

HSAC Minutes
June 3, 2020

- I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – J. Roy
The meeting was called to order at 2:02pm. Meeting held via Zoom. Roll call followed.

Members Present:

Jeffrey Pierson – Freeholder
Carol Haig – Member-at-Large
Joe Sittineri – Provider
John Roy – Consumer Advocate
Donna Groome – Provider
Wayne Whelan – Member-at-Large
Joe Faldetta – Provider
Judy Kunec – Member-at-Large
Joe Fahy – Member-at-Large
Chris Zellers – Consumer Advocate
Jamie Moscony – Member-at-Large
Terri Bryan – Provider
Megan Santiago – Consumer Advocate
Christa Loper – Provider
Eleanor McBride – Provider

Members Excused:

Rose Kuprianov
Nichol Hoff
Mary Dozier
Lorenzo McFadden

Interested Persons:

Sarah Matthews – Habitat for Humanity
Barry Keefe – MHADA Board/Aging Advisory Council
Claire Galiano – CARA
Colleen Bingham – CMC Division of Aging & Disability Services
Alex Coll – The Arc of Cape May County
Jennifer Zoyac – CSPNJ
Betsy Cunningham – SJLS
Kristen Raring – CMC Human Services
Jen Hirsch – DCP&P
Shannon Staino – DCP&P
Greg Speed – Acenda
Katie Faldetta – Cape Assist
Norma Cordeiro – NJ DVRS
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

- II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – J. Roy
Minutes from the 5/6/20 meeting were emailed to voting members. T. Bryan motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and J. Fahy seconded. Motion carried. Once approved by the Council, meeting minutes are posted on the Cape May County website.

III. Administrator's Report – S. Hand

S. Hand began her report by stating that this is the 2nd virtual meeting of the CMC HSAC. She added that this will be the norm for the foreseeable future for HSAC and HSAC subcommittee meetings. There is some good news in that Governor Murphy has announced that additional businesses and services may open on 6/22. However; given that social distancing measures are still required, the ability to hold in-person meetings has not yet been decided. S. Hand then reported that the focus of the HSAC office for the past month has been the functions of contracting and processing payments for those community programs/services for which the HSAC has been designated as the administrative entity. In addition, HSAC staff assisted the MHADA Board by participating in the review and scoring of two (2) RFPS for substance use disorder services. The MHADA Board recommendations will be forwarded to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for review and consideration. On behalf of the CEAS Committee, the HSAC office will begin the update of the Homeless Resource Directory this month. The Directory was developed in 2016 as part of the 10 Year Plan; it has been updated annually since development. The Directory will be sent out to all agencies currently listed in the document with the direction to edit current information for changes and/or add any new programs. It is hoped that a draft will be ready for review by the July CEAS meeting. In addition, anyone knowing of a program that should be included or would like more information on this project is asked to contact S. Hand. As for the HUD 2020 CoC Competition, HUD has asked the legislature to allow this year to be a renewal year rather than the normal competition. A decision has not yet been announced. The parenting session entitled "Covid-19: Parenting During a Pandemic" held on 5/29 on the Zoom platform was very successful. There were 2 sessions with over 400 people participating. Michael McKnight and Dr. Laurie Desautels were the presenters. The workshop was sponsored by several agencies/organizations including Cape Assist and the PRIDE Committee with funding being provided by the CMC Board of Chosen Freeholders. M. McKnight and Dr. Desautels will be presenting another Zoom meeting for Pre-K teachers and parents regarding trauma in young children on July 16th. More information on this session will be forthcoming. The Freeholders are also sponsoring/funding this session; Cape Assist is handling the logistics. S. Hand concluded by noting that the traditional "We √ for 21" campaign kickoff training session has been cancelled for 2020. However; Atlantic Prevention Resources will be working with Joe Vasil, the "We √" training facilitator, to prepare a recorded training session. The CMC Municipal Alliances will be working to distribute information on the recorded session to CMC licensed (liquor) establishments once the details are finalized. This will be the 28th year for the campaign aimed at preventing those that are underage from purchasing/consuming alcohol.

IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché
N. Troché was unable to attend today's meeting. J. Roy reported that all NJ DHS announcements and press releases received since the May meeting have been forwarded via email to all on the HSAC distribution lists.
- DCF – J. Hirsch
A written report with the statistics for the Cape May DCP&P local office for the month of April 2020 was distributed with the meeting packet. J. Hirsch highlighted the following from the report for the month of April: 276 total cases, (this = 532 active children with 102 of those children in resource home placement). The cases breakdown into the following categories: 50 investigation cases, 162 in-home services cases and 64 placement cases (=276 cases). In addition, there were 32 intakes (28 for child abuse/neglect investigation and 4 for child welfare assessment). Thus far this year, eight (8) adoptions have been finalized. J. Hirsch stated that the DCP&P Local Office is operating much the same as reported last month with limited staff in the offices and most staff working from home. Face to face contact continues to be limited. S. Staino added that the DCP&P Area Office continues to provide as much support to the local offices as possible while also working

with a small number of staff physically in the offices; all mail is being processed through the Area Office. J. Hirsch concluded by reported that the DCF Commissioner provides a weekly update to all DCF staff. During one of her more recent briefings, the Commissioner told DCF staff to prepare for the possibility of working from home for the next six (6) months.

