

HSAC Minutes
February 1, 2017

I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – G. Speed

The meeting was called to order at 2:06pm. Roundtable introductions followed.

Members Present:

Jeff Pierson – CMC Freeholder
John Roy – Consumer Advocate
Greg Speed – Provider
Barry Keefe – Member-at-Large
Katie Faldetta – Provider
Sarah Matthews – Provider
Donna Groome – Provider
George Plewa – Provider
Wayne Whelan – Member-at-Large
Christa Weis – Provider
Judy Kunec – Member-at-Large
Barbara Makoski – Member-at-Large

Members Excused:

Marilou Rochford
John McDonald
Rose Kuprianov
Bill Desmond
Nichol Hoff
Kristen Bixby

Interested Persons:

Kevin Tomasello – DCP&P
Terri Bryan – CMC One Stop
Barbara Hoepf – Voices for the Homeless
Joe Sittineri – JCDT&OC
Jennifer Hirsch – DCP&P
Mary Dozier – Aging & Disability Services
Mark Taylor – Catholic Charities “Ready Vet Go”
Betsy Reed – LWD-Employment Services
Norma Cordeiro – DVRS
Pat Devaney – Human Services Administrator
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – G. Speed

Minutes from the 12/7/16 meeting were emailed to voting members and hard copies were distributed at the meeting. D. Groome motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and J. Kunec seconded. Motion carried. Once approved by the Council, meeting minutes are posted on the Cape May County website.

III. Administrator’s Report – P. Devaney

P. Devaney reported that the office is in the process of closing out CY 2016 contracts and implementing CY 2017 contracts. The contracts for those programs/services funded with County \$ and awarded through the recent RFP for an array of human services were executed by the

Freeholders at their 12/13/16 meeting. As was reported at the December Council meeting, the CDHS and HSAC completed the CMC 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. The Board of Chosen Freeholders endorsed the plan at their 12/13/16 meeting. In addition, the Board approved the establishment of the Homeless Trust Fund at their 12/27/16 meeting. The resolution for the HTF included the authorization of fee collection to begin on 2/1/17. P. Devaney noted that the HSAC office is reviewing the 10 Year Plan to determine which of the recommendations can begin to be acted upon in the near future in order to maximize the implementation plan. She added that advocates for the homeless are encouraged to become involved with the HSAC-CEAS committee as most of the work on this issue will go through that committee. The office is working with DMHAS to provide Disaster Response Crisis Counselor (DRCC) training sessions in Cape May County. There are four (4) six (6) hour courses plus 1 (one) on-line course. The 1st session was held on 1/19. Thirty (30) people attended this session. It is expected that the availability of these local training sessions will allow the list of CMC DRCCs to expand to approximately 40 counselors. In addition, there was a NARCAN training on 1/26/17 at the Lighthouse Church; the session was fully subscribed. A second NARCAN training session is scheduled for 2/16/17. Applications for 2017 Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Child Abuse/Missing Children Prevention Fund dollars have been developed and distributed to all on the HSAC distribution lists. Completed proposals are due to the HSAC office by 3/3/17. Anyone interested in applying for this funding who did not receive the email with the funding announcement including the application is asked to contact S. Hand to obtain the requested application(s). P. Devaney then announced that VIM is expanding to Atlantic County; the expansion is due to the receipt of an annual commitment from a private family foundation. P. Devaney stated that Freeholder Pierson has offered to stay after the business meeting so that those present could personally introduce themselves and provide a brief summary of their agency/group. Lastly, P. Devaney explained that County Administration is in the process of creating a "super department" which will be entitled "Human Services". The 1st two (2) departments to be folded under the new department are social services and aging & disability services. These former departments will now become divisions of Human Services. More departments are expected to be folded into the new department over time. Since the name "Human Services" was already in use, this former department has been renamed the "Department of Community Affairs and Mental Health Administration". P. Devaney assured those present that even though the name has changed, it is still the same people performing the same functions. She concluded by congratulating D. Groome on being named the department head of the new Department of Human Services. G. Speed reported that with regard to the issue of mental health services, specifically outpatient services, and Fee For Service (FFS) contracting with DMHAS, there is good news. DMHAS has just released a new rate scale and the medication monitoring rate has been doubled from the rate first proposed. He added that the HSAC has been discussing and monitoring this issue for the past few months. Council wrote a letter of support for rate consideration in December. G. Speed concluded by stating that while there are some rates that still need to be addressed, this is a very good news for the mental health system and advocacy really can make a difference.

IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS –
Copies of all NJ DHS announcements and press releases received since the December meeting were either emailed to all on the HSAC distribution lists or placed in the "pass around" folder for review.

- DCF – K. Tomasello
K. Tomasello distributed a written report with the following statistics with regard to the Cape May DCP&P local office for the month of January 2017: 367 total cases, (this = 698 active children with 181 children in placement). The cases breakdown into the following categories: 74 investigation cases, 176 in-home service cases and 117 placement cases (=367 cases). In addition, there were 73 intakes (17 for child welfare and 56 for child

protection). One adoption was finalized in January. K. Tomasello noted that his written report also included December 2016 statistics as well as summary reports for 2014, 2015, and 2016 which detail Cape May Local Office statistics by month. He highlighted the following totals for 2016: 934 intakes, 96 children placed in resource homes, and 21 adoptions finalized. J. Hirsch reported that the DCP&P Cape May Local Office anticipates moving to its new office on 2/7/17. The new address is 3150 Route 9 South, Rio Grande, NJ 08242. The office phone number will remain the same but the fax number and individual phone extensions will change. The office will be hosting an open house; J. Hirsch will inform Council once the date is scheduled.

V. Committee Reports:

a. Executive Committee – G. Speed

Minutes from the 1/25/17 meeting were distributed. G. Speed referenced #9 of the minutes regarding the letter of support for Catholic Charities Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to announce that Cape Counseling Services started providing therapy services to CMC veterans on 1/20/17 through a partnership with the Veterans Center. Services are provided every Friday from 9am to 4pm.

b. Services for the Disabled Committee – B. Makoski

Minutes from the 1/17/17 meeting were distributed. B. Makoski stated that the minutes provided a clear depiction of the items discussed at the meeting. She added that as indicated the Committee discussed the Rowan Behavioral Health issue noting that the Family Support Council is again meeting with Senator Van Drew to work to keep the facility open. The fact that DMHAS increased reimbursement rates for outpatient mental health services provides some hope that DDD will reconsider the contract with RBH. B. Makoski concluded by announcing that the County's Disability Awareness Day has been scheduled for 11/4/17.

c. Program Review Committee – J. Kunec

J. Kunec referenced #5 and #6 of the Executive Report to state that it is expected that non conflicted PRC members will be asked to review the applications received for the 2017 Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Child Abuse/Missing Children dollars (#5) and a summary of the two (2) programs that were the last components to remain subcontracts of the former CMC compact has been prepared and is in the pass around folder for those interested (#6). As has been reported previously, the JFS contract has transferred to DCF-CSOC directly and the Child Abuse/Missing Children \$ will be allocated through a line item in the HSAC Administration contract on an annual basis. P. Devaney stated that current information indicates that the JFS contract now with the CSOC will be revised to allow the target population to be expanded in that referral sources will be expanded beyond DCP&P, the courts, and mobile response.

d. WFNJ – WTW – D. Groome

A written report detailing WFNJ/SNAP caseload numbers for Cape May County as of October 2016 was distributed. D. Groome highlighted the following statistics from the report: 142 GA cases, 208 TANF cases, and 4,164 SNAP cases. The participation rate is 24.7%. D. Groome noted that CMC is one of three counties (Cape May, Atlantic, and Cumberland) that has been granted a waiver with regard to the receipt of SNAP (food stamp) benefits and able bodied adults. The waivers were granted based on unemployment rates.

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

Minutes from the 1/10/17 meeting were distributed. S. Matthews stated that the meeting focused as a training session for the annual Point-in-Time Count (PITC) of the homeless population which was conducted on 1/25/17. She noted that it usually takes at least a month to receive results. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for 3/7/17. Lastly, S. Matthews stated that the CEAS

committee voted to send the letter of support for the Catholic Charities SSVF program. M. Taylor of Catholic Charities responded that the Agency was very appreciative of the letters of support. P. Devaney reported that Senator Van Drew has sponsored “Code Blue” legislation which sets forth the parameters for calling a “code blue” and the development of warming centers during a code blue for all those municipalities with ten (10) homeless as documented by the PITC. She added that the legislation has been forwarded to the appropriations committee to determine if funding can be attached to the legislation.

