

Morris County Advisory Committee on Women
November 16, 2022, 5:30pm to 7:00pm
Via Microsoft Teams

Present: Joann Bjornson, Donna Boyce, Julia Gibson, and Kasey Errico

Welcome and Introductions: Ms. Bjornson called the meeting to order at 5:35pm and welcomed members.

Review of October 19, 2022 meeting minutes: Due to a lack of a quorum, the minutes will be voted on at the January 18, 2023 meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Membership – Ms. Bjornson reminded the Committee to please continue to seek out potential candidates to fill vacancies on the Committee, keeping in mind diversity, race, ethnicity, age, skill areas. Members do not have to be women. She reached out again to Hispanic Affairs, but to date has not heard back from the agency. Ms. Bjornson stated that she has been actively trying to recruit members through her contacts on various other Advisory Boards. Recently she spoke with Ms. Gibson and discussed a lot of ideas which will be shared at future meetings.
- b. 2023 Seeds of Change Award – Ms. Bjornson reminded the Committee that the event will be held in March, which is Women’s History Month. We anticipate the meeting will most likely be conducted at the second Commissioner meeting (March 22, 2023). Ms. Kisatsky stated that the final form should be done tomorrow. She will then send the form to the Committee as a “test” and asked members to fill it out and send it back to her in an effort to ensure all the buttons work correctly. Once this is done, she will email the form to the nonprofit Executive Directors, have the document put on the County Website and will have Human Services Advisory Committees mention the Seeds of Change Award at their respective meetings. Due date for the applications is set for January 6, 2023.
- c. Action/Planning – Ms. Bjornson reminded the Committee that Housing is Healthcare is the focus for the next two years. She spoke with Ms. Gibson about Housing and Healthcare and the work that she does with education and how everything is tied into healthcare. Ms. Gibson agreed to join this subcommittee with Ms. Bjornson, Ms. Boyce, and Ms. O’Keeffe. There are several initiatives on this subject such as the Homeless Trust Fund.
 - Ms. Bjornson stated that the 2022 Annual Report (end of year report) needs to be created and submitted to the Commissioners. Ms. Errico stated that last year, the Annual Report was submitted at the Seeds of Change event. Ms. Errico mentioned the mission of this Committee is a fact gathering committee focused on the needs of women in Morris County. Maybe in the discussion on Housing is Healthcare, there is a mechanism to create a focus group that can help gather information from women in Morris County related to Housing is Healthcare for the Annual Report. Ms. Bjornson thought it was a great idea. She asked if Ms. Gibson was interested in joining this subcommittee. Ms. Gibson replied she is interested. Ms. Gibson stated that working at Job Corp, they pull a lot of that information from the census when they work with families that are underrepresented and facing homelessness, foster care situations or looking for employment. The census information has data on how many students or families they can reach out to. It’s a good resource to see what the needs are of families in Morris County. Ms. Bjornson will add this topic on the January 2023 agenda. Ms. Errico reiterated that the Annual Report was not presented as a speaking report, just noted that it was submitted at that meeting. Ms. Kisatsky will forward the 2021 Annual Report to Ms. Gibson for her files.

Old Business:

- a. ACoW meeting format/process discussion – Ms. Bjornson stated that at the last meeting, the Committee agreed to change the meeting format for 2023. The full Committee will meet every other month beginning in January. Subcommittee meetings will meet on the alternative months from the full Committee:

Proposed meeting format to be voted on at the January 2023 (third Wednesday of the Month):

<u>Meeting month</u>	<u>Full Committee/Sub-Committee</u>
January 18 th	Full Committee (Microsoft Teams)
February	Sub-Committee
March 15 th	Full Committee (and in-person Seeds of Change Award*March 22)
April	Sub-Committee
May 17 th	Full Committee
June	Sub-Committee
July 19 th	Full Committee
August	No Meeting
September 20 th	Full Committee
October	Sub-Committee
November 15 th	Full Committee
December	No Meeting

Ms. Errico recommended that at full Committee meetings, a reminder be set for which Subcommittees will be meeting on the alternative months, and that the Subcommittees report back at all full Committee meetings. Ms. Kisatsky requested a copy of Subcommittee reports prior to full Committee meetings so she can attach the report to the minutes. Ms. Bjornson recommended adding the Subcommittee reports to Action Items for 2023.

New Business:

- a. Slate of new Officers – Ms. Bjornson proposed a slate of new Officers for 2023:
 - Donna Boyce as Chair
 - Ms. Bjornson will remain as Vice-Chair

This matter will be voted upon at the January 18th full Committee meeting.

Public Sections: None

Next Meeting: January 18, via Microsoft Teams

*For next year’s agenda, Ms. Bjornson recommended the Committee have a section on Open Discussion or Announcements.

Ms. Errico recommended a section on Other Committee Reports if the information is relatable to this Advisory Committee.

Ms. Boyce recommended acknowledging Commissioner DeFillippo at the Seeds of Change Award for all of her support to the Advisory Committee on Women.

Ms. Boyce mentioned that Health and Human Services is conducting a pilot program for water subsidy assistance for low to moderate income people.

Here are links for additional information on the water subsidy program

HHS webpage: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/lihwap>

NJ: <https://www.state.nj.us/bpu/assistance/programs/>

<https://njdca-housing.dynamics365portals.us/en-US/>

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program

The Low-Income Home Water Assistance (LIHWAP) Program assists Low- and Medium-Income eligible households that are having difficulty paying their water and wastewater bills.

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services' Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) through the American Rescue Plan. An LIHWAP arrearage grant will assist citizens who have fallen behind on their utility (water and sewer) payments.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 6:13p.m.