

**MORRIS COUNTY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON AGING, DISABILITIES & VETERANS  
ACADV Meeting  
Morris Township  
FEBRUARY 13 ,2025**

***Members Present***

Barbara Anderson  
Christina Brino  
Maryann Nergaard  
Ron Rauschart

***Staff Present***

Shawwna Bailey  
Christine Hellyer  
Patricia Petrillo  
Jennifer Van Natta  
Rhea Young

***Guests***

Annie O'Connor  
Kristen Care  
Matt

The meeting was called to order by Christina Brino at 1:03 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting is being recorded.

The approval of November 7, 2024, minutes

***Motion: C.B./B.A.***

***Chairperson's Report Christina Brino***

(Read) Roles and Responsibilities of Advisory Council members. Each member is requested to sign a form.

We need your approval to share contact information with other committee members.

ACADV folder includes a list of Advisory Council meeting dates and annual reports from ADRC, Veterans, and Nutrition programs.

***Staff Reports-***

## ***Christine Hellyer***

She gave a summary of the Division she oversees:

### **AGING**

**ADRC** Assistance for accessing services to seniors, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities who reside in Morris County.

**Care Management** Case management provides services to individuals over the age of 60, adults with disabilities, and caregiver

**JACC Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving** is a State funded program that provides in-home services to enable individuals aged 60 and older who meet the eligibility requirements to remain in the community.

**PASP Personal Assistance Services Program** is a state program providing personal assistance services to people with disabilities who are between the ages of 17-70, who are working, volunteering in the community, and/or going to school.

**Caregiver Coordination** is a link for Family Caregivers to help navigate the Aging and Disability service systems and to advocate for them when they are overwhelmed or unable to follow through on referral information. Support Is offered through situational counseling to help Caregiver's assess their own needs as well as those of their family member in a realistic and holistic manner.

**Adult Protective Services (APS)** receives and investigates reports of suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults living in a community setting. The purpose of APS is to stabilize a crisis using the least intrusive methods while respecting an individual's right to self-determination. A vulnerable adult for APS is age 18 years or older, and residing in the community, and lacks the capacity to make, communicate, or carry out decisions due to illness or disability, and is the subject of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

**Veterans Service Office** provides supportive services to Veterans and their families. The office serves as a chief resource for Veterans in understanding which benefits are appropriate, while navigating the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) network. Th office thoroughly assesses each Veteran's unique situation and provides information, referrals, and linkages tailored to each Veteran and their families within the Morris County community.

**MAPS** Paratransit transportation provided Monday through Friday during the hours of 7:30am-4:30pm for seniors, veterans, and adults with disabilities.

**NUTRITION Program** is our largest program has 12 Congregate sites throughout Morris County where a noontime meal is served in a socialization setting and the program also serves packages and delivers home 800 meals daily to homebound individuals.

We are also working on providing/emailing the meeting packets to members by the Monday before the ACADV meeting. But unfortunately, there may be some delays, last minute information for a report not available. Also, if there is a delay getting Christina her reports, we will print them for her on our newly purchased braille printer.

We held a "Spotlight on Services- Meet the Veterans Service Office" at the Veteran's Service Office Friday Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. I also want to thank the Council members that attended.

We spotlighted what services the Veteran's Service Office provides.

The Department of Human Services' Division on Aging Services held a listening session yesterday. This program allows New Jersey residents to provide input into the state's plans for services to older residents and their caregivers for 2015-2029. State Units on Aging, including DHS, are required to submit service plans to the U.S. Administration for Community Living every four years.

The State Plans on Aging detail service needs, establish priorities, and outline how each state plans to utilize federal Older Americans Act and state.

We have three new grant funded programs this year:

- Adult Day Care Respite/ Atlantic Health Services, although located out of Morris County in Basking Ridge it services Morris County residents. As of now it does not offer transportation to the facility.
- Friendly Visitors Program/ Jewish Family Services matches volunteers with seniors/disabled adults to prevent isolation.
- Community Hope/Veteran Emergency Housing Assistance is a "last resort" funding for housing crisis and utility assistance for shut off services.

March is "National Nutrition Month". In partnership with Employment Horizons (culinary training with a grant from Morris County) will host cooking demonstrations at Congregate nutrition sites in Roxbury, Parsippany and Mt Olive.

We also are providing "at home kits" to the seniors who participate so they can make the meal at home.

We partnered with the Youth Center to assemble the kits.

United Way, Norwescap and AARP is offering free tax preparation throughout Morris County. Please call our intake line for phone numbers. 973-285-6848

New Jersey is also offering free Online Income Tax Filing. This is for New Jersey Resident Income Tax returns. Visit Division of Taxation website: nj.gov. It allows you to prepare and submit your return online.

