



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

humansvc@co.hunterdon.nj.us

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

REFERENCE:

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

Approved September 28, 2022

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 27, 2022, 3:30 p.m.

Call In and Webex Only

DRAFT

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

J. Piazza Long R. Horoschak
J. Gorman J. Cassano
B. Renkens R. Cooper

EX- OFFICIO

M. Scherer

SUPPORT STAFF

M. O'Reilly
S. Becker
E. Neukum

GUESTS

L. Woods
D. Berger
S. Freedman
S. Lax
D. Prisco
M. Moore
R. Hager
L. Zimmermann
L. Haynes

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 3:30 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 June 22, 2022 minutes. A motion was made by B. Renkens and R. Horoschak seconded to approve the meeting minutes. L. Piazza Long abstained. All other members were in favor. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

III. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **COUNTY HSAC Survey:** M. O'Reilly stated the purpose of the COUNTY HSAC Survey is to build the RFP for the next cycle of funding for the years 2024-2026. The survey will provide answers as to what services are being utilized and what services might need improvements. The information collected from the survey, will help build the RFP for the upcoming years. M. O'Reilly conveyed the survey would need to be approved by HSAC so it can be released, M. O'Reilly would then send the Survey to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. Upon approval from the Board of Commissioners, the Survey would be released to the public in September with the hopes of a return date in December. M. O'Reilly stated getting the Survey out will be beneficial because agencies have a lot of face time with clients around the holidays. More time with the clients will offer a better opportunity for agencies to aid clients in completing the surveys. She stated the Survey is available online and can also be printed and filled out. M. O'Reilly conveyed the COUNTY HSAC Survey had some revisions since it was last sent out. Some questions were emitted, and new questions were added. An education question was added, three suggested questions from the Housing Committee were also added, and a few Veteran related questions were removed from the Survey in order to shorten the length. Questions with little or no responses were also removed from the Survey. And the language of some questions was changed, to allow clients to better understand them. J. Gorman asked M. O'Reilly if it was possible to award 5 ShopRite Gift Cards to randomly chosen clients who complete the survey. M. O'Reilly conveyed she will take that into consideration.

J. Gorman asked for a motion to release the COUNTY HSAC Survey. A motion was made by R. Horoschak and B. Renkens seconded. There were no abstentions. All members were in favor. The Motion was approved.

- B. **Update on Housing Submission:** M. O'Reilly conveyed there is an accountant who oversees a lot of the financials for the Housing Department that are contracted out. She stated they are in a good financial position right now. M. O'Reilly stated she intends to meet again with K. Burghardt to discuss a potential Civil Service Title to match up with the Housing Navigation Role. She stated the next step is to determine what title to be used. J. Gorman asked M. O'Reilly whether the position had to be contracted, or if it could be a permanent position. M. O'Reilly conveyed that she thinks that the county is only able to contract with an employee for six months and she does not think that is enough time for them to get a sense of what they would be doing. She conveyed they would want to see the position through a whole year to get the data back on how successful they are at leasing people up through the Section 8 Program.

The House Case Manager position would need to be a permanent position and could either be Full-time or Part-time. M. O'Reilly hoped to have a better update to share at the September 28, 2022 Meeting. There is money in the budget for this position, but the position still needs to be approved by the Board of Commissioners because it is not a current open position. The first step would be to speak with the Hunterdon County Personnel Director and present the idea as well as the Hunterdon County CFO. Once they grant their approval, it can then go before the Board of Commissioners. M. O'Reilly conveyed HSAC has identified a need in the community for case management services specific to clients locating housing. They put forth a proposal for a Housing Navigator to work in the Department of Human Services. This role would assist clients who need housing and help them through the process of obtaining it. The position would be in the Housing Division so direct referrals can be made on a case-by-case basis. J. Gorman stated we have several people who are homeless, who are unable to navigate the resources we provide. These people need intensive case management because they are not capable of doing it themselves. M. O'Reilly stated that at this time we are only looking at section 8 clients because the funding would be coming from K. Burghardt's Division. If this role is successful in doing what we want it to, we can show there is a need for this role and we can look for other grant funding.

- C. **LINK Transportation Update:** E. Neukum stated she was at the jury lot with Transpo, a transportation analysis company. She has met with all but two of the drivers for surveys. Over twenty passengers have submitted surveys, comments and/or concerns with the LINK. E. Neukum stated the results relayed passengers are looking for Saturday service, quicker service, and more extended hours. There was a public hearing the week before and E. Neukum stated it was sequential, NJ Transit offered a compliment, on the pre-review conducted by a third-party agency. The FTA review on the system will be done on August 11, 2022.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS:** None at this time.

