

**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, September 26, 2023, In-Person ONLY**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

Ms. Sherrod, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:22 p.m. A quorum was not established, and attendance was as follows:

**Board Members:**

Joann Bjornson, Family Promise  
Ken Oexle, Citizen Representative  
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative – Vice-Chair  
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources – Chair

**Morris County Staff:**

Amy Archer, Division of Community & Behavioral Health  
Kasey Errico, Director of Human Services  
Anna Marie Hess, Division of Community & Behavioral Health

**Guests:**

Jeff Bashe, Community Representative  
Emily Savino, Mental Health Association, Assistant Director

**II. Approval of June 27, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

It was tabled until the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

**III. Open to the Public**

Ms. Savino announced the launch of NJ4S, a New Jersey Statewide Student Support Service. NJ4S is a program funded by the Department of Children and Families, providing various wellness services to support students and their parents in Morris and Sussex Counties. The Program is free and centered around the voice, experience, and needs of students and their families. Services occur in schools and other community

locations, including libraries, community centers, faith-based organizations, and Family Success Centers. See the brochure attached for additional information.

**IV. Chair Report – no report**

**V. New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) – no report**

**VI. New Jersey Department of Children & Families (NJ DCF) – provided before the meeting by Mr. Hager.**

- A. 2023 Governor’s Conference on Housing and Economic Development (NJEDA)
  - i. NJ DCF will be exhibiting at the Governor’s Conference on Housing and Economic Development on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at Harrah’s Hotel, Atlantic City. NJ DCF has booth #109.
- B. Cover all Kids NJ Family Care Health Insurance campaign is well underway. Useful resources are at this link: <https://nj.gov/coverallkids/>
- C. NJDCF has resources and information on the NJ Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S) available on our DCF | NJ Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S) website. This includes an updated webinar aired on 8/24/23 (see the “NJ4S Communication Assets” in the channel on the right-hand side of the page), and new social media assets.

**Division of Child Protection and Permanence  
Morris East Local Office**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>April 2023</b>	<b>May 2023</b>	<b>June 2023</b>	<b>July 2023</b>	<b>August 2023</b>
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old	3	10	14	6	3
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	0	3	4	1	2
New	14	42	46	47	23
Reopens	33	35	38	32	33
Active	4	8	15	10	4
CPS	79	89	103	85	65
CWS	13	10	18	10	8
Domestic Violence	17	22	34	30	16
Sex Abuse	5	5	2	12	5
Homelessness	0	0	2	3	2
SPRU	9	16	28	24	15
Spanish Speaking	3	11	23	19	8

< 90 Day Re-opens	19	13	11	6	13
Substance abuse	8	18	19	27	13
Child on Child Sex Abuse	0	1	3	2	2
Unaccompanied Minors		1	1	1	1

#### **Morris West Local Office**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>April 2023</b>	<b>May 2023</b>	<b>June 2023</b>	<b>July 2023</b>	<b>August 2023</b>
Children <5-years old, Mother <30 -years old					
Substance abuse affected newborn cases aka Safe Care	5		0		1
New	30	44	38	13	18
Reopens	56	10	11	12	
Active	4	6	8	5	3
CPS	73	100	101	89	73
CWS	13	19	16	19	13
Domestic Violence	12	17	24	8	16
Sex Abuse	13	9		6	3
Homelessness	0	1		1	
SPRU					
Spanish Speaking	15	20		6	21
< 90 Day Re-opens	8			13	5
Substance abuse	20	7	4	11	11
Child on Child Sex Abuse	3	3		0	1
Unaccompanied Minors	0	1	0	0	0

## **VII. Staff Reports**

### **A. Human Services**

- i. Ms. Hess stated at the State HSAC meeting on September 1, 2023, that a presentation from NJ 2-1-1 was presented. They presented their new dashboard on the website and will launch the entire updated website in February 2024. The website will be multilingual, nationwide, and will provide real-time statistics.
- ii. All site monitoring meetings have been completed. Thank you to everyone for volunteering your time to attend these meetings.

- iii. Ms. Archer stated that Picatinny Arsenal's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Resilience Day Fair will be on October 25, 2023, at Lindner Conference Center, Picatinny Arsenal, NJ 07806, Rockaway Township, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. They seek to engage with businesses and organizations from Morris County and surrounding areas. If your business or organization is interested in participating, please contact [usarmy.pica.usag.mbs.employee-assistance-prgram@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.pica.usag.mbs.employee-assistance-prgram@army.mil) for detailed information.
- iv. Ms. Archer announced that the Division of Community and Behavioral Health has hired a new Administrative Professional to replace Ms. Hess, a Municipal Alliance Coordinator, to replace Mr. Nebesni and a new Community Development Worker, starting Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will make our Division fully staffed.
- v. Ms. Errico announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Resource Networking event was held on Friday, September 15, 2023, and was a success. We connected one of our mayors with services for a veteran he was trying to help.

