

**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 (HASC)**  
**Tuesday, May 23, 2023, via Webex ONLY**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

Mr. Pawelczyk, the Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:21 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

**Board Member:**

Joann Bjornson, Family Promise  
Teresa Connolly, Nourish NJ  
Kelly Martins, EDGE NJ  
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative  
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, FTG Wellness  
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative  
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey

**Board Liaisons:**

Linda Csengeto  
Allison Delcalzo, Atlantic Health  
Kayla Gieger, Child & Family Resources  
Yosef Hegazy, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
Sean McGinnis, Morris County Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
Beth Rodgers, Workforce Development Board  
Nelson Troche, New Jersey Department of Human Services

**Morris County Staff:**

Amy Archer, 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 April 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Connolly motions to approve April 25, 2023, meeting minutes submitted and seconded by Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis. All were in favor, with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carried.

**III. Open to the Public – no comment**

**IV. Chair Report – Mr. Pawelczyk, Vice-Chair**

- Thank you to the Board of County Commissions for hosting a Volunteer Reception on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. There was a great turnout from the various Morris County Boards, Non-Profit Providers, and County Commissioners. In addition, the CCM Culinary Arts program provided food, and a classical guitarist provided music.
- Leadership Advisory Committee meeting was held on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. This committee comprises the Chair and Vice-Chairs for all county advisory groups and the Morris County Human Services Coordinators. This group was started in 2018 to hold open discussions about the concerns discussed during the committee meetings.
- The Program Review Subcommittee met to discuss the 2024 Funding Priorities that will be explained and voted on during tonight's closed session.

**V. New Jersey Department of Human Services – no report**

**VI. New Jersey Department of Children & Families  
Division of Child Protection & Permanence**

**MORRIS EAST**

Criteria	April 2023
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	3
Substance abuse affected newborn cases, aka Safe Care	0
New	14

Reopens	33
Active	4
CPS	79
CWS	13
Domestic Violence	17
Sex Abuse	5
Homelessness	0
SPRU	9
Spanish Speaking	3
< 90-Day Re-opens	19
Substance abuse	8
Child on-Child Sex Abuse	0

### **MORRIS WEST**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>April 2023</b>
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	
Substance abuse affected newborn cases, aka Safe Care	5
New	30
Reopens	56
Active	4
CPS	73
CWS	13
Domestic Violence	12
Sex Abuse	13
Homelessness/ Youth Homelessness	0
SPRU	
Spanish Speaking	15
< 90-Day Re-opens	8

Substance Use	20
Child on-Child Sex Abuse	3

- Questions
  - Ms. Roers stated a significant reduction in new cases opened in April compared to March.
    - Mr. Yosef replied that March is usually their busiest month for the year, so this is the trend we are seeing compared to other years.

## VII. Staff Reports

- **Human Services – Ms. Archer**
  - Everyone knows that Ms. Shelia Carter retired in February 2022. Ms. Carter was the Human Services Coordinator, and not only did she take care of the HSAC & Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) but she also provided support to the CoC and had numerous supervisor responsibilities. Throughout the past year, I evaluated the growing needs within the Division and decided to split the role. We are pleased to announce that Ms. Hess will be the new HSAC & SSH Coordinator as of June 1<sup>st</sup> and will start transitioning into this role. I will be working with her very closely over the next year.
  - We will hold our Mental Health Public Forum in September. This will be our first one since the pandemic and will be held in person only. We are looking into different facilities for a larger capacity. We also discussed topics of the forum and some guest speakers. We will also provide boxed dinners from Longfellows for the event—information to follow.
  - The Annual Action Plan through the Office of Community Development is displayed. We have held our public meeting and submitted the plan to HUD on time. HUD has a 45-day review period. This grant is for the ESG, CDBG, and HOME Grants program year 2023, July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
  - Our 2024 Funding season is rapidly upon us. Please keep your eye out for this information to be posted in the newspaper and on our website, and it will be emailed to over 200 providers serving Morris County residents.
  - I attended a seminar in Miami on their Mental Health Diversion Program. The basis of this program is to put clients into treatment instead of incarceration. They will be opening a large facility that provides beds, in-patient, outpatient services, and visiting rooms, and in collaboration with a nearby medical facility, they can provide clients with medical needs. Morris County does have an MH Diversion Program through the Prosecutor's Office and MHA.
- **Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – no report**
- **Workforce Development Board – Ms. Rogers**
  - The WDB will continue to have funding available to support businesses looking to hire individuals. Working closely with The Department of Labor, recently implemented training reimbursement to employers for up to \$20,000 for the first year while the candidate is training. This amount is

based on the candidate's wages. For Nonprofit Organizations that are having difficulty hiring candidates, this opportunity has a \$500 sign-on bonus incentive.

- There is funding for existing employees for Incumbent Workers training to advance skills or cross-training, \$5,000 per employee per year. The training provider may be an in-house expert or an external provider.
- Marotta Controls will host a hiring event in July. Additional information to follow.

- Questions

- Ms. Csengeto asked if WFD can place Ukrainian Refugees into work.
  - Ms. Rogers stated that they are just starting to hear more about this concern in a meeting she attended with Sussex County. They are seeing an influx of individuals from Ukraine and Haiti. These individuals are in desperate need to learn the English language. Most of these individuals are young adults 16 to 21 and coming in without families. Those that are of school age, they are trying to get them enrolled in the school system. However, there is a struggle because they only want to learn the language and get a job. The adults and those with families should come into the One-Stop offices; they have the English as a Second Language programs and can apply for other Human Services programs. Discussion ensued.

