

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 900
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HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)
Tuesday, January 23, 2024, via Webex
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Ms. Hess called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Joanne Bjornson, Family Promise
Kelly Martins, EDGE NJ
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources

Board Liaisons:

Allison Delcalzo, Atlantic Health – Continuum of Care (CoC) Chair
Yosef Hegazy, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Sean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Division of Community & Behavioral Health
Anna Marie Hess, Division of Community & Behavioral Health

Community Members:

Jeff Bashe, Citizen Representative
Maria Lopez, Zufall Health Center
Darlene Perez, Division of Child Protection & Permanency – Morris East
Emily Savino, Mental Health Association
Tracey Sumliner, Division of Child Protection & Permanency – Morris West

II. Nominating Committee – Ms. Hess

Ms. Hess stated that the nominees presented at our November meeting were Ms. Rebecca Sherrod for Chair and Ms. Joann Bjornson for Vice-Chair. No other nominees were presented to the committee from the floor. Ms. Martins motioned to accept Ms. Sherrod as Chair, Ms. Bjornson as Vice-Chair, and Ms. Roers seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition and one abstention. The motion carried.

III. Approval of October 24, 2023, Minutes

Ms. Bjornson motioned to approve the October 24th meeting minutes, and Ms. Roers seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

Approval of November 28, 2023, Minutes

Ms. Roers motioned to approve the November 28th meeting minutes, and Ms. Martins seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

IV. HSAC Orientation – Ms. Hess

Ms. Hess gave a PowerPoint presentation related to HSAC orientation. This PowerPoint will be posted on the County website: <https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/Human-Services-Advisory-Council>.

V. Open to the Public

Mr. Bashe announced that Morris County Housing Alliance, an advocacy group for affordable housing and services for people experiencing homelessness, held a meeting this morning. Some HSAC funded providers, the Housing Authority, and the Housing & Community Development Network attended this meeting well.

Mr. Bashe stated the Homeless Trust Fund is not expected to come to fruition but become a budget line item in the future. The Housing Alliance and shelter providers will continue bringing sheltering and transitional housing needs to light and update the HSAC when additional information is available.

VI. Chair Report – no report

VII. New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) – Mr. Troche sent the following NJ DHS accomplishments for 2023 from Ms. Sarah Adelman, Commissioner. These are just a few great and small milestones we achieved in 2023.

- Ms. Adelman extends her deep gratitude for an incredible year; we have achieved a lot.
 - We became the only state to raise the minimum SNAP benefit to \$95.00 per month
 - We launched Naloxone 365 and [StopOverdosesNJ.com](https://stopoverdosesnj.com) to get the opioid overdose reversal drug Naloxone into as many hands and medicine cabinets in the state as possible

- We expanded the Cover All Kids Initiative so that kids under age 19 whose families meet eligibility income levels can get NJ FamilyCare regardless of immigration status
- To help meet workforce needs, we launched the [Jobs That Care New Jersey](#) website to highlight job opportunities in the care economy and link job seekers with prospective employers

VIII. New Jersey Department of Children & Families – Mr. Hager's report was submitted before the meeting.

- A.** NJDCF has launched a new webpage for our “Family Connects NJ” (home visiting program for parents of newborns). The website is [Family Connects NJ](#). This started in five counties: Essex, Middlesex, Mercer, Gloucester, and Cumberland. For the counties that are not yet active, there is still a link that will get the parent to the “Connecting NJ Hub,” which provides resources for all counties. On the Family Connects NJ webpage, in addition to the links at the top, there are five informational topics in the *scrolling banner*. These are: “Birth Families” (the benefits of participating in the program, including a Q&A and Fact Sheet), “Adoptive Parents and Resource Families” (the programmatic benefits for these parents, including a Q&A), “Bereaved Families” (Stillborn or recent death of newborn I including a Q&A), “Doctors/Clinicians” (includes a fact sheet for medical practitioners and a Q&A), “Registered Nurses” (consists of a fact sheet and a Q&A). NOTE: Morris County will be eligible in January 2027.
- B.** A reminder that NJDCF’s Family Success Centers have monthly calendars posted. See the programs at this link: <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/families/support/success/>.
- C.** NJDCF will be exhibiting at the “NJ Recreation and Parks Association Conference” at Harrah’s Waterfront Conference Center, Atlantic City, from February 25th to 28th, 2024. There are many worthwhile training sessions for recreation and park staff and a great exhibit floor. Information is at this link: <https://www.njrpa.org/Home>.