f. CIACC – P. Devaney

Minutes from the 1/10/17 meeting were distributed. P. Devaney reported that the CIACC continues to examine the issue of childhood trauma including the need for play therapy for children that are non-verbal. She referred to the “old business” section of the minutes to state that the CMO is requesting a letter of support from the CIACC as the CMO is applying to CSOC for \$15,000 to increase capacity for play therapy by “buying” play therapy sessions on an outpatient basis. In addition, the CIACC has noted that there are programs that are currently underspent and that if permitted, funds could be redirected to also increase the availability of trauma services for children. B. Keefe made a motion to empower the CIACC to work on the details of establishing a mechanism to develop and funding to pay for a play therapy program(s). B. Makoski seconded. Motion carried.

g. Membership – K. Bixby

G. Speed reported for K. Bixby. He presented the Committee’s written membership report which lists the Committee’s recommendations for CY 2017 HSAC officers. G. Speed reported that the Membership Committee is asking that the following slate of officers for CY 2017 recommended by the Committee at the 12/7/16 Council meeting be submitted for a vote: Bill Desmond – Chairperson, Barbara Makoski – Vice Chairperson, Kristen Bixby – Secretary, Membership Chairperson, Judy Kunec – Program Review Chairperson, Donna Groome – Director and Wayne Whelan – Director. G. Speed opened the floor to additional nominations. There were none. G. Plewa made a motion to close the nominations and B. Keefe seconded. Motion carried. D. Groome motioned to accept the slate of officers as presented by the Membership Committee and S. Matthews seconded. Motion carried. G. Speed concluded by stating that as the written report indicates, Council has three (3) membership openings – two (2) providers and one (1) member-at-large.

A motion was made by J. Kunec and seconded by J. Roy to accept the committee reports as presented. Motion carried.

VI. Liaison Reports

a. Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council – D. Groome

D. Groome reported that for the 2nd year, the Division on Aging & Disability Resources has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from Delta Dental for the oral health program. The Division has implemented its annual Needs Assessment campaign. All those age 60+ are encouraged to complete a survey as well as assist with survey distribution. D. Groome explained that the Division uses the information provided in the surveys to direct their funding allocations. The goal is to have 700 surveys completed and returned (last year 569 surveys were returned). Surveys will be accepted until the end of May and will be tabulated through Survey Monkey. D. Groome concluded by reporting that the Division is collaborating with ACCC to offer a new program entitled SCOPE – Senior Citizen Opportunities for Pursuing Education. The program will bring classes such as cooking, poetry, etc. to the Senior Centers while also encouraging seniors to attend classes at ACCC. The collaboration will also allow for the Senior Art Show to move to the ACCC site which will allow the exhibit to remain up and open for 2 weeks.

b. WDB – T. Bryan

T. Bryan distributed a written report on WIB activities dated January 2017. She stated that with regard to enrollment for employment and training programs, adult enrollment is on track but youth enrollment is low. As for the dislocated worker program, enrollment is low as well as most of those interviewed have indicated their desire to return to their seasonal employment rather than receive training in other field. T. Bryan then highlighted the following announcements from the report: 1) SJLS is providing free legal services to low-income customers by appointment on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 2) NJ Job Corp, a training and education program for low-income youth ages 16-24, will be at the One Stop site from 11am to 2pm on the 3rd Friday of the month for recruitment purposes, and 3) the Agency is investigating a driver's license restoration program as many individuals need help in this area to obtain and maintain employment.

VII. Old Business

1. B. Keefe stated that he is reminding those present that he is the liaison for Stockton University with regard to the use of the Sam Azeez Center in Woodbine. He added that anyone in need of space for a meeting or small conference that the Azeez facility is very nice and is currently underutilized. Anyone interested in using the facility is asked to contact B. Keefe directly.

VIII. New Business

1. Freeholder Pierson stated that he would like to provide Council with information on various topics. He began by noting that CMC is far ahead of the proposed "Code Blue" legislation as the County had implemented a process very similar to this legislation last winter. Freeholder Pierson added that the CMC Freeholders contacted Senator Van Drew with recommended revisions to the legislation last Friday which the Senator was able to incorporate. With regard to veterans, he and Freeholder Director Thornton are working with the federal VA to establish a veterans' clinic in CMC. The County is also investigating possible sites for rehabilitation or new construction of a new building for the new "Department of Human Services". Lastly, Freeholder Pierson congratulated Cape Assist for a very successful legislative breakfast which focused on the impact of the legalization of marijuana (based on Colorado's experience) with the keynote presentation by Kevin Wong. G. Speed, on behalf of Council, thanked Freeholder Pierson for attending the meeting and providing updated information on numerous issues.

IX. Public Response

There was no public response.
Meeting adjourned at 2:59pm.