**B. Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans** – provided before the meeting by Ms. Hellyer

- i. The Aging Department offers funds to translate our Provider's flyers/brochures into Spanish with ARP funding.
- ii. We are currently in the process of finalizing the 2024 Contracts for the Morris County Providers.
- iii. We recently had the following staffing changes
  - 1. Ms. Bertha Cornejo-More transferred to the Veterans Department
  - 2. New hire in APS and Aging
  - 3. Two vacancies in our Care Management, one we filled internally and the other we are currently interviewing
- iv. The MAPS Department is happy to report that the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP) prepared by Rutgers should be finalized by November 2023. We plan to utilize the CHSTP recommendations to increase our service, areas that work well, improvements that can be made, and what should be continued.

**C. Workforce Development Board** – no report

**VIII. Old Business** – no comment

**IX. New Business**

- A. Ms. Bjornson asked, “With the possibility of a Government shutdown, how will that affect the County’s voucher payouts?” Ms. Archer stated that this would not impact our vouchering process or payouts. At this time, everything is business as usual, and if there are any changes or issues, all providers will be contacted with updates.
- B. Ms. Bjornson stated that a fire in Dover on September 16th left about 50 displaced residents. Ms. Archer stated that Navigating Hope was dispatched, and a call was initiated by Connecting Dover on Monday. Navigating Hope connected with Head Start, the Red Cross, the Mayor of Dover, and the School District to set

up four locations, including hotels where displaced residents are housed. Mr. Bashe asked how a crisis like this affects the Coordinated Entry services in the County or who takes the lead on housing the displaced families. Ms. Archer stated that the Township of Dover and the Red Cross are handling that situation.

- C. Ms. Bjornson asked if there was an update on the COVID-19 Community Development Block Grant (CV CDBG) Funds.
  - a. Ms. Archer stated that we have closed our CV ESG funding through Community Development. The deadline for final spending is September 30, 2023. We have successfully drawn down all funding, and we do have a small amount left in our administrative fund that can be drawn down through December.
  - b. The CV CDBG funding through Community Development has to be expended by 2026. Our goal is to have all funding fully expended by the end of 2025. We did allocate a significant amount of money during the early stages of our planning process. What we have found during COVID was that there were other funding sources to cover the expenses. Now, we can reallocate these funds. We will issue an RFA to all Municipalities and non-profits as we did for the first round of funding; applications will be reviewed, and allocations will be recommended based on that process.
  - c. CV CDBG that was issued through DCA. We are working through the final stages with them. There have been a few contracts already awarded.
- D. Mr. Bashe requested an update on the HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME ARP) funding.
  - a. Ms. Archer stated these funds are for developing and constructing affordable housing, supporting services, administration, and capacity building. HUD accepted our Allocation Plan, and we are expecting more movement with this funding throughout the rest of 2023 and into 2024.
- E. Ms. Bjornson provided an update on the Homeless Trust Fund. The Housing Alliance and Shelter Providers met with the County Commissioners. We are not expecting a Homeless Trust Fund to be administered, but we request that this be a budget line item. This request came in a formal letter to the Commissioners signed by Family Promise, Homeless Solutions, and JBWS. The document provided statistics showing the need for shelter in Morris County—additional information to be provided.

## **X. Subcommittee Reports**

### **A. Program Review**

- i. Moved to the end of the meeting for a closed session but tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

### **B. Planning – no report**

### **C. Bylaws – no report**

### **D. Nominating**

- i. Ms. Hess stated that this subcommittee will meet before our next meeting to discuss potential 2024 Chair and Vice-Chair nominees.

### **E. Legislative – no report**

## **XI. Advisory Committee Reports**

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

### **B. Mental Health Addiction Services Advisory Committee – Ms. Archer**

- i. Our last meeting was on September 14<sup>th</sup> and was held in person. Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum. Those that did attend are interested in continuing the in-person meetings.
- ii. The Morris County Public Forum – Reconnection & Resilience Celebrating Community, will be held on Monday, October 2, 2023, 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the County College of Morris, Student Community Center, Davidson Rooms, 214 Center Grove Road, Randolph. This is the first one since the pandemic. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be resource tables, a light supper, and live music.
- iii. This was our Funding Recommendations meeting; since a quorum was not established, we will hold a virtual meeting to discuss and vote on 2024 Funding Recommendations on Friday, September 29, 2023.
- iv. There was a discussion on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in our county. MAT is the use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders. One of our members searched for local providers that would prescribe MAT and found a limited number of providers that use MAT as part of their treatment plan. The group then asked: is the service limited due to lack of education or high fees and costs? They will continue to visit this topic and research possible advocacy opportunities as a group.
- v. The Department of Human Services announced the launch of [StopOverdoses.nj.gov](https://stopoverdoses.nj.gov). The initiative is part of the Murphy Administration's ongoing efforts to combat the opioid crisis. Under the Naloxone 365 initiative, those ages 14 and older can request and obtain naloxone at participating pharmacies for free without providing a name or reason. No prescription is needed. Naloxone is a medication that rapidly reverses the effects of an opioid overdose.
- vi. The Suicide Prevention Conference will be October 19, 2023. This free all-day virtual event is presented by the NJ Department of Human Services, NJ Department of Health, and NJ Department of Children and Families.

