



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 26, 2022

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 3:30 p.m.

Call In and Webex Only

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

S. Cohen
J. Cassano
F. Leddy
D. Prisco

R. Cooper

R. Horoschak
J. Collevecchio
J. Gorman
L. Piazza Long

EX- OFFICIO

M. Scherer

SUPPORT STAFF

M. O'Reilly
S. Becker
E. Neukum
K. Burghardt

GUESTS

L. Woods
B. Esler
A. Zima
J. Kuhl
S. Nagel
M. Moore
L. Haynes

COUNTY DIV. REPS.

S. Nekola

L. Zimmermann
C. Sagona

***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 3:33 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:** A motion was made by J. Collevchio and J. Cassano seconded to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2022 meeting. F. Leddy and S. Cohen abstained. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

III. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **Plan for County HSAC Survey:** M. O'Reilly conveyed the Board of Commissioners has approved the release of the COUNTY HSAC Survey. M. O'Reilly stated she is working on flyers and County of Hunterdon staff have reviewed the survey to ensure everything was correct. M. O'Reilly requested help from agencies in distributing flyers to their consumers. The end date for submitting the survey is December 31, 2022. J. Gorman asked if there was a communication plan from the previous COUNTY HSAC Survey and if the County would want to create a communication plan for this year's Survey to ensure all segments receive the Survey. M. O'Reilly stated a member of the Planning and Integration Committee wanted to share the COUNTY HSAC Survey on a Neighbor App he is familiar with; the Survey can be promoted through the Human Services Department's Facebook and agencies can also promote it through their Facebook pages as well.

Scott Cohen suggested having agencies each report back as to how many of their clients and what percentage of clients engaged in the survey at the October HSAC meeting. He also suggested assisting agencies in dissemination of the survey if needed. However, because, the survey is anonymous, there is not a way to calculate what percentage of each agency has completed the survey. M. O'Reilly conveyed glitches from last time have been worked out. The COUNTY HSAC Survey is in English as well as Spanish, and the survey can be taken multiple times on one computer. M. O'Reilly conveyed Survey Monkey generates emails with the total number of completed surveys. M. O'Reilly stated she can report back the number of surveys completed via email since there are no HSAC Meetings in November or December. The survey is ready to be deployed, flyers just need to be completed and they will be distributed.

- B. **By-laws Committee Presentation:** R. Horoschak reported there were several items discussed at length that will not be changing. It was suggested to have a HSAC meeting early in December so there is not a three (3) month gap between the October and January meetings. It was decided this will not be changing. R. Horoschak conveyed CEAS has stabilized their meeting schedule. CEAS will be meeting six (6) times per year with a four (4) per year minimum. CEAS by-laws also used to require the CEAS Committee chair and co-chair to be members of HSAC but this will no longer be a requirement.

R. Horoschak conveyed all mentions of Freeholders need to be changed to Board of Commissioners. R. Horoschak stated it is difficult to obtain new members, particularly members from the community. He conveyed the county is proposing changing the name from Consumer Member/Representatives to Community Representative. In doing so, the county hopes to eliminate any stigma that comes from needing human services. R. Horoschak stated the term limits indicate provider agency representatives can only serve for two (2) consecutive terms and must not serve for a set amount of time before the Commissioners can reappoint them. He conveyed there were questions because some members thought their membership did not expire while others were under a different

impression. R. Horoschak conveyed the by-laws committee will be recommending to the counsel that the new Community Representative will have no limit to the number of consecutive three (3) year membership terms.

R. Horoschak reported the Nominations Committee is to propose in April the qualified candidates to fulfill the position of chair person and vice-chair person. The members of the By-laws Committee and Nominations Committee must be active HSAC Members because these committees are internal to HSAC. The By-laws Committee has proposed to have a new permanent standing committee under Section D. It will be for the Housing Committee since it is a permanent on-going essential issue in the county. Discussion ensued.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. DCF Needs Assessment: M. O'Reilly stated she is still unsure what the 2022 Department of Children and Families' Needs Assessment will look like. She hopes to have the information by the October HSAC Meeting. M. O'Reilly stated feedback from all the counties' DCF Needs Assessment conveyed there are a lot of different resources available in counties but someone who may need assistance for the first time has no idea about these resources. She conveyed some counties have their own resource lists while others pay companies to do that for them. She anticipates having more information during the first quarter of 2023.

V. REPORTS:

A. County Department of Human Services (CDHS): M. O'Reilly reported Hunterdon County Department of Human Services is celebrating fifty (50) years of the Division of Seniors, Disability and Veterans. It has not always had this name, but it has received federal grant funding for the past fifty (50) years. M. O'Reilly stated a luncheon was held last week and the Seniors had a great time.

