

HSAC Minutes
May 2, 2018

- I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – B. Desmond
The meeting was called to order at 2:02pm. Roundtable introductions followed.

Members Present:

Jeffrey Pierson – Freeholder
Terri Bryan – Provider
Bill Desmond – Member-at-Large
Eleanor McBride – Provider
Mary Dozier – Provider
John Roy – Consumer Advocate
Nichol Hoff – Consumer
Barry Keefe – Member-at-Large
Sarah Matthews – Provider
Donna Groome – Provider
Katie Faldetta – Provider
Marilou Rochford – Consumer Advocate

Members Excused:

Barbara Makoski
Rose Kuprianov
Wayne Whelan
Carol Haig
George Plewa

Interested Persons:

Greg Speed – CCS
Joe Fahy – Retired
Fran Wise – United Way
Joe Sittineri – JCDD&OC
Kevin Tomasello – DCP&P
Kathryn Gibson – Cape Assist
Deborah Brasch – Caring for Kids
Christa Loper - RSRCCR
Claire Galiano – CARA
Judy Kunec – Program Review Committee/MHADA Board
Suzanne Pelkaus – Guest/Interested Person
Kristen Raring – YSC/CIACC Coordinator
Pat Devaney – DHS
Betsy Reed – DOL/One Stop
Jen Hirsch – DCP&P
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

- II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – B. Desmond
Minutes from the 4/4/18 meeting were emailed to voting members and hard copies were distributed at the meeting. B. Keefe motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and J. Roy seconded. Motion carried. Once approved by the Council, meeting minutes are posted on the Cape May County website.

**Freeholder Pierson asked to suspend the agenda for a moment in order to make a few comments prior to his departure as he must leave early to attend another meeting. B. Desmond yielded the floor to Freeholder Pierson who then reported on the following: 1) The County is implementing a new program for senior residents entitled SOAR; he asked D. Groome to provide additional detail on the program at a later point in the meeting, 2) Freeholder Pierson expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the private agencies and those in the volunteer community for their work and efforts on behalf of the residents of CMC. He noted that County government and its departments truly appreciate the work of all of the agencies and organizations that comprise the human/social services community, and 3) The County is working diligently on the homeless issue. He noted that this is a complex issue with no easy answers. There are multiple definitions of homelessness from various funding sources all with their own regulations. The County is working with multiple groups including the three (3) municipalities who have the highest reported incidence of homelessness (per HUD definition) to discuss solutions and strategies to address the issue.

III. Administrator's Report – S. Hand

S. Hand reported that the Division of Community and Behavioral Health Services has a new staff person. K. Raring has been hired to replace P. Belasco as the Youth Services Administrator and the CIACC Coordinator. S. Mendes' position as the fiscal clerk for the Division remains vacant. Thus, the HSAC Coordinator (S. Hand) has been much more involved with contracting than in previous years. The HSAC office has been concentrating on issuing and processing purchase orders for the corresponding contracts, letters of agreement, and/or professional services agreements. Since any and all payments require that a signed purchase order be on file, any agency that has not yet returned their purchase order is asked to do so ASAP. The 2018 PIT numbers have been received. The PIT data indicates that there were a total of 103 homeless persons in Cape May County on the night of the PIT count (1/23/18). There was an increase of 10 homeless individuals and a decrease of 7 homeless families from the 2017 count. This equates to an overall decrease of 16 persons. It is expected that the CEAS Committee will review the data in greater depth at their meeting on 5/8. In preparation for the upcoming 2018 CoC Competition, HUD has opened CoC registration. This is the process whereby each CoC must verify all of their current projects that receive HUD funding and the cost to renew each of those projects. In other words, the CoC's annual renewal demand (the amount of money it will cost to fund the CoC's current projects for the next year). This is one of the first steps in preparing for the 2018 CoC Competition. Lastly, with regard to the substance abuse component of the DCBHS, P. Devaney is developing a planning process for the Comprehensive Plan. There have been substantial changes in the State's funding streams for services especially residential and detox services. P. Devaney is working to align the County's services' system accordingly.

IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS –
B. Desmond reported that copies of all NJ DHS announcements and press releases received since the April meeting including the DHS Reports 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 April 2018: 356 total cases, (this = 693 active children with 166 of those children in placement). The cases breakdown into the following categories: 94 investigation cases, 157 in-home service cases, and 105 placement cases (=356 cases). In addition, there were 90 intakes (67 for child abuse/neglect investigation and 23 for child welfare assessment). Thus far this year, 9 adoptions have been finalized. K. Tomasello concluded by stating at the last Council meeting (April) he

was asked how the current numbers compare to last year. He compared the statistics from April 2017 to that of April 2018 and found that the numbers were very similar. K. Tomasello noted that the “big” month in terms of activity for 2017 was May. He will compare May 2017 with May 2018 next month. J. Hirsch added that the Cape May DCP&P office removed seven (7) children from three (3) different families this past weekend. All of the children have been placed with family/friends in Cape May County and all siblings were housed together.