### **C. Advisory Committee on Women (ACW)**

- i. A Strategic Focus aims to understand the impact on women in a key 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-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.
- ii. Ms. Catherine Connelly of United Way presented 2023 information on local, New Jersey, and national trends on ALICE Population. The

committee discussion included a review of online interactive resources in the report, what local needs were identified, and strategies for solutions.

1. The HSAC requested Ms. Hess set up an ALICE presentation for the October or November meeting as a group.
  - iii. Seeds of Change Award, inspired by Ms. Leanna Brown. The ACW seeks nominees for this award that highlights and celebrates women who build up other women. The nominations will be reviewed and processed for full committee discussion and vote before the November meeting.
  - iv. We are actively recruiting new members who live or work in Morris County.
  - v. Housing is Healthcare local initiative project start date was delayed. Updates to come.
  - vi. Next Meeting is November 15, 2023.
- D. Youth Services Advisory Committee – provided before the meeting by Ms. Mondino**
- i. Ms. Juli Harpel Elam, JBWS, presented on the Choices Program. This program is for boys ages 12-17 who have started using intimidation and bullying toward an intimate partner or family member. For additional information or to refer a client, contact JBWS at <https://jbws.org/>.
  - ii. Ms. Errico announced that listening sessions for the Opioid Settlement funds will be virtual on September 19<sup>th</sup> and in person on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii. Ms. Gallagher, Youth Advocate Programs (YAP), Inc. began providing services in New Jersey in 1978. Today, their continuum includes intensive wraparound advocacy, case management, mentoring, family support, life skills training, anger management/coping skills training, supported work, violence prevention, and behavioral health. YAP tailors these services to those at risk of out-of-home placement, detention, incarceration, truancy, gang involvement, and criminal activity. Outpatient Clinics and Psychiatric Services are designed for children and youth who no longer require partial hospitalization programs, residential services, or in-home therapy. Services are provided in an individual, family, and group modality and typically occur weekly. Psychiatric evaluation and medication monitoring are also available. For more information, contact Ms. Gallagher, Director, at [tgallagher@yapinc.org](mailto:tgallagher@yapinc.org), 400 Morris Avenue, Denville, NJ 973.729.3617.
  - iv. Ms. Dinney, Neighborhood House, is offering Teen RAP (Resilience and Purpose) an 18-session program starting October 12. They also have an open gym going on multiple nights a week.
  - v. Ms. Houston, Family Support Organization (FSO), stated they provide support groups, workshops, peer support, and non-clinical services to special needs youth and youth with challenges.
  - vi. Mr. Johnson, Deirdre's House, announced they are hosting the Game of Life at Butler High School on October 6<sup>th</sup>. They also hired a new therapist and no longer have a waiting list for clinical counseling.

## **XII. Partnership Announcements**

### **A. Child Care – Ms. Sherrod – Chair**

#### **i. State of Child Care in Morris County**

1. The total number of registered FCC Providers for September was 36, with three prospects.

#### **ii. NJ DHS Initiatives:**

1. Continuing to help eligible families by covering the additional amount they may owe for fees or the difference between the state's pay and the provider's 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
  - a. Waiving co-payments in the state's childcare subsidy
  - b. Increase in the income eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program
  - c. Increase in the childcare payment rates for Family Child Care Providers and licensed Child Care Centers
2. Thrive by Three Grant
  - a. To help support the development and creation of childcare infant and toddler slots and provide technical assistance to providers to expand childcare spaces.
3. The New Jersey Economic Development Authorities (NJEDA) Child Care Facility Improvement Program Grant
  - a. Closing application on Friday, October 20, 2023
  - b. Program provides grants of \$50,000 to \$200,000 to NJ childcare providers for facility improvements that will contribute to high-quality early childhood learning environments.

### **B. Continuum of Care (CoC) – provided before the meeting by Ms. Delcalzo**

- i. The July 27, 2023, meeting was canceled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Human Services Conference Room.
- ii. The next office hours are scheduled for October 26, 2023, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. To sign up for office hours, email [Allison.delcalzo@atlantichhealth.org](mailto:Allison.delcalzo@atlantichhealth.org).
- iii. The Allocation Committee has completed its application review and funding determinations for the 2023 CoC application season, and agencies have uploaded their documentation into e-snaps.
- iv. The CoC partnered with the County, Interfaith Food Pantry Network, and Family Promise to produce a municipal engagement event on Friday, September 15.



**XIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Sherrod adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess, Human Services Coordinator