M. O'Reilly conveyed the Route 31 complex completed a project approved by the Board of Commissioners. The Route 31 complex now co-locates Naloxone in the two AED machines in the building complex. Naloxone is also stationed at front desk areas where AED machines are not present. The project was presented due to the nationwide increase in overdoses.

M. O'Reilly reported the County received approval from the Commissioners for the HSAC Survey. She will be distributing survey links and flyers to be posted.

The Transpo group has compiled a transportation analysis of the LINK system. The county is hoping to have the report back by November. The report will be shared once it is on hand.

M. O'Reilly stated herself and K. Burghardt have decided on the title for a Housing Case Manager position. The information will be sent to the Department of Human Resources tentatively by the end of the week. The position will need to be approved by the Board of Commissioners before it can be posted.

B. NJ Department of Human Services (DHS): No report at this time.

C. NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P): M. Scherer reported he has numbers for the Hunterdon Local office however he does not have insight into the numbers

because he is not there. He conveyed for August of 2022, the Hunterdon Local office was working with one hundred and eighty-seven (187) children, seventeen (17) youth in placement and received thirty-one (31) referrals for the month.

D. HSAC Committee Report: None at this time.

Housing Committee: R. Cooper thanked R. Horoschak for posting affordable housing posters at all the libraries in the county. R. Horoschak added he has a list of suggested places to post more of the affordable housing posters. Discussion ensued.

: S. Cohen stated he is meeting with a couple of students at Hunterdon Central tomorrow. These students are entrepreneurs who started their own computer business in middle school. He conveyed they are smart, capable, and they make and produce computers. The students are looking for partners in the county who can benefit from these computers. S. Cohen can be reached by email to get additional detail on this matter. L. Haynes stated she has clients who could benefit from these computers. She conveyed clients would use the computers for school and to apply for jobs.

: D. Prisco conveyed they are still accepting applications for DVRT and SART volunteer programs. The sixty (60) hour training begins on October 4, 2022. It is mandatory for providing services. A DVRT member, trained by SAFE, can go with the survivor to the police department to provide emotional support, information, referrals, and help with safety planning and applying for a temporary restraining order. SART members accompany survivors to hospitals and police precincts throughout Hunterdon. They provide survivors with support, information on their rights, and referrals for follow-up care. D. Prisco can be contacted at dprisco@safeinhunterdon.org for those interested. He added SAFE in Hunterdon staff and volunteers will be on site at the Harvest Festival in Flemington. D. Prisco conveyed a Candlelight vigil will be held on October 20, 2022, at 6:00 pm. This is an annual event to commemorate survivors and victims of domestic violence. The vigil will take place at the historic courthouse steps.

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.

S. Cohen conveyed the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office has released the Blue Envelope Project. After October 1, 2022, caregivers or individuals on the autism spectrum will be able to pick up a blue envelope for use. The primary goal of the Blue Envelope Program is to assist drivers diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with document organization and to help them understand what to do during a motor vehicle stop. The Blue Envelope Program further provides police officers with the means to quickly identify an operator of a motor vehicle who has ASD and helps guide officers during the interaction. He stated the Prosecutor's office is said to be working on a Yellow Envelope project for those with Auditory Processing Issues. Envelopes can be picked up from the Prosecutor's Office or any of the Sheriffs locations. S. Cohen conveyed the Blue Envelope Project is currently only a Hunterdon County project, but the intent is to hopefully expand it across the state.

J. Gorman stated the Flemington Area Food Pantry's 25th Anniversary of the Empty Bowl

Fundraiser will be held October 21, 2022. She conveyed the ordering form will be sent out soon. Last year there were over six hundred and thirty (630) people who participated. Lunch includes soup from a local restaurant, a sandwich, dessert, and a bowl from a local potter.

Andrew Zima stated he just started with United Way of Hunterdon County as the Director of Community Impact and Communications. He introduced Brenda Esler as the new CEO.

J. Kuhl conveyed twenty-three (23) of the twenty-six (26) municipalities in Hunterdon County have declared themselves Stigma Free. He stated he is working on the last three (3) to hopefully have them on board by the end of the year.

S. Nagel stated he is the new Executive Director of HomeSharing located in Bridgewater, New Jersey. HomeSharing has served Hunterdon County for approximately thirty-eight (38) years, as an affordable housing program.

VIII.* MOTION TO ADJOURN:

The meeting closed at 4:28 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 26, 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.