IX. Division of Child Protection & Permanence – report submitted before the meeting**A. Morris East Local Office**

Criteria	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	9	4	8	8
Substance Affected Newborn Cases (aka Safe Care)	2	1	1	0
New	40	57	32	45
Reopens	43	39	47	34
Active	10	10	14	11
CPS	93	98	93	85
CWS	9	18	12	13
Domestic Violence	23	37	20	34
Sex Abuse	10	3	10	7
Unhoused	7	9	6	9
SPRU	26	25	27	32
Spanish Speaking	14	23	24	25
< 90 Day Re-opens	9	12	11	8
Substance abuse	26	18	15	21
Child on Child Sex Abuse	1	4	2	0
Unaccompanied Minors	0	1	0	0

B. Morris West Local Office

Criteria	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	6	6	1	3
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	0	2	2	0
New	23	39	36	24
Reopens	70	32	85	61
Active	4	6	15	3
CPS	75	95	107	80
CWS	20	21	14	11
Domestic Violence	15	14	13	10
Sex Abuse	4	2	6	3
Unhoused	1	1	0	0
SPRU	25	37	13	9
Spanish Speaking	5	13	18	23
< 90 Day Re-opens	4	10	11	4
Substance abuse	17	20	15	7
Child on Child Sex Abuse	1	0	1	0
Unaccompanied Minors	0	0	0	0

X. Staff Reports**A. Human Services – Ms. Hess**

1. Project Homeless Connect will be held on Friday, January 26, 2024, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Morristown. This event is hosted by the Mental Health Association. Resource information, personal care items, gift cards, food, clothing, and more will be available.

2. Point-In-Time (PIT) Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families in Morris County. Identifies individuals and families living in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, safe havens, and living on the streets or other locations unsuitable for dwelling. Morris County will conduct a 7-day count asking where an individual slept the night of January 23, 2024.
3. Ms. Archer announced that the State had awarded the County \$95,000 additional funding for Code Blue. This will be allocated to the Office of Temporary Assistance (OTA) to place individuals on Code Blue nights in motels.
4. Ms. Archer stated that at the State Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) meeting, it was announced that for 2025, they would be looking at funding and reallocating funding. They are putting together work groups, and Morris County has requested to be a part of one of the groups.
 - a. Mr. Bashe asked if the County would introduce a Code Red program.
 - i. Ms. Archer stated there is a conversation at the County level about Code Red, but they are still waiting on Legislation from the State.

B. Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – no report

C. Workforce Development Board – no report

XI. Old Business – no comment

XII. New Business – no comment

XIII. Subcommittee Reports – no meetings were held before this meeting

A. Program Review

B. Planning

C. Bylaws

D. Legislative

E. Nominating

XIV. Advisory Committee Reports

A. Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – no report

B. Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory – Ms. Archer

1. Our last meeting was on January 11, 2024, and was held virtually due to renovations to the room. The conference room IT equipment is being upgraded so that we can offer a hybrid option.
2. We did not have a quorum and could not vote on our slate of officers for 2024. Our nominees are Mr. Chernick for Chair and Mr. Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutors Office, for Vice-Chair.
3. We were able to conduct our orientation, like the one this evening.
4. The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Program Analyst provided information on several Request for Proposals (RFP) and is encouraging everyone to check the website <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/> for funding opportunities.

