

HSAC Minutes
February 2, 2022

I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – J. Roy

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm. Meeting held via Zoom. Roll call followed. J. Roy asked first time attendees to introduce themselves. N. Milstein introduced herself to Council; R. Abbamondi introduced himself under “new business”.

Members Present:

Bridget DeFiccio – Provider
John Roy – Consumer Advocate
Chris Zellers – Consumer Advocate
Judy Kunec – Member-at-Large
Wayne Whelan – Member-at-Large
Lorenzo McFadden – Provider
Christa Loper – Provider
Jamie Moscony – Member-at-Large
Joe Fahy – Member-at-Large

Members Excused:

Joe Faldetta
Carol Haig
Donna Groome
Nichol Hoff
Joe Sittineri
Mary Dozier
Terri Bryan
Jeffrey Pierson
Rose Kuprianov
Megan Santiago

Interested Persons:

Jen Zoyac – CSPNJ
Robert Abbamondi – Community Food Bank NJ
Jennifer Hirsch – DCP&P
Norma Cordeiro – NJ DVRS
Natalie Milstein – Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative
Rick Hager – NJ DCF
Nelson Troché – NJ DHS
Sharon Modzelewski – CMC Human Services
Pat Devaney – CMC Human Services
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – J. Roy

Minutes from the 12/1/21 meeting were emailed to voting members. J. Fahy 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 2022. 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 2021

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 2021 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 2021 is asked to do so ASAP. As noted in the Executive report, the Board of County Commissioners approved the recommendations of the Proposal Review committee regarding the awarding of those human service contracts funded with County dollars and administered by the HSAC at their 12/14/21 meeting. The CY 2022 contracts have been prepared and forwarded to the County Purchasing Department for execution. There was one service for which a 3rd RFP needed to be issued. Proposals for that service are due 2/9/22. The HUD PITC was held on 1/26/22. While survey tabulation is not yet complete, preliminary information indicates that the numbers should be similar to 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, the Advisory Board continues to meet. The most recent meeting was held on 1/19/22. The Board opened the application cycle for a second round on 2/1/22. All local agencies providing services to those experiencing homelessness received an announcement of funding availability and instructions for application. Anyone who did not receive the announcement and would like to receive the materials should contact S. Hand directly. Regarding the HSAC Needs Assessment scheduled to begin in January, DCF has “paused” the 2022 HSAC Needs Assessment to allow sufficient time to review all the feedback that was provided related to the process. K. Stoehr of DCF reported at the SHSAC meeting in December that the pause would be for at least 6 months while DCF reviewed the feedback from multiple stakeholders. It is expected that an update will be provided at the February SHSAC meeting. Lastly, S. Hand reminded those present that anyone wishing to conduct a presentation or ask for a specific presentation at an upcoming HSAC meeting should forward that request to S. Hand for Executive Committee consideration and scheduling.

IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché
N. Troché reported that all state employees have returned to their offices. Thus, he is working from the NJ DHS offices in Trenton. He then reported that per Governor Murphy’s nomination, Sarah Adelman is now officially the Commissioner for NJ DHS; she had been serving as the Acting Commissioner. N. Troché concluded by announcing that Governor Murphy has added \$40 million to the “Excluded New Jerseyans” fund and has extended the deadline for application; there have also been some changes to the regulations which should make it easier for consumers to apply. N. Troché will forward information on the program to S. Hand for distribution.
- DCF – J. Hirsch
R. Hager, DCF Community Outreach Coordinator, stated that he recently sent out two (2) emails with information for distribution (both were shared with all on the HSAC distribution lists). The first email was an update on summer camp registration for those with I/DD; the deadline has been extended from 3/1/22 until the end of June and the second email provided information on a variety of DCF publications that are available free of charge. J. Roy commented that there are a limited number of summer camps available in the southern region and some camps have stopped participating due to the lack of timely payments through PerformCare. R. Hager responded that he would investigate the issue. Regarding the local DCP&P office, written reports with the statistics for the Cape May office for the months of November and December 2021 were distributed with the meeting packet. J. Hirsch reported that as the statistics indicate, the number of intakes has been relatively stable over the past few months. She then reported that all Cape May DCP&P Local Office staff have returned to the office fulltime as of 1/31/22. In addition, 6 to 7 new staff have been recently hired; the office had been down staff due to retirements.

V. Committee Reports:

a. Executive Committee – J. Roy

Minutes from the 1/26/22 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. J. Roy referenced #9 of the minutes regarding the HSAC annual survey to report that the results indicate that majority prefer the meeting format to remain virtual. The Executive Committee discussed the HSAC meeting format and decided to hold the meetings virtually through June; the Committee will reevaluate at their May meeting. N. Troché stated that many other County HSACs have decided to do the same – continue virtual meetings at least for the next few months. Some have even decided to keep most meetings virtual with one (1) in-person meeting per quarter. J. Roy noted that the survey results also indicated that while people prefer virtual, they miss the opportunity to network. J. Roy asked those present if they would like the Zoom to remain active after the close of the business meeting for informal discussion/networking. It was the consensus of those present that this was not needed, and that networking will be done offline.

b. Disability Services Committee – K. Fitzsimons

J. Roy reported for K. Fitzsimons. The next meeting of the DSC is scheduled for 2/15/22.

c. Program Review Committee – J. Kunec

J. Kunec reported that the PRC will meet in February to review the proposals submitted in response to the RFP for DV shelter services. These proposals are due 2/9/22.

d. WFNJ-WTW – D. Groome

S. Hand stated that D. Groome sends her apologies, but she had a last-minute scheduling conflict due to an unexpected Social Services Directors call with NJ DFD. She added that written reports detailing WFNJ/SNAP caseload numbers for Cape May County (CMC) for October, November, and December 2021 were distributed with the meeting packet. The packet also includes a report in quarterly format with CMC statistics for these same months to allow for ease of monthly comparison. D. Groome will report on the quarterly statistics at the March HSAC meeting.

