



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



908-788-1253
908-788-1372
908-806-4204 FAX

P.O. Box 2900
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-2900
(Location: 8 Gauntt Place)

humansvc@co.hunterdon.nj.us

REFERENCE:

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

Approved June 22, 2022

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 3:30 p.m.

Call In and Webex Only

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

S. Cohen	R. Horoschak
B. Renkens	J. Collevchio
S. Elliot	J. Gorman

EX- OFFICIO

M. Scherer
N. Troche

SUPPORT STAFF

M. O'Reilly
L. Piazza Long
L. Nauman
E. Neukum

GUESTS

S. Lax
T. Shepherd
K. Blanda
D. Schappert
E. Santiago
S. Freedman
R. Lewis
L. Zimmermann

COUNTY DIV. REPS.

S. Nekola
K. Burghardt

***Designees**

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 published 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."

The Council allows time for comments from the public at the end of each meeting. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person per meeting, in order to ensure that all attendees have an opportunity to be heard. Brief written comments may also be submitted for distribution during the meeting.

J. Gorman opened the regular monthly meeting of the Council at 3:32 p.m. with a quorum present.

J. Gorman read HSAC's Statement of Purpose.

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

- II. ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** J. Gorman asked for a motion to approve the April 27, 2022 minutes. A motion was made by B. Renkens and L. Piazza Long seconded to approve the meeting minutes. There were no abstentions. All members were in favor. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.
- III. **PRESENTATION:** Partnership for Health – Kim Blanda: J. Gorman gave a warm welcome and introduction to Kim Blanda. K. Blanda thanked J. Gorman, stated she is very happy to be participating in this HSAC meeting. She continued to state her title is Director of Community Relations within Hunterdon Healthcare. She is a registered nurse and the coordinator for the Partnership for Health. Her main responsibilities in working for Hunterdon Healthcare Systems is to complete the community health needs assessment which is a requirement for their non-profit status. She stated that she does a lot of work with the schools and with community agencies throughout the county. About two years ago, K. Blanda began to report to Business Development and Strategic Planning and throughout COVID, her role changed. She was in charge of helping with the vaccine clinic efforts and really got to know more people inside her own system. She feels she has an even better opportunity to connect people inside Hunterdon Healthcare and outside of the community.

K. Blanda conveyed part of the Partnership for Health presentation was something she presented to the students at Hunterdon Central High School who were enrolled in the Bio-Medical Sciences Academy. She began her presentation with a slide that she used with the students called, "The Zombies Are Coming" which essentially is speaking to the social determinants of health. The concept of the haves and the have nots. She conveyed she told the students they have 24-hours to get anything they need to live for the next three years; they would have to get inside the walls of the campus and then live for three years. Some of the students were very creative and suggested they would need plants, cows, anything that is a bit sustainable but sometimes they wanted to bring their Xboxes and iPads. She further explained that after the students wrote all ideas on a white board, she would segregate part of the class and direct them to go outside of the walls. Here is where they would suggest other ideas such as food, safety, shelter, water, etc. This became very interesting to them because there are people who do not have access to a lot of privileges that most do, what are the priorities? This is something to open their minds and be mindful to people who do not have access to the things that many of us do.

People who work in healthcare are only a small part of what impacts health outcomes. 20% of what affects the health outcomes is the clinical care. Although, the healthcare system is a really an important part, it is really the work the partners in the healthcare system do that fills in those other blanks. So, it is really important for healthcare providers to understand, as well as community members to believe they can take charge of their own health and their own health outcomes. It is the things we do on a daily basis that affects our health the most.

K. Blanda conveyed all non-profit hospitals across the country are responsible for doing a community health needs assessment. It is a three-year cycle, and this happens to be an assessment year, so they are in the middle of the community health needs assessment right now, the process their healthcare systems uses is the MAP process. The first part of that process is running focus groups. K. Blanda runs focus groups in Warren, Mercer and Somerset counties, and a stakeholder meeting primarily for heads of organizations, CEOs and leaders in the community. She conducts

brainstorming sessions about trends that may be seen in the next three to five years. This helps to broaden the look for example, how does the economy affect healthcare, how do ethics or governments impact health. All of these trends are looked at. Hunterdon Healthcare System has one electronic system so most of the population is on the electronic health system.

