

**Morris County Continuum of Care
Executive Committee Meeting
September 25, 2025 OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

Attended by:

Name	Representative Category	Present=1 Absent=0
NONVOTING		
Errico, Kasey	County/Lead Agency	1
Kooper, Raquel	Advisory Board Committee/Monarch	1
VOTING		
Alvarez, Alicia	Nourish NJ	1
Bryant, Elise	Community Member/Advocate	1
Caban, Sherina	Community Member/Advocate	0
Calabuig, Karina	Catholic Family & Community Services	1
Curry, Clarence	MC Human Relations Commission	0
Delcalzo-Berens, Allison	Atlantic Health System	0
Deo, Carmine	Community Hope	0
Kirk, Chris	Community Member/Advocate	0
Ocansey, Elorm	Community Member/Advocate	0
Pawlyshyn, Jonelle	Community Member/Advocate	1
Stephens, Kelly	Morris County Housing Authority	0
Sherrod, Rebecca	Child and Family Resources	0
	Total voting members	4
Quorum = 8	Total members	6
OTHER REPRESENTATIVES AND CONSULTANTS		
Archer, Amy	County/Lead Agency	1
Brewster, Candy	HMFA/Consultant	0
Fodali, Maria	County/Lead Agency	1
Balitsos, Kathryn	Monarch/Consultant	1

Guests:

Jeff Bashe – Community Representative

Joann Bjornson – Family Promise of Morris County

Christine Czerniecki – Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris

Kathleen Jones – Hope House (Intern)

Tina McGill – DCA / OHP

Shannon Muti – Homeless Solutions

Sarah Rubenstein – Atlantic Health

Diane Williams – Jersey Battered Women’s Service

Michael Woods – Family Promise of Morris County

Welcome and Introductions: Alicia Alvarez started the meeting at 10:00 am and welcomed all attendees. All attendees introduced themselves.

Old Business:

Federal Funding Update – Kathryn Balitsos

- Ms. Balitsos provided updates on federal funding and emphasized the importance of advocacy at all levels of the government.
- There were increased levels of participation at the Morris County Community Resource Exchange event. It was attended by Morris County Commissioners, as well as numerous agencies, municipalities, and legislators.
- For information on the impact of federal funding at the county level, members were encouraged to review the National Association of Counties (NAC) website.
- Discussion emphasized the importance of proactive planning in anticipation of cuts in federal funding. Members highlighted the importance of exploring shared resources and the possibility of agency consolidation.

NOFO Updates – Kathryn Balitsos

- Monarch provided NOFO updates and encouraged all members to remain engaged and prepared.

New Business:

Desk Monitoring Updates – Kathryn Balitsos

- Ms. Balitsos confirmed that all desk monitoring materials have been submitted and are under review.
- There was a technical assistance (TA) session focused on NOFO preparation.
 - As required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CoC Builds NOFO agencies must ensure alignment between qualitative and quantitative data.

- Agencies were encouraged to begin early planning for new or expanded programs.
- Discussion included the possibility of Executive Committee (EC) members chairing CoC subcommittees.
- It was recommended that subcommittee membership opportunities be issued to the full CoC to increase engagement.
- The CoC will explore securing an AmeriCorps staff member to support data-related tasks.
- Agencies were reminded to consult legal counsel regarding contracts to ensure federal compliance.

Open Discussion:

Unsheltered Homelessness

- Members agreed the CoC must strengthen advocacy and coordinate responses regarding the recent Executive Order aimed at increasing the criminalization of homelessness.
- Discussion emphasized expanding relationships with law enforcement agencies.
- There was a recommendation that CoC members participate in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training.
- It was suggested that the Prosecutor’s Office be invited to participate in CoC meetings to enhance coordinated response efforts, as several members currently hold positions on Morris County advisory boards related to mental health.
- CSPNJ updated members on Coordinated Entry (CE). The grant they received through HUD was recently executed, and CE operations in Morris County are expected to begin in October 2025. CSPNJ plans to meet with all community agencies upon launch.

Public Testimony:

- Morristown Medical Center is conducting a Community Needs Assessment. Survey links will be sent weekly until October 17, 2025. Ms. Archer will circulate the SurveyMonkey link via email.
- The Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance is looking to hire new members. They will host an open house on October 2, 2025, from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Several other Divisions in Human Services will also participate.
- Catholic Charities is offering security deposit support for Section 8 recipients. Clients may call 973-361-5555 x3038 for more information. Ms. Calabuig will distribute flyers.
- Chris Church/Care Center NJ in Rockaway operates a no-barrier food pantry. Additional resources, including legal services, will be rolled out soon.
- There is a program titled Recovery Services located at 2 Emory Ave, Randolph, NJ. They provide substance use and recovery services at no cost. Insurance is not required, and they are open to unemployed, under-employed, and undocumented individuals.

Adjournment: Open session ended at 11:30 am.