

Morris County Advisory Committee on Women

October 15, 2019

Morris View Meeting Room

Present: Amy Archer, Pam Bennett-Santoro, Lila Bernstein, Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Carole Harper, Melissa Maney, Sierra McEniry, Elaine Muller, Gayle Pearson, Sharon Yoo

Absent: Joann Bjornson, Kathy DeFillippo, Shelby Rhodes

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by Chair Gayle Pearson.

MEETING SUMMARY

Morris County Star Program

The Committee invited Melissa Maney and Sierra McEniry to provide an update about the program that was born out of the committee's research and recommendations regarding the jail. Maney and McEniry presented on the Morris County Successful Transition & Re-Entry (STAR) Program. Materials to be emailed to committee members with the meeting summary. Bernstein recommended that the program consider adding a halfway house type of environment which is utilized already in Essex County to assist with jail reentry for women. McEniry noted that they have been advocating for a "stepdown" facility. Pearson asked about the possibility of a mentorship program; however McEniry and Maney noted that volunteers and training has been a barrier. Bernstein asked how the program tracks outcomes and what they are. Maney stated that the program has only existed for one year so they are just starting to track outcomes. Bernstein asked how women with low literacy levels read the discharge materials. Maney noted that there is an educator at the jail. McEniry and Maney stated that the program could use sports bras, dental hygiene and feminine hygiene products to donate to people reentering society. They also reported that they have started to work with people who are in the pretrial program with the assistance of Navigating Hope.

September 17, 2019 Meeting Summary

Pearson presented the September 17 meeting summary for approval. No changes were recommended, and the committee adopted minutes without discussion.

Human Services Report

Yoo introduced Amy Archer, the new Division Director. Yoo reported that the county has just had its first Complete Count Committee meeting. The federal government has established two funding streams in relation to "Complete Count" and the county intends to apply for one of them.

Chair Report

Pearson reported that Delcalzo-Berens has submitted her resignation and that her final meeting will be in December. She asked that all members contact Liz Kisatsky regarding their reappointment decisions for the 2020 calendar year. Pearson reported that she will invite Dr. Firsker to the November meeting to discuss CASA.

Seeds of Change Updates

Delcalzo-Berens reported that letters were sent out to all nominees and nominators. She will send invitation reminders to everyone as the RSVP date is near. Delcalzo-Berens reported that the awards have been ordered and approved. Pearson asked Delcalzo-Berens to work with DeFillippo on the speech for giving the award. Bennett- Santoro has updated the wording to be used in a program for the ceremony. Delcalzo-Berens will forward the information to Larry Ragonese. Yoo reported that the Freeholders will provide snacks for the reception. Larry Ragonese will handle press releases.

Select Project for 2020

Bernstein suggested that the committee should consider doing something of substance before the end of the year and recommended having a stakeholders meeting with organizations whose missions are aligned with the committee's mission to complete a needs assessment with the goal of finding projects that are useful and meaningful to the county. Pearson asked Bernstein to put together a proposal for the next meeting for completion in 2020. Bernstein stated that she feels strongly the needs assessment should be completed by the end of 2019. Yoo suggested the Human Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) could be a place that the committee members poll about women's issues. Delcalzo-Berens noted that there are some projects that have already been discussed throughout the year and the committee can discuss these in November to decide on executing one plan. Delcalzo-Berens stated that she feels the committee should try to stay focused on one goal at a time. Ideas that have been discussed throughout the year include women vets, women in business, helping with the Ruth Davis Drive units and developing a mentoring program in alliance with STAR. Delcalzo-Berens will send out a survey where members can input additional ideas which can be reviewed and voted on in the November meeting.

Announcements

Pearson suggested that the Impact 1000 information be circulated to nonprofits by Yoo.

Meeting End

Pearson adjourned the meeting at 7:07pm.

ACTION ITEMS

Who	What
All members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact Liz Kisatsky to confirm reappointment plans for 2020.• Provide feedback via Survey Monkey on suggestions for projects for 2020.• Review materials prior to meetings
Gayle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invite Dr. Lisa Firkser to November meeting
Allison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate "speech" for Seeds of Change with Kathy• Forward program wording from Pam to Larry• Send invitations for the Seeds of Change ceremony
Kathy (recycled)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bring mission statement to the Freeholders for review