

## March 2026 Community Assistance Services (CAS) Meeting

### Meeting Information

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Community Assistance Services (CAS) Committee Meeting	<b>Date</b>	3/10/26
<b>Location</b>	Zoom		
<b>Start Time</b>	1:00pm	<b>End Time</b>	1:55 PM

### Attendance

#### Members

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Kest	Kelly	Market Street Mission
Gonzalez	Alanna	Family Promise of Morris County
Zavala	Lydia	Center for Family Services
Alvarez	Alicia	nourish.NJ
Perez Cedeno	Carmen Isabel	Partnership for Maternal & Child Health
Delcalzo-Berens	Allison	Atlantic Health System
Boyd-Stanislaus	Britnie	Center for Family Services
Contreras	Ken	Child and Family Resources
Tesoriero	Christina	Homeless Solutions, Inc.
Rogers	Elizabeth	Homeless Solutions, Inc.
Huertas	Sol	JBWS
Swanson	Katie	Visions and Pathways
Caban	Sherina	Wafa House
Spasova	Viktorija	Mental Health Association
Czerniecki	Christine	Mental Health Association

#### Guests

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Balitsos	Kathyrn	Monarch Housing
Kooper	Raquel	CAB
Markowski	Brandon	Department of Community Affairs
George	Leena	Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Gohn	Hailey	MHA CSS
Hernandez	Anahi	Dover School District
Bryant	Elise	Morris County Advisory Board
Harris	Eli	
Flannory	EvaMarie	Boonton Housing
Owen	Joni	VA NJ Health Care System
Dooley	Samantha	Atlantic Health
Sneed	Yahne	CH
Robinson	Roberta	Morris County CoC Advisory Board

## Meeting Summary

### **Announcements**

Flyers will be included in the new monthly CoC newsletter, facilitated by Kathryn Balitsos at Monarch Housing. The newsletter will highlight upcoming CoC and CAS meetings, events, trainings, and advocacy efforts. If you would like information included, please send it to Kathryn ([kbalitsos@monarchhousing.org](mailto:kbalitsos@monarchhousing.org)) with the subject title "Morris CoC Newsletter." Anyone on the CAS mailing list will automatically receive the newsletter.

Sherina shared that this will be her last year serving as CAS Chair. CAS is currently seeking a new Chair or Co-Chairs. The role will work closely with CAS leadership, the County, and the CoC Executive Committee.

CAS is also seeking a new Engagement Coordinator. This role supports member engagement by: managing the mailing list and membership sign-ups, responding to member inquiries as a friendly point of contact, tracking and maintaining CAS meeting attendance, and collaborating with CAS leadership and volunteers to support clear communication and teamwork. Ideal for someone organized, communicative, and community focused. This role offers a great opportunity to work collaboratively and contribute to a positive membership.

Support will be provided to ensure a smooth transition for both roles. Anyone interested in either volunteer role is encouraged to reach out to Sherina, Alicia Alvarez ([alicia@nourishnj.org](mailto:alicia@nourishnj.org)), or Amy Archer ([aarcher@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:aarcher@co.morris.nj.us)).

Carmen Perez Cedeno, Partnership for Maternal & Child Health, shared information about the Universal Home Visiting program, a free, voluntary program offering a visit at home by trained nurses for any family caring for a newborn baby. All moms delivering after 12/15 can take advantage of this program.

Samantha Dooley, Morris County Sexual Assault Center, shared about her upcoming event, [Survivors Speak](#), 4/13. Join for a night of art and creativity to support survivors of sexual violence.

Jacob Gaeta, Market Street Mission, shared that on 3/29 at Calvary Church, 16 of the men enrolled in the Life Change Addiction Recovery Program will be graduating and moving onto the next phase of their program.

Center for Family Service's Family Outreach Program welcomes a new team member, Lydia Zavala, and is excited to serve families at full capacity.

Alicia Alvarez, nourish.NJ, announced that nourish.NJ has officially launched their Advocacy Network, highlighting the power of letting your voice be heard. Training is underway for participants.

