

HSAC Minutes  
February 1, 2023

- I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – J. Roy  
The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm. Meeting held via Zoom. Introductions followed.

*Members Present:*

Mary Dozier – Provider  
John Roy – Consumer Advocate  
Donna Groome – Provider  
Chris Zellers – Consumer Advocate  
Rose Kuprianov – Consumer  
Jamie Moscony – Member-at-Large  
Joe Sittineri – Provider  
Wayne Whelan – Member-at-Large  
Carol Haig – Member-at-Large  
Terri Bryan – Provider  
Joe Fahy – Member-at-Large  
Judy Kunec – Member-at-Large

*Members Excused:*

Joe Faldetta  
Bridget DeFiccio  
Christa Loper  
Jeffrey Pierson  
Megan Santiago  
Nichol Hoff  
Lorenzo McFadden

*Interested Persons:*

Nelson Troché – NJ DHS  
Brad Preston – Community Food Bank NJ  
Claire Galiano – CARA  
Michelle Altenpohl – SJLS  
Krista Fitzsimons – ACCC/Cape May Campus  
Ivis Fullard – SNJ Perinatal Cooperative  
Mandy Witt – Horizon NJ Health  
Jessica Arends – Community Food Bank NJ  
Jen Hirsch – DCP&P  
Rick Hager – NJ DCF  
Jen Zoyac – CSPNJ  
Norma Cordeiro – NJ DVRS  
Chrissy Ennis – CMC DHS  
Peter Belasco – CMC DHS  
Sharon Modzelewski – CMC DHS  
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

- II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – J. Roy  
Minutes from the 12/7/22 meeting were emailed to voting members. J. Sittineri motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and J. Moscony 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 wishing everyone a happy new year and welcoming all to the first CMC HSAC meeting of 2023. S. Hand then reported that the County budget process is moving forward. It appears likely that most of the contracts funded through the CDHS will remain funded at CY 2022 levels. However, there is always the possibility that funding levels may be modified as the budget process moves forward. To that end, the HSAC office is in the process of closing out those CY 2022 contracts for which Council has oversight. Any agency funded with County dollars through the HSAC who has not yet submitted their final report for CY 2022 is asked to do so ASAP. The HUD PITC was held on 1/25/23 (asking about the night of 1/24/23). While survey tabulation is not yet complete, preliminary information indicates that the numbers may be slightly higher than last year. There was a Code Blue declaration on the night of the PITC. Thus, warming centers were available for emergency shelter. For the HTF, Advisory Board is scheduled to meet on 2/7/23. It is expected that the Board will develop a proposed budget for CY 2023 to be submitted to the County Commissioners for review and consideration. The budget will include funds to continue the HTF program of housing subsidy and intensive case management. It should be noted that HTF collections returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022; there had been an increase in annual collections in 2020 and 2021. In addition, the HSAC office is working on the annual HTF report to NJHMFA. The report is expected to be submitted by the end of the week. The HSAC office continues to work with DCF on the development of a statewide database. DCF administration is currently holding individual meetings with stakeholders regarding their needs from the directory. S. Hand and Z. Berliner met with DCF to represent the County HSAC perspective on 1/10/23. It is expected that the full work group will be reconvened once DCF completes the individual meetings. S. Hand concluded by stating that most of the other activities of the office are covered in the various committee reports including the Executive Committee report. She deferred reporting on these items to the individual committee reports.

### IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché

N. Troché reported that the Department is working to ensure that all communities are receiving the message that the emergency SNAP allotments will stop at the end of February. As of 3/1/23, SNAP benefits will return to the initial benefit amount. N. Troché stated that NJ DHS is expecting that local SNAP administrators will experience an increase in calls and food pantries will see an increase in usage. N. Troché concluded by stating that there is new legislation that the Governor has promised to sign that will raise the minimum monthly SNAP benefit to \$100. D. Groome noted that the CMC Division of Social Services has prepared information to be shared with community partners on the changes to SNAP and Medicaid. She asked for clarification regarding the minimum SNAP benefit as the most recent communication from DFD indicates that the minimum benefit is \$50 per month. B. Preston of the CFBNJ stated that the minimum SNAP benefit is currently set at \$50 per month, but there is legislation that has passed the Assembly and is in the Senate to raise that minimum amount to \$95 per month. D. Groome thanked B. Preston for the clarification. She noted that the Division of Social Services shares the concerns of NJ DFD and the Food Bank in that individuals will go to checkout at their grocery store with a full cart and be caught off guard as to the reduction in their SNAP benefits. For this reason, the Division of Social Services has asked for permission to distribute DFD flyers on the SNAP changes to local supermarkets. B. Preston stated that he is appreciative of all the efforts to share this information. At the CFBNJ, they are sharing the message with their partners and are increasing the amount of food sent to partners by 10 to 20% so that the partners can be prepared for increased traffic at their pantries. B. Preston then asked about the changes to Medicaid. D. Groome explained that Medicaid recertifications were done throughout the pandemic but there was a waiver from terminating anyone for not responding to a

recertification notice or for being over income. As of 4/1/23, the waiver will end and anyone who does not respond to a Medicaid recertification notice or who is over income will be terminated. It is imperative that anyone receiving Medicaid makes sure that the phone number and address on file is correct and that they respond to the recertification notice. B. Preston asked about the recertification process, specifically, when it will be done. D. Groome responded that it is expected that there will be rolling recertifications. That is, so many will be done per month. M. Witt of Horizon NJ Health stated that she works with the MLTSS program. She noted that the MLTSS program was also not terminating anyone during the Covid waivers, but this program will begin reevaluations for eligibility as of 4/1/23 as well.

- DCF – J. Hirsch

A written report with the statistics for the Cape May DCP&P local office for the month of December 2022 was distributed with the meeting packet. J. Hirsch highlighted the following from the December statistics: there were 60 intakes (52 for child abuse/neglect investigations and 8 for child welfare assessments) and 241 cases (a total of 468 children with 93 of those children in a resource home placement). Four (4) children were removed in December. For CY 2022, nine (9) adoptions were finalized. J. Hirsch concluded by reporting that the CMC DCP&P local office is experiencing a high turnover rate for staff. Both seasoned workers and new hires are leaving the job. It was asked if the seasoned workers were leaving due to retirement. J. Hirsch responded that they were taking early retirement. She noted that it is a very difficult job.

## V. Committee Reports:

### a. Executive Committee – J. Roy

Minutes from the 1/25/23 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. J. Roy referenced #8 of the minutes regarding the HSAC annual evaluation survey to state that overall, the survey responses were very positive. He added that based on the survey responses, full Council meetings will continue to be held virtually via Zoom (primarily); there will be in-person meetings held periodically throughout the year. It is expected that the next in-person meeting will be held in May or June. This will be announced at the meeting preceding the planned in-person meeting. Responses further indicated that most would like the public response section of the agenda to be utilized to ask questions or discuss issues and/or topics that may not necessarily be HSAC business. J. Roy concluded by stating that the results of the survey were included in the meeting packet of materials for anyone who would like to review in further detail.

### b. Disability Services Committee – S. Hand

Minutes from the 1/18/23 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. S. Hand reported that at the meeting, agency representatives provided an update on their programs and services. She added that the almost all agencies noted that the scarcity of available housing units specifically, affordable housing in CMC, is impacting their programs/services and/or work. The Health Department will be hosting the CMC Healthy Community Day on 4/1/23. Any agency interested in having a table at the event should contact Megan Santiago of the Health Department. Lastly, Jacki Fuscellaro has been selected as the new chairperson of the Committee. J. Fuscellaro has been hired by the Division of Aging & Disability Services for the position vacated by K. Fitzsimons. S. Hand explained that this Committee is administered as a partnership between the HSAC and the Division with S. Hand serving as staff to the Committee and the Division of Aging & Disability Services representative serving as chairperson.

### c. Program Review Committee – J. Kunec

J. Kunec reported that the County \$ renewal contracts have been executed by the County Commissioners. A fully executed contract was mailed to each funded agency on 1/30/23.

d. WFNJ-WTW – D. Groome

Written reports detailing the DFD WFNJ/SNAP caseload numbers for Cape May County for August through November of 2022 were distributed with the meeting packet. A report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022 (July through September) was also included in the packet. D. Groome stated that the reports in the packet reflect the most up to date statistics available from NJ DFD. She added that while caseloads ebb and flow, she would note that TANF cases are the lowest they have ever been (not only in CMC but nationwide), SNAP cases are higher than they were before the pandemic (online applications for SNAP are 50% higher than applications from last year – a determination of SNAP eligibility must be made within 30 days), and for the GA program, the 28-day program has been reinstated (activities are mandatory again).

