

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

P.O. Box 900
Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0900

Board of County Commissioners

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HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)
Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 5:15 pm via Webex ONLY
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order, Welcome, and Introductions

Mr. Pawelczyk, the Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Teresa Connolly, Nourish NJ
Kelly Martins, EDGE NJ
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
Laura, O'Reilly-Stanzilis, Citizen Representative
Joseph, Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative – Vice-Chair

Board Liaisons:

Kayla Gieger, Child & Family
Yosef Hegazy, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Christine Rivera, Morris County Division of Child Protection & Permanency
Beth Rodgers, Workforce Development Board
Nelson Troche, New Jersey Department of Human Services

Morris County Commissioner:

Christine Myers, Morris County Deputy Director, Commissioner Liaison

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Department of Human Services
Shawanna Bailey, Office on Aging, Disabilities & Community Programming
Kasey, Errico, Director, Department of Human Services
Anna Marie Hess, Department of Human Services

Others in Attendance:

Shayne Daly, Long Hill Township Community Services

Jaime Gonzalez, Zufall

Maria Lopez, Zufall

II. Approval of March 28, 2023, Minutes

Mr. Oexle motioned to approve March 28, 2023, meeting minutes with the below-listed corrections, and seconded by Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis. All were in favor, with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

- Page 1 – Co-Chair should be Vice-Chair
- Page 5 – Meet should be met
- Page 8 – sentence added to the first paragraph of Section XIV
 - Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis excused herself from the meeting after reading the conflict of interest.

III. Open to the Public – no comment**IV. Chair Report – Mr. Pawelczyk**

- Welcome Commissioner Myers, and thank you for attending the meeting this evening.
- We need at least one more volunteer for the following Subcommittees. If interested, please email Ms. Hess at ahess@co.morris.nj.us
 - *Bylaws Subcommittee* – meets as needed to review and amend the HSAC Bylaws
 - *Legislative Subcommittee* – meets as needed to review State and Federal legislative items that impact the Morris County community and makes recommendations to address these items

V. New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) – Mr. Troche

- Opioid Recovery & Remediation Fund Advisory Council
 - In addition to the input already received through the online portal, the Advisory Council is holding listening sessions to gather public input on distributing opioid settlement funds. New Jersey will receive approximately \$641 million over 18 years as part of a federal opioid settlement. The state will receive half of the funding, and the other half will be provided to participating county and local governments. The dates and locations are as follows:
 - Thursday, May 4, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
 - <https://www.nj.gov/opioidfunds/> to register. The link will be sent after registration
 - Monday, May 22, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
 - Mercer County Community College, Roma Bank Auditorium, Conference Center, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor

- Monday, June 12, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
 - Camden County College (Blackwood), CIM Auditorium, 200 College Road, Blackwood
- Thursday, June 22, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - Essex County College, Clara E. Dasher Student Center, 303 University Avenue, Newark
- Thursday, July 10, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - <https://www.nj.gov/opioidfunds/> to register. The link will be sent after registration
- First Lady Tammy Murphy’s Family Festival connects families with state, county, and local resources – creating a one-stop shop for care, support, resources, and relief. Various resources are available at our Family Festivals – including healthcare, childcare, pediatric services, food, energy and housing assistance programs, and more. Children can enjoy free food, music, activities, and more while they sign up for services, get direct answers from providers, and learn more about the programs and resources available. The Salem Family Festival will be on Saturday, May 20th, at Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park in Salem City from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. For more information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/salem-family-festival-tickets-619318938617?aff=erelexpmlt>
- Now that the Pandemic restrictions have been lifted and the Public Health Emergency has been lifted, all Medicaid clients will be recertified. We encourage everyone to get up-to-date client contact information in preparation for the recertifications.

VI. New Jersey Department of Children & Families
Division of Child Protection & Permanence – Mr. Hegazy
Morris East Office

Criteria	March 2023
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	2
Substance abuse affected newborn cases, aka Safe Care	2
New	41
Reopens	40
Active	7

CPS	84
CWS	26
Domestic Violence	12
Sex Abuse	5
Homelessness	0
SPRU	12
Spanish Speaking	4
< 90-Day Re-opens	9
Substance abuse	9
Child on-Child Sex Abuse	2

Morris West Office

Criteria	March 2023
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	
Substance abuse affected newborn cases, aka Safe Care	4
New	60
Reopens	41
Active	11
CPS	104
CWS	23
Domestic Violence	26
Sex Abuse	7
Homelessness/ Youth Homelessness	0
SPRU	21
Spanish Speaking	20
< 90-Day Re-opens	7
Substance Use	24
Child on-Child Sex Abuse	8

- March is a busy month for both local offices and even statewide. Ms. Errico asked if that is a trend typically for March. Mr. Hegazy stated that our busy time

usually is March, May, and October. March aligns with child abuse prevention month, providing many referrals that can trickle in through May. October is typically a result of one month back to school, so with children feeling comfortable with the new teachers and counselors, they disclose situations that occurred over the summer or in the past.