***Mitch virtual*** asked about guidance for completing Medicaid application.

***Christine*** the individual can call our intake line, and we can complete a screen to see if they qualify for Care Management services. We can then assist with application if needed. But we don't have assistance just for "Medicaid application assistance."

### ***Dawn cil presentation-Kristen Carew Assistant Executive Director***

We offer Case Management for individuals with disabilities 18 years to 60. Our target for the last year was 75 and we served 84.

We served 484 individuals with our Information and Referral program.

The Recreation & Socialization program held it's Holiday Gala and it was a great success with 129 attendees, our largest turnout.

Our new program Caregiver Support offers peer support, educational sessions for the different parts of Medicaid.

Educational sessions for Medicaid

She also recommended the new ADC Respite program offered by AHS

The collaboration we have with Morris County is unique.

Moving forward I will provide these updates at future Council meetings.

### **Annual Office Reports**

These reports are attached and were read summarized.

### **Community Relations-Ron Rauschart**

The following topics were discussed on December 17,2024, at Community Relations sub-committee meeting.

#### **SENIOR GOLD**

The income limits for the Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program in New Jersey for 2025 are expected to be \$10,000 higher than the 2024 limits:

- **Single:** \$62,142-\$72,142
- **Married:** \$69,209-\$79,209

To be eligible for Senior Gold, you must also:

- Being a New Jersey resident
- Be 65 or older, or at least 18 and receiving Social Security Title Disability benefits

Senior Gold helps Medicare recipients with limited incomes afford their medications by cutting prices in half after a \$15 copay for covered prescriptions. Senior Gold does not pay for diabetic testing supplies or late enrollment penalties imposed by Medicare.

#### **PAAD**

The income limits for the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) program in 2025 are estimated to be \$52,142 for single applicants and \$59,209 for married applicants.

To be eligible for PAAD, you must also meet the following requirements:

- Be a New Jersey resident
- Be 65 or older, or between 18 and 64 and receive Social Security Title II Disability benefits
- Not be eligible for Medicaid

PAAD helps eligible New Jersey residents pay for some of their prescription drug costs. The program reduces the cost of covered generic drugs to \$5 and covered brand-name drugs to \$7.

### **StayNJ**

A tax credit program for seniors to help them stay in New Jersey, StayNJ will receive \$220 million in funding in the 2025 budget. The program will cut seniors' property taxes

in half, with a maximum benefit of \$6,500. The maximum credit will be adjusted annually based on the increase in the average residential property tax bill. The application process for StayNJ will be streamlined and unified with other property-tax relief benefits and will be available in February 2025.

It was decided for Ron to reach out to Joan Jensen with copies of this report for her MCOOPO meetings.

Aaron also asked about the Veteran's Property Tax and is that something we could discuss.

Christine Is the question being whether or not we have one or what is the process?

MaryAnn explained its \$250 deduction on your tax return but you have to apply for it first.

Shawna said we can discuss 2 different ways:

Community Relation to get out to the Community and Legislative Review to see what is on the books that effects it decreases/increases or adjustments.

It was decided to bring that up at the Legislative Review and Community Review meetings.

MaryAnn asked if the sub committees will be the same as last year or will we be reappointed?

Christine Shawna will go over this later in the meeting.

Jessica also offered to print or scan pages 232-238 from NJ handbook for Tax Assessors that is specifically is all about veteran tax codes.

Ron how do we get this is out because this is tax season.

Christine you are allowed to speak among yourselves outside of the regular meetings scheduled.

Shawna if you have anything that you want us to send out email me.

Christine will there will be updated member contact information?

Yes it's in your packet.

## **Legislative Review Ron Rauschart**

Bill 261-Establishing veterans' affordable housing preference: authorizing bonus fair share credits for veterans' affordable housing.

The committee decided to have more discussion at our next sub committee.

MaryAnn added that reserving 50% of the units for qualified veterans will there be 50% number of veterans qualified. What if

there isn't

will they remain vacant until there is? The number is exceedingly high. It will displace other individuals: single parents and others that need affordable housing.

Another concern is the credit against the Municipality obligation. It doesn't work that way. If you have to fill 250 units that's the credit, not extra credit for reserving units for veterans.

### **Planning Program Review- Shawнна Bailey**

The subcommittee met on December 17, 2024, and the final decision was that the agency should use a survey to determine the priorities for 2025.

They decided to use the one from last year.

I will review this and get it out to you via e-mail.

### **New Business- Christine**

We are happy/sad want to announce that Maria Rosario retired January 31, 2025. We are happy for her and sad for ourselves.

She was honored by the Commissioners last Monday.

She was huge support for the ACADV Council.

I asked for your patience because we are looking to hire and with that will be training for the individual.

We are hopeful to have a person by March.

Derek asked how to sign up for these sub-committee?

Shawнна we have sign-up sheets in your packet. You can sign up for more than one if you like.

**Adjournment motion: 2:22pm D.O./R.R.**

**Next Meeting April 10, 2023**