### **CoC Executive Committee Update- Alicia Alvarez, nourish.NJ**

CoC projects are currently being renewed.

There is no NOFO for the current grant period. It is anticipated that the NOFO for the next grant cycle will include language similar to what was announced in December.

Funding may be limited to Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing. The group will continue to work alongside Monarch Housing, which will keep providers informed as updates become available.

CSPNJ is serving as the Coordinated Entry organization. Providers should have received a flyer with their contact information; if not, please reach out.

An all-providers meeting was held on February 11 and was well attended. CSPNJ had the opportunity to connect with nonprofits and receive feedback from community providers regarding their rollout. They are continuing to meet with nonprofits individually to build relationships and discuss implementation.

The Data Governance Committee is now active again. Emily from Homeless Solutions serves as Chair. The first meeting was held on February 27 and was well attended.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 26, 2026 from 10am-12pm virtually via Webex

Meeting information can be found on the county website: [Continuum of Care – Morris County, NJ](#)

### **PIT Count & Project Homeless Connect Debrief- Viktorija Spasova-Kaiser, MHA**

#### Project Homeless Connect

Thank you to everyone who helped make Project Homeless Connect possible this year. A total of 101 individuals checked in and were connected to services (attendance numbers remain consistent year over year). This number does not include volunteers from the 33 participating agencies. At the event: 27 Point-in-Time Count surveys were collected, 30 haircuts were provided by Razor Edge, 33 HIV rapid tests were administered, 13 cholesterol screenings and 14 blood pressure screenings were conducted, and 4 flu shots were provided by Atlantic Health.

There were also countless donations distributed throughout the event. Breakfast and lunch were generously provided by the County.

#### Point-in-Time Count

A special thank you to Homeless Solutions and Family Promise for assisting with conducting the in-person count. It was noted that individuals who are undocumented could not be officially counted, despite this group being heavily represented.

#### Group Feedback

Many families expressed fear about sharing personal information during the count. The group discussed the need to plan for ways to better support individuals without documentation. A suggestion was made to dedicate time at a future CAS meeting to strategize around how to better serve this population.

### **Addressing Funding Gaps in Supportive Services**

A discussion was held to identify supportive services gaps impacting families and individuals experiencing homelessness due to recent funding changes. The group also explored available resources and strategies to help navigate these challenges.

The following service areas were identified as current gaps:

1. Childcare- Ken Contreras at Child & Family Resources noted that the Child Care Assistance Program is open. Registration process is new this year and is hosted on [mynjhelps.gov](#)
2. Job Readiness/Employment – A needed resource for Project Homeless Connect. Suggestion to explore potential partnerships with County College of Morris and VoTech programs. Employment readiness continues to be an ongoing system performance challenge for the community.
3. Trauma Support Specialists
4. Financial Literacy- Potential partnerships with local banks.
5. Services for Undocumented Population
6. Eviction & Court Pro Se Education – Possible collaboration with Legal Services
7. Literacy (English and Spanish) – Funding reductions impacted adult ESL education programs last year.

These areas represent supportive services where gaps have been observed. A suggestion was made to reach out to agencies specializing in these areas to strengthen referral pathways. Another suggestion was to invite providers to future meetings to help facilitate partnerships.

Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Atlantic Health, noted that while many resources exist in the community, coordination and engagement remain limited. Many programs operate in silos. She referenced resources including the Morris/Sussex/Warren Employment Center, CCM, Workforce Development, and DVR. Are there fast tracks for our participants to engage in their services?

Sol Huertas, JBWS, shared that under their OVW transitional housing grant, they have established several partnerships: LDA- ESL services, NORWESCAP- financial literacy services, CFR- parenting coaching, CCM- new partnership to provide job readiness and career development workshops.

Jacob Gaeta, Market Street Mission, shared that a volunteer is assisting participants with resume and cover letter preparation, and local businesses are helping connect participants to employment opportunities.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Next meeting is Tuesday, June 9, 1 - 2:30 pm via Zoom.