V. Committee Reports:

- a. Executive Committee – B. Desmond
Minutes from the 4/25/18 meeting were distributed.
- b. Disability Services Committee – B. Makoski
Minutes from the 4/17/18 meeting were distributed. B. Desmond stated that while B. Makoski was unable to attend, S. Hand and/or S. Matthews were available to answer any questions. D. Groome asked P. Devaney if there was any update on the Rowan Behavioral Health issue. P. Devaney responded that she has not received any new information on the issue.
- c. Program Review Committee – J. Kunec
No report.
- d. WFNJ-WTW – D. Groome
A written report detailing WFNJ/SNAP caseload numbers for Cape May County for January and February 2018 was distributed. D. Groome highlighted the following statistics from the reports: January 2018: 173 GA cases, 128 TANF cases, and 4,043 SNAP cases. The WFNJ participation rate was 15.2%. February 2018: 166 GA cases, 130 TANF cases, and 4,062 SNAP cases. The WFNJ participation rate was 13%. P. Devaney asked if Cape May County was still receiving a waiver for the work requirement for SNAP benefits. D. Groome responded affirmatively. She explained that Cape May, Atlantic, and Cumberland Counties have received a waiver from the requirement that all “able bodied adults” must work 30 hours per week to receive SNAP benefits. The waiver was granted due to the high unemployment rate in these three (3) counties.
- e. CEAS – S. Matthews
S. Matthews stated that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 5/8/18.
- f. CIACC – K. Raring
K. Raring introduced herself to Council. She has replaced P. Belasco as the CIACC Coordinator and the YSC Administrator and will be assuming HSAC reporting responsibilities for these two entities. To that end, the next meeting of the CIACC is scheduled for 5/8/18.
- g. Membership – B. Keefe
B. Keefe reported that Council still has four (4) openings. Two (2) provider positions, one (1) consumer position, and one (1) member-at-large position. He noted that several individuals have requested membership applications but none have been returned to date. B. Keefe concluded by urging anyone interested in Council membership to contact S. Hand for an application.

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

VI. Liaison Reports

a. Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council – M. Dozier

M. Dozier reported that the Division of Aging and Disability Services has just ended a very successful tax season in that the VITA program was able to assist many consumers with the completion of their 2017 tax returns. Even though the program just ended, the process of recruiting volunteers for next tax season will begin in the near future. The annual Senior Jamboree will be held tomorrow (5/3/18) at the Avalon Community Center and the Senior Art Show will begin on June 6th with the art being displayed for three (3) weeks; the Show will be held at ACCC.

b. Workforce Development Board – T. Bryan

T. Bryan distributed a written report on Workforce Development Board (WDB) activities dated April 2018. T. Bryan stated that as the report indicates all programs are doing well. Dislocated Worker (DW) training funds and enrollment levels were reached; funds were reallocated to allow for additional training for DWs. Youth programs are also doing very well. With regard to the OJT (On the Job Training) program, employers have signed up to participate. The focus now is on engaging the consumers and encouraging them to participate in the program. T. Bryan reported that WDB services are now on the CMC website under “services”. She further reported on the success of the Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) program which is a joint venture between the WDB, Cape May Tech, Cumberland Tech, and Fare Free transportation. The first course enrolled 12 students with 9 expected to complete the course. T. Bryan concluded by saying that referrals are always welcomed and orientations continue to be held twice weekly (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Appointments are not necessary for orientations.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

1. D. Groome stated that as Freeholder Pierson mentioned earlier, the Divisions of Social Services, Aging and Disability Services, Veterans Services, the Health Department, Crest Haven Nursing Home, and the Social Security Administration have worked together to develop SOAR (Services Outreach Assistance and Referral). This is an outreach service for senior residents of the County (those age 60+). The program will be piloted in the County’s Senior Centers. The program consists of a short presentation on available services and then a subsequent assessment of consumer needs/eligibility. The goal of the program is to provide information on available services to seniors (outreach) in a convenient location and to conduct an initial assessment (prescreening) of eligibility at that same site (will assist seniors to determine if a formal application is warranted). The first presentation is scheduled for 5/23/18 at the Lower Cape Senior Center. It is expected that presentations will then be scheduled for the other three (3) County run Senior Centers and proceed from there to other Senior Centers operated in the County, as well as, senior housing complexes. D. Groome will update Council on SOAR as the program progresses.

IX. Public Response

There was no public response.
Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.