The last assessment of the top health priorities was from 2019 where Mental health, substance misuse, healthy behaviors or lifestyles and an aging-related issues were noted; nationally and locally this is a top priority. This is something that is being investigated and striving to implement planning.

The Partnership for Health was started in 1995 by the Health Officer, John Beckley for Hunterdon County and by Bob Wise, CEO of the Hunterdon Medical Center. The reason why the Partnership for Health was created is because it was realized that the power of collaboration and the fact that the agencies have limited resources. If everyone worked together, all involved could have a greater impact for the good of Hunterdon County. It is described as a health coalition. There are over 70 different multi-sector partners through the Partnership for Health.

One good reason to join the Partnership for Health is grantors want to see collaboration. Once you are a part of the Partnership for Health, you are automatically connected to over 70 different multi-sector organizations. This is a very broad spectrum and very diverse group that works together. K. Blanda shared several partners via a slide. Discussion ensued.

K. Blanda shared a picture of the website which had been developed prior to the pandemic as part of a grant that the hospital had, and priorities changed. The website does need a little updating, but she encouraged all to take a moment to view. If anyone is interested in joining the Partnership for Health to either advise J. Gorman or herself. She noted that all assessments can be accessed from present to prior years.

Currently, there is a governance section for the Partnership for Health, as well as an executive committee. Dr. Cindy Barter is the chair for the committee. K. Blanda is the coordinator and Dr. Moore the superintendent of Hunterdon Central, J. Gorman, A. Fields, K. DeMarco, J. Acosta and L. Gabel. Recently, an election was held, and K. DeMarco will be the new chair by the end of the year or the soonest by September 2022. Jack Moore will be the vice chair.

The Partnership for Health looks at the community needs assessment to see where the best focus should have the greatest impact. What the need is and how to impact it. One positive impact was supporting a school program. They also have collaborations with Grow-A-Row and Shop Rite, food prescription programs and other initiatives. Housing had been given support for efforts with Family Promise during the pandemic. She encouraged to reach-out for support when needs are identified.

During the current assessment, many people mentioned anxiety and depression especially within the younger and older populations. This is a national program. A lot of work needs to be done in this concern. Schools are adding the needs to their budgets. It is important to engage young people in philanthropy, giving back to their communities and understanding how we all have to work together and help each other. It is good for all involved.

R. Horoschak inquired about funding. All funding is obtained through various grants and donations. The Hunterdon Healthcare Foundations manages and acts as the fiscal agent for any monies.

S. Cohen inquired about the invitation to join the Partnership in Health and in what capacity for a community member such as himself. Additionally, he asked about the Sustainability Summit that occurs every year in New Jersey which addresses everything from climate change to local concerns. K. Blanda replied that the Partnership for Health meets quarterly for quarterly meetings with full membership. There are action teams that discuss and address the different areas of need. They encourage people if they are interested in being active to vote, they need to have a certain level of attendance and be a member of one the action teams. There is also an action team that is called Latino Coalition which focuses on specifically that population. As far as linkages to the state, the Partnership for Health is specific to Hunterdon County but do have contacts across the state and through the NJ Health Initiatives which is part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, they have many contacts with coalitions similar, doing similar work across the state. All of the coalitions do meet periodically. She noted she is interested in learning more about the Sustainability Summit.

S. Elliot inquired about a membership fee. K. Blanda stated there is none to be an active member but there are certain attendance requirements. He continued to share that state grants may be an option for the Partnership for Health. Discussion ensued.

Due to unexpected emergent circumstances, this meeting was required to end.

IV. NOMINATIONS for CHAIR and CO-CHAIR: No Discussion due to shortened meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. LINK Transportation Update: No discussion due to shortened meeting.

B. HSAC Project Submission Review: No discussion due to shortened meeting.

VI. REPORTS:

A. County Department of Human Services (CDHS):

B. NJ Department of Human Services (DHS):

C. NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P):

D. HSAC Committee Reports:

E. CDHS Committee Reports:

VII. GOALS & ACTION: None at this time.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS PERIOD:

Public comments are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes per person. Brief written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting for distribution during the meeting.

IX.* MOTION TO ADJOURN:

The meeting closed at 4:09 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 22, 2022.

***= Item Requires Action**

Note to Council Members: If members are unable to attend the meeting, please notify the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services.