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

Minutes from the 1/10/23 CEAS meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. S. Hand reported for S. Matthews. She stated that this meeting of the CEAS Committee was purposefully brief so that CEAS attendees could participate in the PITC training session hosted by Monarch Housing immediately after the meeting. The meeting focused on updates of local programs and several upcoming events including the VIM Free Day of Medical Care to be held on 2/10/23 at the Wildwood Convention Center (flyers were included in the meeting packet of materials).

f. CIACC – S. Modzelewski

Minutes from the 1/18/23 CIACC meeting were distributed in the meeting packet. S. Modzelewski highlighted the following items: 1) Chris Gaeta, of InSite Health, provided information of how the agency works with schools to provide services such as assessments, evaluations, screenings, clearance documentation, etc. Services are also available via parent/community referral. InSite is primarily a child and adolescent out-patient psychiatry group with a sub interest in schools, bringing services into schools in a cost-effective manner. Services are offered virtually, in-person, and hybrid. The agency is located throughout NJ; and locally, a physical site will open in Vineland in March and in EHT later in 2023. 2) Agency representatives provided updates on their services and activities. ~A number of programs continue to be short staffed. ~Emergency Psychiatric Screening provided services to 16 youth in December via outreach/emergency room. Four youth were referred to in-patient. The wait times for beds continues to be very challenging; one youth waited 5 days and was eventually admitted to a placement in Delaware. ~Cape Assist is providing Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings every other month throughout the year to adults who live or work in Cape May County. Training teaches participants how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18. 3) CIACC approved a letter of support to Cape Assist in their application to operate the Atlantic-Cape May HUB of the NJ Statewide Student Support Service Network. The next CIACC meeting will be held on February 15th.

g. Membership – C. Loper

S. Hand reported for C. Loper. S. Hand stated that with the appointment of J. Faldetta to a 2<sup>nd</sup> term, Council membership is full for CY 2023. She concluded by reminding any voting member who has not yet done so to submit their annual “Conflict of Interest” statement as soon as possible.

A motion was made by J. Moscony and seconded by M. Dozier 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's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has begun. This is a free tax preparation service that is available to low and moderate-income individuals/couples (income limits are being enforced). Income limit is \$60,000 or less per year. Appointments are required. A flyer on the program including logistics such as sites and times was included in the meeting packet. M. Dozier concluded by stating that individuals should be encouraged to make their appointments ASAP as slots are filling quickly.

b. Workforce Development Board – T. Bryan

T. Bryan prepared a written report which was included in the meeting packet. She then reported the following: 1) There has been a change in WDB leadership, but she cannot announce until it is official, 2) The Adults & Dislocated Worker Program is on par; the youth programs are still under-enrolled, but they are showing progress, and 3) There is a large demand for CNAs, but there is currently not a training provider in CMC. The WDB and the CMC One Stop are looking for potential providers to hold this training program in CMC.

VII. Old Business

There was no *old business*.

VIII. New Business

1. R. Hager announced that the DCF Family 1<sup>st</sup> Act Prevention Plan concept paper is available on the Department's website (<https://www.nj.gov/dcf>).

IX. Public Response

1. B. Preston stated that he would like to update the HSAC on the CFBNJ mobile food pantry. It had been in Tuckahoe at the United Methodist Church but is moving the date from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Hours will remain 9:30 to 11:30am. He then asked if any agencies in this county were seeing a great influx of immigrants; he is seeing this in Atlantic County. The goal is for the CFBNJ to have culturally appropriate foods available. D. Groome responded that there has been a small number of Ukrainian immigrants. B. Preston concluded by asking anyone knowing of an agency or school wishing to start a food pantry to contact Jessica Arends of CFBNJ; she can assist with the process. Her email is [jarends@cfbnj.org](mailto:jarends@cfbnj.org).

Meeting adjourned at 2:57pm.