## **VIII. Old Business – no comment**

## **IX. New Business**

- Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis announced she is working on a project with DAWN Centers for Independent Living. We did a Human Services and Disabilities agency services training on How to Locate Your Local Office of Public Health.

We are wrapping up a series of webinars for Public Health to Create Competency in the Workplace for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities. We will send a summary and press release to Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill and Assemblywoman Aura Dunn's offices, their constituents, and the County to get the word out that DAWN Centers for Independent Living is taking a leadership role in the State of New Jersey on promoting public health competency in disabilities inclusion in public health practices.

- Ms. Roers announced that United Way of Northern New Jersey released the updated ALICE report called The Crossroads. This report includes all the data from the pandemic <https://www.unitedwaynnj.org/post/alice-in-the-crosscurrents>.

## **X. Subcommittee Reports**

- Program Review was moved to the end of the meeting for a closed session.
- Planning – no report
- Bylaws – no report
- Nominating – no report
- Legislative – no report

## **XI. Advisory Committee Reports**

- Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Ms. Martins
  - There is much language about increasing HIV testing in the area and getting creative with nontraditional testing sites. This will follow our status-neutral model of having everyone know their status. Many providers in the area provide free HIV testing, including The Sexual Health Center at Morristown Memorial Hospital, Zufall Medical Centers, and EDGE NJ. In the next few months, our initiative is to partner with all the providers of this service and get that information out to the consumers.
  - Morris County Pride Festival will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2023, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm at County College of Morris, 214 Center Grove Road, Randolph.
- Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Board – Ms. Csengeto
  - The September and November meetings will be in person, and the October meeting will be held virtually.
  - The NJ Department of Mental Health posted several Requests for Proposals with submission deadlines in early May.
  - An email will be sent to the Planning Subcommittee in early June to start planning for Overdose Awareness Day. This takes place on August 31 at 1 Executive Drive. We have guest speakers who share their stories about loved ones they have lost to overdose or they share their recovery journey. If you want to participate in the planning subcommittee, please contact Ms. Anna Marie Hess at [ahess@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:ahess@co.morris.nj.us).
  - 500 pharmacies currently participate in the Narcan Distribution Program in New Jersey, with over 12,000 Narcan kits distributed.
  - MHASAB will not have an August meeting, as in the past, due to our Funding Review meetings. Our Funding Review meetings will be held in person only. The applications will be distributed via email; if you require a hard copy, please request that from Ms. Hess at [ahess@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:ahess@co.morris.nj.us), and she will have them ready for pickup. The State Funding Review meetings will continue to be virtual.
  - There was an open discussion about those aging out of the DCF system. A question was asked about how efforts can be coordinated for a warm handoff for individuals turning 19 and entering the adult system of care?
  - The Opioid Recovery & Remediation Fund 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:

- 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.
- Advisory Committee on Women – Ms. Bjornson
  - Strategic Focus
    - A Strategic Focus aims 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 as Healthcare. This incorporates potential sub-focused areas such as employment, education, transportation, and childcare. The Covid effects on women, national and local emergent needs for safe housing, and the unprecedented amount of federal, state, and local funding available make this an impactful priority.
  - Meeting Structure
    - We have moved to meet every other month rather than monthly to allow the sub-committees time to work on projects. Sub-committee meeting results are discussed at full committee meetings.
  - Women's Committee Process
    - Committee continues to build internal capacity by documenting processes used for activities (based on Mission & By-Laws).
  - Sub-Committee Updates
    - Membership-seeking new members who live or work in Morris County-discussed local organizations for potential members.
    - Seeds of Change Award- Inspired by Leanna Brown - the Seeds of Change Award seeks to highlight and celebrate women who build up other women. Women's Committee reviewed last year's process and previous outreach distribution list, discussed potential new outreach options and is actively working on this year's application. Sub Committee will review all prep items for discussion on July 19 full committee discussion and vote.

- Housing is Healthcare-Discussed local initiative; suggested presentations approved by Committee for September 20, 2023, meeting with a focus on recent research and community needs.
- Next Meeting - July 19th, 2023

## **XII. Partnership Announcements**

- Child Care – Ms. Gieger
  - Total number of Registered FCC Providers for April is 33, with 5 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
  - Discussion on the County applying for a data improvement grant. Additional information will be provided when available.
  - Next meeting is Thursday, May 25, 2023.

## **XIII. Program Review Closed Session**

Mr. Pawelczyk asked all non-voting members to exit the call for review of 2024 Grant-In-Aid (GIA), Child Abuse Prevention (CAP), and Social Service for the Homeless (SSH) Funding Priorities. Ms. Csengeto, Ms. Daly, Ms. Delcalzo, Ms. Gieger, Ms. Gonzalez, Mr. Hegazy, Ms. Lopez, Mr. McGinnis, Ms. Rodgers, Mr. Troche left the call-motion made by Ms. O'Reilly-Stanzilis and seconded by Mr. Oexle to begin the closed session of the meeting. There were no abstention and no opposition. Motion carried.

According to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the board closed the open portion of the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

### **Return to Meeting**

The meeting reopened at 6:30 p.m. No one reentered the call.



**Actions Resulting from Closed Session**

Mr. Pawelczyk stated that the Program Review Committee met, reviewed, and provided 2024 Funding Priorities recommendations. The record reflects that the board voted to approve the priorities in the closed session. Therefore, we need a motion to open a session on the same.

Mr. Oexle motioned to approve the recommendations as discussed in the closed session. Ms. Bjornson seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Ms. Roers made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Oexle seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Human Services Coordinator