

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 900
Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0900

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HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)
Tuesday, November 28, 2024, 5:15 p.m. In-Person
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Ms. Sherrod, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Joann Bjornson, Family Promise
Kenneth Oexle, Citizen Representative
Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, FTG Wellness
Joseph Pawelczyk, Citizen Representative – Vice-Chair
Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey
Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources – Chair

Morris County Liaison:

Commissioner Christine Myers

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Division of Community & Behavioral Health, Mental Health Administrator
Shawonna Bailey, Morris County Office on Aging
Kasey Errico, Department Director of Human Services
Anna Marie Hess, Division of Community & Behavioral Health, HSAC Coordinator

Community Members:

Jeff Bashe, Morris Housing Alliance
Catherine Connelly, United Way, United for ALICE
Kayla Gieger, Child & Family Resources
Emily Savino, Mental Health Association, NJ4S

- II. Approval of October 24, 2023, Minutes**
Tabled until January 2024 meeting
- III. ALICE Presentation** – Ms. Catherine Connelly, United for ALICE
See PowerPoint attached
- IV. Open to the Public** – no comment
- V. Chair Report** – Ms. Sherrod
- A.** The Human Services Virtual Budget Listening Session is at noon on Wednesday, November 29, 2023. All are welcome to offer verbal or written testimony to inform the Department of Human Services budget for 2024-25. This announcement was submitted to this HSAC, and we are still waiting to receive feedback. Last year, we introduced a letter in support of preschool expansion. If there is anything we would like to add, we can submit written testimony tomorrow morning.
- B.** New Jersey Citizen Action, A HUD-designated Fair Housing Agency, is hiring paid per diem Fair Housing Testers to help make sure people are not being denied housing because of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status. If interested, please email the test coordinator at jenise@njcitizenaction.org.
- VI. New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS)** – no report
- VII. New Jersey Department of Children & Families** – Announcements received from Mr. Hager before the meeting.
- A.** NJDCF will be exhibiting at the “NJ Association of School Librarians Conference” at the Hard Rock Hotel, Atlantic City, on December 3rd – 5th, booth #304.
- B.** The Cover All Kids NJ Family Care Health Insurance campaign is underway. Valuable resources are at <https://nj.gov/coverallkids/>.
- C.** NJDCF has resources and information on the NJ Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S) available at [DCF | NJ Statewide Student Support Services \(NJ4S\)](#). This includes an updated webinar (see the “NJ4S Communication Assets” in the channel on the right-hand side of the page) and new social media assets. The Mental Health Association operates the Hub for Morris County.
- VIII. Division of Child Protection & Permanency** – no report
- IX. Staff Reports**
- A. Human Services** – Ms. Hess & Ms. Archer Combined Report
- 1.** Subcommittees will be busy next year, and I am encouraging Council Members to sign up for at least two in 2024. Our Bylaws subcommittee will need to review the State's HSAC new bylaws and make the changes to ours for compliance. Those interested in Program Review, please remember our conflict-of-interest policy for GIA, SSH, and Navigating Hope funding review and recommendations.
- 2.** We have restructured our agenda to include time allotments for each agenda item to keep mindful of everyone’s time. This will be important in 2024

since we would like to use this time as a question-and-answer and discussion time rather than reading the report distributed before the meeting.

3. Our HSAC Meetings are held every 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:15 p.m. at the Human Services building conference room 82, and all meetings will be held in person. The 2024 proposed meeting schedule is as follows: January 23, February 27, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 26, and December 24. We have previously voted not to meet in July, August, and December to accommodate program monitoring meetings, vacations, and Holidays. Also, our November meeting is the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week; I am asking if the Council would like to meet on Tuesday, November 19th instead. Ms. Sharrod motioned to approve the proposed 2024 meeting schedule, except for not holding a meeting in July, August, and December and changing the November meeting from the 26th to the 19th. Ms. Roers seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

4. The current Code Blue session is upon us. We received \$95,000.00 from our State Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) grant. The State has announced that additional funds are available, and Morris County will apply for an additional \$95,000.00. More information will follow.

5. We are preparing for our Point In Time (PIT) count. Our first planning was two weeks ago, and our next meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday, November 29th. Our main goal this year is to expand outreach. In past years, we have only held one event. This year, our team will be out in the community three times. Our largest group will take the initial count at the shelters for the first night of the count. The Mental Health Association is hosting Project Homeless Connect on January 26th at St. Peter's Church in Morristown. An outreach table will be set up to capture additional information. On the last day of the PIT count, we will send outreach teams to more locations to reach and survey more individuals. If you would like more information or to participate in the PIT, please contact Ms. Archer at aarcher@co.morris.nj.us or 973.285.6852.

6. Our new Municipal Alliance Coordinator is Ms. McKensie Fosco. Ms. Fosco has been able to get the funding process caught up to date. She is collaborating with Ms. Suarez, the Substance Use Coordinator, on education and prevention programs to connect what we are doing within the community and what we will do within our municipalities.

7. A Request for Application (RFA) was sent out for the Opioid Settlement Funds. The MHASAB received and reviewed the applications, and we are moving forward with the funding process.

8. 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Funding will be announced soon. This information and application will be circulated via email, in the newspaper, and on the county website.