- Ms. Rivera stated that Spanish-speaking services are greatly lacking in community services. In addition, it is a problem to find and hire Spanish-speaking employees. Ms. Errico noted that this is vital information to document because it goes into our planning and needs assessments to target and prioritize funding. Commissioner Myers asked if volunteers could be used. Ms. Rivera said yes for some things, but volunteers cannot be used in situations involving HIPAA. Ms. Martins added that there are translation lines that are HIPAA compliant. Discussion ensued.

VII. Staff Reports

- Human Services – Ms. Archer
 - We are getting ready for our 2024 funding season. We will start developing our priorities regarding what services are needed and what the community needs are. Our Planning Subcommittee will review our current priorities, assess the community needs, and develop recommendations for the full HSAC. If you are interested in participating, please email Ms. Hess at ahess@co.morris.nj.us.
 - Our priorities coincide with our funding by looking at the needs assessment, community member surveys, provider input, and the information discussed at our meetings. We also use the information from our monitoring reports. All of this information is taken into account when setting the priorities.
 - The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program Year 2023 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) recommendations were approved by the HSAC and submitted to the entire CDRS (Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee) and Regional Committee. They are displayed in our Action Plan posted on the Community Development website <https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Community-Development> There will be a Public Hearing on May 3rd at 2:00 pm with a virtual and in-person option.
 - An email went out with a Code Blue survey. This will provide the County and providers feedback on what worked, and what improvements are still needed.
 - The COVID-related CDBG funding through the Office of Community Development will be extended. The State had placed an 80% spend-down deadline of August 2023 and realized that most Counties could not spend that quickly. They eliminated the 80% spend-down deadline, and full grant expenditures are now set for 2026. This gives us the flexibility to look at the funds we have left and where those funds need to go into the community. More information to follow.

- Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Bailey
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is currently renewing applications, and with the pandemic ending, the minimum benefit will decrease to \$50. Shortly after our meeting, Governor Murphy increased the minimum to \$95.00 for eligible individuals.
 - If an individual is approved to receive the federal minimum payment or any amount less than \$95.00, New Jersey will add a supplemental payment, so the amount received will be \$95.00.
 - We encourage seniors and people with disabilities to apply. People with disabilities and seniors do not have a gross income eligibility test but do have to meet a net income test. In addition, SNAP benefits are now placed on a debit card.
 - New Transit, effective January 1, 2023, has a grant EZ RIDE (non-profit), that offers a 50% discount for medical trips provided through EZRyde4Life Program while funding lasts.
 - The membership-based “EZ Ryde4Life” program uses Lyft and Uber to provide rides for seniors without a smartphone. Seniors call EZRIDE at 201.939.4242, option #4, to request a ride, and a Transportation Coordinator will send a Lyft or Uber car to take them where they need to go.
 - The program is available statewide and requires members to register, set up transportation accounts using a credit or debit card, and then seniors can call when they need a ride. Riders pay the fare charged by Lyft or Uber and an administrative fee of \$2.50 per trip.
 - The discount is available to EZRyde4Life members participating in any one of the following Programs:
 - Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged & Disabled (PAAD) Program
 - Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program
 - Beneficiary of both MEDICAID & MEDICARE Programs
 - This targets the lower income seniors.
 - The Veterans Medal ceremony will be held May 24, 2023, at the Morris County Court House at 12:00 pm
- Workforce Development Board – Ms. Rodgers
 - Shared updated statics for Employment & Training Services (ETS) since July 1, 2022
 - 120 Dislocated workers enrolled in Training Programs
 - 60 adults
 - 10 youths
 - 188 Dislocated workers have completed Training Programs
 - 66 adults
 - 11 youths

- Counselors have worked with 719 dislocated workers through orientations and 1700 consultations; 1550 social assessments have been completed, and 444 WFNJ consultations
- Other types of Training Enrollments
 - 5 enrolled in Work 1st New Jersey
 - 94 enrolled in Workforce Learning Link
 - 2 enrolled in Metrics Training Program
 - 61 enrolled in WFNJ Readiness Program
 - 200 Youth Work Experiences
- Questions/Comments
 - Ms. Rivera asked if you take direction on what careers are in demand regarding training programs and funding opportunities. Ms. Rodgers stated that they receive different labor data and resources and provide that information to the agencies and organizations. Ms. Rivera said that with the lack of psychiatrists in New Jersey, is there grant money to pay for the dislocated workers to go to school to become psychiatrists? Ms. Rogers stated that the funding goes towards careers in high demand. She would have to see where psychiatrists fall on that scale. ETS provides individual training grants for those qualified to be trained in an occupation from the state-approved program list.