V. Committee Reports:

a. Executive Committee – J. Roy

Minutes from the 5/27/20 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. J. Roy referenced #3 of the minutes regarding the HSAC summer schedule to remind those present that the CMC HSAC does not normally meet in July or August. However; it was the consensus of the Executive Committee to reevaluate holding a meeting in August should it be needed. This decision will be made at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting date. There will not be a meeting in July. Since the HSAC will not meet in July, the Executive Committee will not meet in June. J. Roy added that the Executive Committee is recommending that the Committee (Executive) be empowered to convene and conduct business on behalf of Council should an issue arise that necessitates action prior to the next HSAC meeting. W. Whelan made a motion that the Executive Committee be empowered as stated by J. Roy. J. Moscony seconded. Motion carried.

b. Disability Services Committee – K. Fitzsimons

S. Hand reported for K. Fitzsimons; the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 7/21/20.

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 February 2020 was distributed with the meeting packet (via email). D. Groome highlighted the following statistics from the report: GA cases = 195 (up 45 from January), TANF cases = 102 (down 6 from January), and SNAP cases = 3,625 (up 82 cases from January). The WFNJ participation rate for February was 8%. D. Groome noted that the Division did receive 600 additional applications for benefits from the end of March until the beginning of May due to the economic impact of Covid-19. She concluded by commending the staff at Social Services for their efforts to not only maintain the “normal” caseload but also in processing the additional applications. To date, Social Services is meeting both the 7 day expedited application and the 30 day routine application processing benchmarks.

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

Minutes from the 5/12/20 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. S. Matthews reported that in addition to the updates on programs and services currently operating in CMC, the Committee also discussed the 2020 PITC results and the HUD funding awards from the 2019 CoC Competition. She noted that agencies represented at the meeting provided brief updates on their operations and services during Covid-19. S. Matthews encouraged those present to review the minutes as they provide much more detail than her oral report. She concluded by stating that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 7/14/20.

f. CIACC – K. Raring

K. Raring reported that the next meeting of the CIACC is scheduled for 7/14/20.

g. Membership – C. Loper

C. Loper stated that the Committee’s written membership report which lists the Committee’s recommendation for the reappointment of T. Bryan to a 2nd term on Council was distributed with

the meeting packet. C. Loper then made a motion to recommend T. Bryan to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for a 2nd term on Council. J. Faldetta seconded. Motion carried.

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

VI. Liaison Reports

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

C. Bingham reported for M. Dozier. C. Bingham reported that the Division continues to operate with two (2) staff in the office daily Monday – Friday (staff rotate). Services such as mobile meals, adult protective services, social work, and Medicare counseling are working at full capacity. The annual senior jamboree and the senior art show have been postponed; it is hoped that these events can be rescheduled and held by the end of the calendar year. The senior centers operated by the Division are closed. However; C. Bingham and a staff member have prepared 150 “goody” bags for senior center participants. The bags include items to be used for activities (colored pencils, adult coloring books, etc.), as well as, brochures/flyers with both health information and information on services provided by local agencies/organizations. C. Bingham concluded by noting that the Division is working with County Administration to develop and implement a plan for reopening.

b. Workforce Development Board – T. Bryan

A written report on WDB business was prepared by T. Bryan and included in the meeting packet. T. Bryan noted the following from the report: 1) The One Stop is projected to reopen soon; the projected date is 6/15. 2) For those with questions on unemployment claims, please call the contact number and/or visit the website provided in the written report. 3) WDB will be implementing contractual changes for 2020-2021 contracts as Cape May County will be assuming administrative responsibility for the contracts with local (CMC) providers from Cumberland County.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

1. Freeholder Pierson stated that he would like to update Council on a few items: 1) He noted that he was participating in this meeting from the new “Veterans Corner” located at the entrance to the CMC Administration Building. While not yet complete, Veterans Corner is designed to honor CMC veterans. 2) The Freeholder Board has been working very hard with all County Departments to address Covid-19 related issues. For example, CMC Health Director K. Thomas created a Covid-19 Task Force even before Governor Murphy announced the emergency. The task force meets weekly. In addition, Freeholders Thornton and Pierson initiated procedures to lockdown Crest Haven Nursing Home and implement additional safety protocols for residents prior to “stay at home” orders. This is one of the reasons that there were no cases of Covid-19 at the nursing home until last week when 2 staff members tested positive (staff are now under medical care). Lastly, Freeholders Desiderio and Morey are co-chairing a countywide recovery initiative. The goal of the initiative is to develop a plan to reopen CMC that allows for a gradual reopening of all businesses/services with appropriate protocols and protections in place for the safety of all. The plan was submitted to the Governor who has since developed his own timeline/schedule for the reopening of the State. 3) The work on the County Commons site has been delayed. The Community Based Outreach Center (CBOC) for veterans was to open in April; the new projected date is late July/early August. It is hoped that the entire complex will be operational by the end of 2020. 4) Freeholder Pierson stated that in addition to the obvious

health concerns associated with Covid-19, he is also concerned about the impact of Covid-19 on the CMC community regarding other issues such as mental health, abuse, and physical conditioning. He commended the many local organizations and agencies that have continued and/or developed programs and services to address these issues.

2. J. Roy stated that communities across the world are organizing protest demonstrations against social injustice in response to the death of George Floyd. Locally, protests have been held in Wildwood, Rio Grande, and on the Somers Point/Ocean City bridge. He noted that these local protest demonstrations have been peaceful, organized, and well-done. J. Roy then asked if anyone had information on a demonstration being planned for the Cape May Court House (CMCH) area. K. Faldetta responded that the demonstration sponsored by the NAACP is planned for 6/5. S. Matthews added that the CMCH demonstration is from 10am to 12pm; the NAACP is sponsoring another demonstration on 6/5 at 1pm at Fox Park in Wildwood. More information is available on the NAACP website. J. Roy then stated that Cape-Atlantic INK will be holding a virtual dialogue for staff on racism and social injustice. In addition, the Agency will be posting resources for discussing these issues with children on their website. K. Faldetta reported that Cape Assist also has a variety of parenting resources covering multiple topics available. Anyone interested is asked to email K. Faldetta.

IX. Public Response

There was no public response.

Meeting adjourned at 2:43pm.