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

Minutes from the 1/11/22 CEAS meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. S. Hand reported for S. Matthews. She stated the following regarding the minutes: this was a brief meeting (purposefully brief so that CEAS attendees could participate in the PITC training session hosted by Monarch Housing immediately after the meeting) which focused on updates of local programs and the completion/submission of the SNJCoC application and accompanying project applications to HUD for the 2021 CoC Competition (submitted by the 11/16/21 deadline). She noted that the Emergency Assistance report indicated that the numbers for those seeking assistance were increasing and that these applications were from consumers who cited non-COVID reasons for applying (not those impacted by the eviction moratorium).

f. CIACC – S. Modzelewski

Minutes from the 1/18/22 CIACC meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. The following items were highlighted: 1) Sharon Trombetta gave an informative presentation about Shore Family Success Center. The center is a community gathering place located in Rio Grande and everyone is welcome. Services are free. The center provides resource information, family activities, tutoring, presentations, grandparents raising grandchildren meetings, etc. A monthly calendar is posted on the website and Facebook 2) Regarding the Promising Path to Success 2.0 (PPS 2.0) grant, the CIACC will meet with some established family/youth groups at their respective meetings to gather input on ways to increase the comfort level of participation at CIACC meetings. CIACC approved suggestions for use of the PPS 2.0 \$10,000 grant funding (i.e., trainings, promotional items, fees for subject matter experts). 3) Jennifer Plews, Acenda, provided information about psychiatric emergency services, Screening. The service is provided

in the community or at Cape Regional Emergency Room. Screening assesses an average of 25-35 children per month (usually an uptick during the school year) to determine the level of care and need at that moment for appropriate treatment. Approximately 25% of the children will be placed inpatient. Service is available 24/7. 4) Agency representatives provided updates on their services and activities. The next CIACC meeting will be held on March 16th. W. Whelan asked if the inpatient psychiatric services for children were still located in Bridgeton. S. Modzelewski responded affirmatively noting that the provider was Inspira. J. Moscony stated that CMC Special Services School District (SSSD) is working on a project that will allow the Center for Family Guidance/Cape Regional to open a Partial Hospitalization Program at CMCSSTD with an anticipated start date of 9/1/22. Bids will be through Cape Regional/Center for Family Guidance. She added that she will share information with Council about this project as it develops.

g. Membership – C. Loper

C. Loper welcomed B. DeFiccio to Council as a voting member. She noted that with this appointment and the appointment of 2nd/additional terms for eligible Council members, Council membership is full. C. Loper concluded by reminding any voting member who has not yet done so to submit their annual “Conflict of Interest” statement to S. Hand as soon as possible.

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

VI. Liaison Reports

a. MHADA Board – P. Belasco

Minutes from the 12/14/21 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. P. Devaney reported for P. Belasco. She highlighted the following from the minutes: 1) New Services – JFS will be offering a Community Support Services program which will offer 4 housing vouchers to CMC residents and Acenda will be offering “pop-up” mental health events that would be centered around food insecurity but also include information about support services. Acenda will be inviting an array of community supports to participate at each event. To date, no events have been scheduled but it is hoped that events can begin within the next month. 2) RFPs – DMHAS issued an RFP for Early Intervention Support Services in essence an “urgent care” for mental health issues. CMC is one of the eligible counties. There is \$1 million in funding per award. There is also an RFP for a Recovery Center. CRMC will be submitting a proposal to continue the operations of the CMC Recovery Center. 3) Discussion – the Board discussed the topic of staffing issues noting that there is a statewide staffing crisis. Research is being conducted to support increased reimbursement rates for services so that rates paid to staff can also be increased. 4) The Recovery High School administered by Cape Assist now has 10 youth enrolled; most are from CMC. N. Cordeiro asked for a contact number for Cape Assist so that she could reach out to offer DVRS employment services. P. Devaney responded that the number to call is (609) 522-5960.

b. Youth Services Commission – S. Modzelewski

Minutes from the 1/11/22 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. Following items were highlighted: 1) The County received the 2022 award letter for Comprehensive County Funding. The award funds the Intensive Supervision Program, Station House Adjustment, and Pathways to Employment. 2) Cape May County youth, who are ordered to detention, will now be sent to Ocean County Detention Center due to staffing issues at Harborfields. 3) Proposal Review Committee recommended to the County Commissioners that Cape Assist receive the award for the 2022 Innovations Grant of \$40,000 for the Probation Enrichment, Incentive, and Orientation program. 4) Program representatives provided updates on their activities. The next YSC meeting will be held on March 8th.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

1. J. Roy announced that Cape-Atlantic INK has been awarded \$68,678.46 in Community Development funding for Cape May and Atlantic Counties. The dollars will be used to fund several projects based on needs identified through the various needs assessments including the HSAC and CIACC needs assessments. Plans for the funding should be available by the end of the month.

IX. Public Response

There was no public response.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.