



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE

YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



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REFERENCE:

- ☒ Council
- ☐ Mental Health
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Disability Services
- ☐ Substance Use Disorder
- ☐ Transportation

Approved October 17, 2022

COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM (CEAS) COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2022 2:00 p.m.

Via Webex

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

M. Class-Ramirez M. Moore
J. Ege

GUESTS

R. Lewis
R. Horoschak

EX-OFFICIO

J. Kuhl

STAFF

S. Nekola
M. O'Reilly
K. Paulmeno
K. Burghardt

*Designee

I. CONVENE:

Open Public Meetings Statement:

"This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting has been provided in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News. A public notice announcing this meeting has also been placed in the lobbies of the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, the first floor of the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street Building #1, Flemington, NJ; the first floor of the Route 12 County Complex, Building #3, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ and County Clerk's Office."

Due the recent public health crisis, COVID-19, this meeting was a Webex/call in ONLY

S. Nekola stated she is Division Head of Social Work Services for Hunterdon County.

M. Class-Ramirez stated she is with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

M. O'Reilly stated she is the Human Services Administrator for Hunterdon County.

M. Moore stated she is the Director at Harvest Family Success Center.

K. Burghardt stated he is the Division Head for Hunterdon County Division of Housing.

R. Horoschak stated he is a visitor from Human Services Advisory Council.

R. Lewis stated she is with SAFE in Hunterdon and filling in for D. Prisco.

J. Kuhl stated he is Commissioner Kuhl.

J. Ege stated she is a Clinical Supervisor at Veterans Haven North in Glen Gardner.

K. Paulmeno stated she a Social Work Specialist for Hunterdon County.

II. **MINUTES:**

Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting minutes of March 21, 2022, and June 20, 2022 will be tabled at the October 17, 2022 meeting.

III. **REPORTS:**

A. **Tri-County Continuum of Care:** M. O'Reilly conveyed during the last meeting the dates were updated for the fiscal year 2022 Request for Letters of Intent for Tri-County CoC. She stated the application was re-released and has since closed. Three (3) new applications for funding were received. Two (2) projects were selected for funding and recommended by the review committee for Tri-County CoC. All applicants have been notified of their funding awards. M. O'Reilly stated the County is working with Monarch Housing regarding the submission of the application to HUD through Tri-County CoC.

M. O'Reilly explained there were changes to the fiscal year 2021 funding. She conveyed Norwescap, DCA-Easter Seals and Alternatives have had funding changes. The Executive Committee and Monarch Housing have met with each of these agencies individually to help agencies move onto other vouchers or other types of housing. She conveyed one client was impacted in Hunterdon County while most other clients impacted were in Warren County with a few located in Sussex County. If anyone hears of housing openings anywhere, please notify M. O'Reilly, Chris Butto, or Santiago Almeida-Dantaz from Family Promise of Sussex County.

M. O'Reilly conveyed there is still a vacancy for Hunterdon County Tri-County CoC Executive Committee. Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Systems Committee (CEAS) can recommend a Committee Member to join the board if they choose.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Point In Time Debrief: M. O'Reilly stated that she did not have the final report, but it seems only eight unsheltered, homeless individuals had been identified through the Point in Time for 2022. She stated that this number is significantly lower than the previous year of twenty. M. O'Reilly was hoping to have the final report to share at this time but will share it with Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Systems Committee (CEAS) once she does. S. Nekola asked if the number of unsheltered, homeless individuals was also significantly lower in other counties as well. M. O'Reilly conveyed she suspects the numbers were lower across the entire state. M. O'Reilly added a reminder for everyone in the community to participate in Point in Time for 2023. M. O'Reilly plans to have additional meetings for Point in Time in hopes of a more coordinated effort throughout the County.

K. Burghardt asked if individuals in emergency shelter were tracked as well as those unsheltered, homeless individuals. M. O'Reilly conveyed individuals in emergency shelters are accounted for. M. O'Reilly added the pandemic impacted the increased numbers for previous years due to waivers allowing individuals to remain in emergency shelter for more than twelve (12) months. Discussion ensued.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Election of Officers** – S. Nekola conveyed historically, there is a chair and a co-chair. One being from the County and the other being from private sector agency. Lisa Piazza Long is currently the co-chair and has agreed to carry the position for another year. She further stated that J. Gorman would like to step down as co-chair and that a replacement from an outside agency would be necessary. S. Nekola asked if any participants were interested in the opportunity to become chair. M. Moore volunteered as a nomination. Due to a lack of quorum, votes will be sent via e-mail.
- B. By-Laws** – S. Nekola stated Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Systems (CEAS) Committee is a Committee of Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC). After reviewing the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) by-laws, the by-laws of Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Systems (CEAS) were also reviewed. It was found CEAS's activity has not been consistent with these by-laws. Two areas were identified and will be discussed. S. Nekola conveyed the meeting schedule reflected in the by-laws has CEAS scheduled for ten (10) meetings per year. One meeting being held every month except for August and December. Currently, CEAS is on a six (6) meeting per year schedule. S. Nekola conveyed the by-laws of CEAS state the chair of CEAS must also be a member of HSAC. HSAC also has this by-law but was waived with the permission of the HSAC chair. S. Nekola stated a provision would like to be made in the CEAS by-laws so the CEAS Committee is not required to be a member of HSAC. The potential changes will be circulated by email to be reviewed and voted on.

VI. AGENCY NEWS:

Division of Housing – K. Burghardt stated the Division of Housing has received five (5) more vouchers. He explained that it may not seem like a lot, but added every voucher is a new household that can be subsidized. The Division of Housing applied for an additional ten (10) vouchers but has not heard back about those yet.

Harvest Family Success Center – M. Moore reported Prevention Resources will be hosting a Farm 2 Fork event on October 18, 2022, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Unionville Winery. Tickets are available online at a discounted rate if purchased in advance. The event features: wine, food, live music, and a silent auction.

SAFE in Hunterdon – R. Lewis added that SAFE in Hunterdon will also be holding a Candlelight Vigil on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 6:00 pm. The event will take place on Main Street in front of the old Court House.

Stigma Free – S. Nekola stated the Stigma Free Task Force is holding a Harvesting Hope Festival on October 1, 2022 at Deer Path Park from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. The event is free and family friendly. Commissioner Kuhl added they have reached out to the mayors of all twenty-six (26) municipalities to make Resolutions to declare themselves stigma free. Commissioner

Kuhl conveyed twenty-three (23) have done so and he hopes to have the last three municipalities declared stigma free shortly.

R. Horoschak asked for more information about a hearing regarding a homeless shelter in Flemington. M. Moore conveyed she attended the Land Use Meeting last week and there was a large turnout. She conveyed the vote would be held at tomorrow's meeting September 20, 2022.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. K. Burghardt made a Motion and M. Moore seconded. The Motion passed. The next meeting will be Monday, October 17, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via a virtual meeting.