9. Ms. Errico stated that the State will invest additional money into the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. 988 is available to anyone experiencing thoughts of suicide or a mental health or substance use crisis. Trained counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This expansion will be used to develop mobile crisis outreach response teams. These teams will coordinate with the 988 Lifeline

Centers and respond to non-life-threatening crises when necessary. The State is also creating Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Centers to provide community-based services in a facility designed to meet the immediate needs to divert incarceration or hospitalization.

B. Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans – Ms. Bailey

1. We have announced the expansion of our Veterans Service Office. This announcement coincided with a second Distinguished Service Medal Ceremony provided by the Commissioners. We celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new office space. At this time, we also announced that we are receiving additional funding to support services such as housing and transportation for our veterans.

C. Workforce Development Board – no report

X. Old Business – no comment

XI. New Business – no comment

XII. Subcommittee Reports

A. Program Review – no report

B. Planning – no report

C. Bylaws – no report

D. Nominating – Mr. Pawelczyk

1. Ms. Sherrod and Ms. Bjornson have already been added to the nominees for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024. This will be Ms. Sherrod's last year of eligibility for Chair. Additional nominees have not been submitted at this time. If there is someone that the HSAC would like to nominate, please contact Mr. Pawelczyk at jpawelczyk@gmail.com or Ms. Hess at ahess@co.morris.nj.us to submit that information. The slate of officers will be presented and voted on at our January 23, 2024, meeting before the member orientation presentation.

XIII. Advisory Committee Reports

A. Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory Committee

1. Ms. Martins submitted a flyer before the meeting announcing their World AIDS Day event on Friday, December 1st, in partnership with Hope House from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 101-103 Bassett Highway, Dover, New Jersey. This year's theme is "Remember & Resilience," remembering those we lost to HIV and AIDS. There will be free HIV testing, resources, speakers, and a Ribbons of Remembrance Ceremony. Please RSVP to Daniella at D.Mendez@edgenj.org.

B. Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board – Ms. Archer

1. In partnership with the Mental Health Association (MHA), the Morris County Prosecutor's Office is gearing up to launch the ARRIVE Together program. ARRIVE Together, which stands for "Alternative Response 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. Morris County's program consists of two pilots where mental health providers will arrive shortly after law enforcement responds to a mental or

behavioral health call. Once law enforcement deems the scene safe, the mental health clinician from MHA will speak to the caller to help divert them to appropriate services. After that, MHA will conduct follow-ups with the individual and others referred to the program to connect them to services. The first pilot program consists of Madison, Morristown, Morris Plains, and Morris Township and will expand as they see fit in the near future. MHA will staff this State funded program—additional information to come.

2. At our last MHASAB meeting, our State representative strongly encouraged all agencies to frequently review their funding website <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/> for Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA), Request for Proposals (RFP)'s and Request for Letters of Interest (RLI). They are noticing that deadlines are being missed, resulting in an extension of those deadlines due to more questions related to the RFP, resulting in a longer response time for research and clarification.

3. The Opioid Settlement Funds will be circulated to the community every year, and an application will be put out with our regular funding announced early to late spring. It will be a separate application from the Grant-In-Aid and Chapter 51 funding.

4. The County applied for a grant through DMHAS through the Disaster and Terrorism Division and was awarded \$30,000.00 to support our Disaster Response Crisis Counselors (DRCC). We have found that our DRCC team is only deployed during a mass sheltering crisis, and fortunately, we have not had to deploy them in several years. The submitted plan sustained and engaged our team when not deployed for services. The proposal submitted will upgrade our technology by providing tablets when out in the field and additional training, such as mock sheltering, to become familiar with the responsibilities and procedures of that type of situation. We will be actively recruiting new members. Training will be provided, and additional information will follow.

C. Advisory Committee on Women – Ms. Bjornson

1. We are accepting nominations for the “Seeds of Change Award,” which will be presented next year to a woman who has worked to improve the community and has been a leader and inspiration to other women in the county.

D. Youth Services Advisory Committee – Ms. Mondino provided a report before the meeting

1. Pathways to Recovery announced a grant for anyone affected by opioid use ages 18 and older residing in Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties that will support job training, apprenticeships, licensing, etc.

2. Avvid Community Services issued a grant for a youth internship program through the Department of Labor. Youth ages 14 through 21 with diagnosed disabilities 504 or IEP. This paid internship is \$18.00 per hour for three weeks of job training and wrap-around services.

3. Deirdre's House will host the Game of Life at Madison High School on February 9, 2024. They are looking for schools to host in April or May.

XIV. Partnership Announcements

A. Child Care – Ms. Sherrod

1. The number of registered Family Child Care providers for November is 38, with three prospects.
2. NJ DHS DFD Initiatives
 - a) The State's Fiscal Year 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 June 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.
 - c) The 2023 NJ Child Care Market Rate survey is open to help inform policy recommendations for setting provider payment rates for the Child Care Assistance Program.

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

1. The last meeting was on November 16, 2023. The 2024 Executive and Allocations Committee members were voted on during this meeting.
2. A new grievance policy was reviewed and approved.
3. A revised anti-discrimination policy was reviewed and approved.

XV. Adjournment

- A.** Ms. Sherrod announced that Mr. Pawelczyk is cycling off the HSAC. Thanking him for his time and hard work over the years and hope to see him back on the committee after a year.
- B.** Mr. Pawelczyk motioned to adjourn, and Ms. Bjornson seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
HSAC Coordinator