they are not aware of someone else stating a fact.

Shawna many of our services are for homebound individuals, and they don't have a voice here, because they can't attend in person meetings, and the hybrid allows them to become members.

Tom asked **Emerson** if he had an update on the "Vet Center"?

Emerson we are a stage now of making the decision of where it's going to go, so we are making progress. Also, it wasn't just in New Jersey that the Census showed that the mental health services for the veterans was inadequate.

Tom also reminded that the "Moving Wall" at the County College of Morris (CCM) will be on display July 7th thru 11th.

Emerson added they have been receiving outstanding community support for this project.

Public Comment

Guest's comments

Joan Jensen, MCCOPO president attended her first meeting and was very impressed with the meeting today and with the services the Department offers to the seniors, disabled and veterans in the Community. She was unaware of the Department's purpose.

She also said when the municipalities were contacted last year it depends on who was contacted and how the disseminated the information.

She added she supports to publicize our services to the Community and suggested to reach out to Senior Clubs, who's members are veterans aging and disabled, that will take advantage of the programs.

Shayne Daly, Long Hill Township, was also a guest at our meeting. She said she is aware of the services our department offers and agrees that the information should be shared with the Community. She offered to help get the word out about services available in Morris County.

She also would like to volunteer at the Long Hill Nutrition site.

Adjournment: 2:16pm

Motion: E.C./A.R.

September 1, 2022

Next Meeting:

We are hoping this meeting will be Hybrid, if COVID numbers continue to decrease.

❖ **The Council went into closed session**