V. **REPORTS:**

- A. **County Department of Human Services (CDHS):** M. O'Reilly reported the planning department has a survey. They have postcards with Hunterdon County pictures with a QR Code on the back for people to scan to submit suggestions for the Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan. A stamp is required to mail it in, or it can be dropped off at the Human Services building and her department will send it through interoffice mail to Planning.

M. O'Reilly reported the Tri-County CoC Executive Committee approved the 2022 fiscal year Request for Letters of Intent be reopened for applications. The applications are due by August 8, 2022. The Human Services website has additional information.

M. O'Reilly answered R. Horoschak's question. She conveyed the Planning Board plans for a lot of things, including transportation outside of the LINK. They work with NJ TPA, and plan things regarding sewer, water, and other things of that matter. A participant offered further details about planning Housing at a municipal level.

D.

E. **HSAC Committee Reports:**

By-laws Committee: R. Horoschak stated that the committee hopes to have all the new by-laws put together by the September HSAC Meeting on the 28th. They require a 30-day review process to then be voted on at the October 26th HSAC meeting. He stated they have three issues they are currently working through, while one of them is almost resolved.

Legislative Committee: S. Elliot was not present at the meeting; however, his information was forwarded out for anyone who had any questions or concerns about the Work Ability Bill.

Outreach and Communication Committee: J. Gorman stated they have several new members whose nomination process is in process. M. O'Reilly answered J. Gorman's question about the process of notifying that a member has been approved. She conveyed they would be included on the next Commissioner meeting agenda, after she receives them, she forwards them to the Commissioner's liaison, with administration copied so they are aware of who will be included in the agenda. M. O'Reilly had just received one from D. Prisco and will potentially be included on the August 16 agenda.

Housing Committee: R. Cooper stated there is no update. J. Gorman conveyed a client notified her that he had seen one of the flyers that was posted on the LINK. E. Neukum stated her LINK drivers reported, people have been tearing off the phone number on the posters hung in the LINK buses.

S. Lax advised M. O'Reilly and J. Gorman it would be a good idea to give an overview of Continuum Care and how it works with case conferencing at the next HSAC meeting.

R. Horoschak conveyed while he has been distributing Housing flyers at libraries, he has received suggestions of other places to post them as well. Some of the suggestions included: laundry mats, municipal courts, Walmart, and ShopRite. R. Cooper answered a member's question about what information was included on the Housing flyers. M. O'Reilly stated she will have the Housing flyers recirculated to all HSAC.

Community Outreach Department of Children and Families: R. Hager stated they have filmed a PSA for youth mental health. He anticipates it will be ready to be released in August. He conveyed the PSA shows youth supporting each other and explains how to seek help. R. Hager stated there are various resources available on the new 9-8-8 number. He stated there is also a toolkit on the Human Services website. Additionally, he will be distributing updated COVID Connect flyers.

SAFE in Hunterdon: D. Prisco conveyed they are just about at full capacity. They are currently serving around eighty-six clients in counseling right now. They have new cycle of interns and legal advocacy has been busy with roughly twenty-five clients being served. He stated they are having challenges with the hotel programming. There are a few reasons they are experiencing these challenges but are working hard to iron out these issues. There is also a need for transitional housing because clients are staying an average of four months, whereas it used to be thirty days, with an additional thirty-day extension.

J. Gorman conveyed the food pantries have been experiencing higher than ever visits as well as number of new families. She stated families are returning after not needing the pantry for a long time. She stated June was higher than they had ever had in a month and all other

pantries are having the same experience.

L. Piazza Long conveyed the SNAP applicants have also increased. She stated the numbers have been up since the beginning of the pandemic and have continued to rise. She conveyed clients who had gotten off SNAP due to various reasons have now come back. The numbers were up 25 percent during the pandemic, and the numbers still slightly up. She stated applications are much higher than they have been in the past.

Greater Raritan Workforce Development: J. Cassano conveyed they are having a Summer Youth Employment Program. Four businesses signed on, unfortunately, no youth were interested in those positions. However, two youths were placed, one at Tabby's Place and the other at the Educational Services Commission. The interns are doing well and working through the program.

Additionally, J Cassano conveyed they have kicked off the Greater Raritan Pathways to Recovery Program. This program helps those faced with opioid epidemic to find employment. They have partnered with Prevention Links, Prevention Resources, as well as the counties. The navigator is working as things are picking up but J. Cassano encouraged new referrals.

J. Cassano stated they are in the planning stages of their job fair. The job fair hosted in May had over one-hundred employers with over five-hundred attendees. A job fair is scheduled for October, and J. Cassano hopes for an equally successful outcome. She will be sharing the dates when they are definite. J. Cassano answered R. Horoshak's question about whether they are involved with the Flemington Economic Development District.

VI. GOALS & ACTION:

VII. 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.

VIII.* MOTION TO ADJOURN:

R. Horoschak made a motion and J. Cassano seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting closed at 4:23 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 28, 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.