5. Ms. Fosco, Municipal Alliance Coordinator, reported that she is closing out Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, and the next County Wide Alliance Meeting is on February 13, 2024.
6. Ms. Suarez, Addictions Coordinator, announced that the Opioid Settlement Funding awardees for Calendar Year 2024 have gone through resolution. There was \$400,000 allocated for the following five programs: Morris County Sheriff's Office for Hope One, Milestone House for Recovery Housing, Prevention is Key for Harm Reduction Program & Prevention, and Early Education and NewBridge Services to provide Outreach and Case Management.
7. Ms. Ackerman, Mental Health Association (MHA), gave a presentation on the ARRIVE Together Program. This program is administered through our Prosecutor's Office from a directive from the NJ Attorney General's Office. ARRIVE Together, which stands for "Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation," partners law enforcement with mental health providers to respond to 911 calls relating to mental and behavioral health emergencies. The program aims to increase connections to mental health services while reducing arrests and use of force injuries to civilians and officers and improving trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

C. Advisory Committee on Women – Ms. Bjornson

1. We received fourteen applications for the Seeds of Change Award. The recipient will be announced at one of the March Commissioners meetings.

D. Youth Services Advisory – no report

XV. Partnership Announcements

A. Child Care – Ms. Sherrod

1. There are 38 Registered FCC Providers for January 2024 and three prospects.
2. NJ DHS DFD Initiatives
 - a. The state's FY 2024 budget includes funding to extend payment to providers based on enrollment for children receiving benefits through the NJ Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) through Jun 30, 2024.
 - b. Thrive by Three Grant is to help support the development and creation of childcare infant and toddler slots and provide technical assistance to providers to expand childcare spaces.

B. Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Delcalzo

1. The last CoC Executive Committee meeting was November 16, 2023. The Committee discussed planning the 2024 Point in Time Count and Project Homeless Connect events, re-elected Kelly Stephens as Vice Chair, confirmed the 2024 Allocation Committee membership and calendar, and approved the 2024 Executive Committee calendar. The Collaboration and Coordination with the Victims Services System of Care Policy and the Rapid Rehousing standards were introduced to the Executive Committee. The Coordinated Entry Events, Coordinated Entry Prioritization, Housing First, Grievance, and Anti-Discrimination policies all were approved by the Executive Committee.
2. The Point in Time Count begins tonight. It is a 7-day count of people who were homeless on the night of January 23. This annual count is how HUD determines the total count of homeless populations throughout the nation. The CoC recognizes the

- efforts of the fantastic PIT Coordinators in organizing the community to get a thorough count using trauma-informed and data-driven methodologies.
3. The next regular meeting of the Executive Committee is on Thursday, January 25, at 10:00 am. The Executive Committee will welcome the 2024 members, do an annual orientation, review the 2024-2025 Strategic Plan, and move to a vote on the Strategic Plan and the Victims Services System Policy. There is a planned Provider Meeting after the Executive meeting for all CoC-funded providers. Attendance is highly encouraged.
 4. All open CoC committees are recruiting new members. See the committee list and contacts below:
 - a. Community Assistance Services (CAS), [Rebecca Butz](#) and [Sherina Caban](#)
 - b. Coordinated Entry Case Conferencing Teams, [Maria Fodali](#) and [Jennifer Combs](#)
 - c. Data Governance, [Luisa Fieno](#) and [Jennifer Amaya](#)
 - d. Partnership Workgroup, [Chris Kirk](#)
 - e. Advisory Board Committee, [Alicia Alvarez](#)
 - f. Permanent Housing, [Kelly Stephens](#)
 5. The next CoC office hours are scheduled for February 29 between 11:30 and 12. To sign up for office hours, email Allison.delcalzo@atlantichhealth.org.

XVI. Adjournment

Ms. Roers motioned to adjourn, and Ms. Bjornson seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Anna Marie Hess, HSAC Coordinator