VIII. Old Business – no comment

IX. New Business – no comment

X. Subcommittee Reports

- Program Review – no report
- Planning – no report
- Bylaws – no report
- Legislative – no report

XI. Advisory Committee Reports

- Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Ms. Martins
 - EDGE NJ is happy to present Morris County AIDS Walk.
 - DATE: Sunday, May 7, 2023
 - LOCATION: EDGE CAN Wellness Center
295 East Main Street
Denville, NJ 07834
 - TIME: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
 - How to join:
 - Select Register: <https://www.njaidswalk.org/>
 - If you are new, please sign up and create your team
 - Create a personal account and set a fundraising goal

- Finally, share the link to your page on social media to encourage donations
 - You can encourage friends and members to join your page with their accounts to support our team's fundraising goal
 - Reach out to Zoe Heath at z.heath@edgenj.org with any questions you may have
 - Reach out to Ms. Martins at 973.285.0006 ext. 94109 or k.martins@edgenj.org if you have questions regarding MSW HIV Advisory Board or HIV services in the Morris County Area
 - The next MSW HIV Advisory Committee meeting will be May 22, 2023, at 1:00 pm at EDGE NJ
- Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Committee – Ms. Archer
 - Ms. Archer requested a volunteer to attend the HSAC meetings and report to the MHASAB. We have also asked for HSAC members to attend the MHASAB meetings. This can be done on rotation if we do not have a volunteer for the entire year.
 - The last Mental Health Public Forum was held before COVID. We are happy to announce that we will hold the Forum in 2023. The planning process has begun, and we are looking to hold the event in September, and a save the date will go out in June. More information to follow.
 - Mental Health Association held a private screening of the movie, “My Sister Liv.” The event was held virtually on April 20, 2023. The film is about a young girl, Liv, who is entering adolescence and struggles with the relentless pressure of social media, depression, body dysmorphia, and thoughts of suicide. Her sister, Tess, struggles to help her. This riveting journey into the life of Liv and her loved ones, as Tess and her family learn to cope with an unthinkable loss, they begin the heartbreaking journey to understand the circumstances that led to Liv's death and learn from expert solutions and hope. The Liv Project is a group of artists, filmmakers, and creative humans worldwide whose lives have been touched by youth suicide. They are collaborating with youth and mental health professionals to create thoughtful experiences and tools to spark the kind of fearless communication that can save lives. Imagining and building new tools and resources to eliminate the stigma of mental health issues and reverse the soaring rate of youth suicide. For more information, visit their website at <https://thelivproject.org/>.
- Advisory Committee on Women – Ms. Bjornson (report submitted before the meeting)
 - Strategic Focus is to understand the impact on women in a critical relevant area, support local leaders and initiatives addressing this focus, and advocate for responsible solutions. Our concentration is on Housing in Healthcare. This incorporates potential sub-focus areas such as employment, education, transportation, and childcare. The COVID effects on women and national and local emergent needs for safe housing, coupled with the unprecedented amount of federal, state, and local funding available, make this an impactful priority.

- We have moved to meet every other month rather than monthly to allow the sub-committees time to work on projects.
- At the March 22nd Commissioners meeting, the Women's Advisory Board was presented with a Proclamation honoring our work and Women's History Month. Ms. Bjornson accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the committee who joined in attending the event.
- Seeds of Change Award
 - Seeks to highlight and celebrate women who build up other women. Ms. Alice Cutler was our Award Recipient, and the award was presented to Mr. Tim Cutler in her honor, as Ms. Cutler could not join us. The award was presented at the March 22nd Commissioner Meeting. A celebration to honor Ms. Cutler before the meeting was attended by Committee Members, Commissioner Myers, and County Human Service staff, including Human Services Director Ms. Errico.
- The next meeting will be May 17, 2023
- Youth Services Advisory Committee – no report

XII. Partnership Announcements

- Child Care – Ms. Gieger
 - Total number of Registered FCC Providers for April is 33, with 7 prospects
 - NJ DHS DFD Initiatives
 - Continuing to help eligible families by covering the additional amount they may owe for fees or the difference between what the state pays and the provider charges. This assistance began in September and is now extended to December 2023. These additional payments provide up to \$300 for full-time care or \$150 for part-time care, per eligible child, per month on top of the childcare assistance rate paid by the state on behalf of the family.
 - There is an enrollment study administered by DHS/DFD to understand the significance and difference to parents and providers by paying on enrollment rather than attendance.
 - Waiving co-payments in the state's childcare subsidy.
 - Increase in the income eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program
 - Increase childcare payment rates for Family Child Care Providers and licensed Child Care Centers.
- Continuum of Care (CoC) – Ms. Delcalzo
 - The CoC released the RFP for the 2023 Allocations season and held a technical assistance session on April 24, 2023.
 - The Community Assistance Services (CAS) Committee has edited its meeting calendar to meet quarterly starting on June 13, 2023, and will be in person at the county offices.
 - The next regular meeting of the Executive Committee is May 25, 2023

- The next office hours will be April 27, 2023

XIII. Adjournment

Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Pawelczyk seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II