

HSAC Minutes

March 1, 2023

- I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – J. Roy  
The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm. Meeting held via Zoom. Introductions followed.

*Members Present:*

Christa Loper – Provider  
John Roy – Consumer Advocate  
Judy Kunec – Member-at-Large  
Bridget DeFiccio – Provider  
Jamie Moscony – Member-at-Large  
Joe Fahy – Member-at-Large  
Donna Groome – Provider  
Chris Zellers – Consumer Advocate  
Terri Bryan – Provider  
Lorenzo McFadden – Provider  
Carol Haig – Member-at-Large  
Joe Sittineri – Provider  
Megan Santiago – Consumer Advocate  
Wayne Whelan – Member-at-Large  
Mary Dozier – Provider  
Rose Kuprianov – Consumer

*Members Excused:*

Nichol Hoff  
Jeffrey Pierson  
Joe Faldetta

*Interested Persons:*

Sharon Patton – Thrive Network  
Jessica Arends – CFBNJ  
Elizabeth Reed – NJ DOL  
Norma Cordeiro – NJ DVRS  
Jen Zoyac – CSPNJ  
Rick Hager – DCF  
Michelle Altenpohl – SJLS  
Danae Palomino – Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative  
Danielle Lowry – Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative  
Maria Elena Hallion – Branches  
Jennifer Hirsch – DCP&P  
Christina Ennis – CMC Human Services  
Sharon Modzelewski – CMC Human Services  
Peter Belasco – CMC Human Services  
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

- II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – J. Roy  
Minutes from the 2/1/23 meeting were emailed to voting members. W. Whelan motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and B. DeFiccio 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 reported that the focus of the HSAC office for the past month has been on contracting – closing out CY 2022 contracts and the required reporting as well as implementing CY 2023 contracts for those services for which the HSAC is the designated administering agency including County \$ contracts and state peer grouping funds. Regarding budgets, the County CY 2023 budget is expected to be introduced on 3/14/23; it is further expected to be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners at their 4/11/23 meeting. Governor Murphy gave his FY 2024 budget address yesterday (2/28/23). NJ DHS typically provides a synopsis of the Department's proposed budget within a few days after the Governor's address. The SHSAC will meet on 3/3/23. The DCF work group tasked with the development of the statewide resource directory has not met in recent months. DCF is using the time to hold meetings with individual stakeholders. DCF expects to resume work group meetings in March. In addition, A. Phillips of DCF and K. Donahue of NJ2-1-1 will be sharing information at the SHSAC meeting on the improvement work to NJ2-1-1 that they are undertaking together and describe the focus groups that they will be setting up for dialogue and feedback on the system. For the HTF, the Advisory Board met on 2/7/23. The Board discussed and developed a proposed budget for CY 2023. The budget includes funds to continue the HTF program of housing subsidy and intensive case management. The Board also discussed other permissible options for HTF funding as the severe lack of available rental units is creating barriers to voucher usage across all programs that provide housing assistance. HSAC staff is working with DHS administration to finalize the proposed budget for submission to the County Commissioners for review and approval. S. Hand concluded by stating that most of the remaining activities of the office are covered in the various committee reports including the Executive Committee report. She deferred reporting on those items to the individual committee reports.

### IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché  
J. Roy stated that N. Troché was unable to attend today's meeting. He then noted that S. Hand forwards all informational emails from NJ DHS 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 January 2023 was distributed with the meeting packet. J. Hirsch highlighted the following from the January statistics: there were 74 intakes (65 for child abuse/neglect investigations and 9 for child welfare assessments) and 258 cases (a total of 512 children with 95 of those children in a resource home placement). Five (5) children were removed in January.

### V. Committee Reports:

- a. Executive Committee – J. Roy  
Minutes from the 2/22/23 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. J. Roy stated that minutes were self-explanatory. He asked if there were any questions on the Executive Committee report. There were none.
  
- b. Disability Services Committee – J. Fuscellaro  
M. Dozier reported for J. Fuscellaro. The next meeting of the DSC is scheduled for 4/19/23.
  
- 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 December 2022 and a quarterly report depicting the statistics for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022 were distributed with the meeting packet. The quarterly report illustrates the monthly changes in program caseloads. D. Groome stated that there was an increase in GA and SNAP applications which is normal for this time of year. D. Groome noted that today (3/1/23) marks the end to the maximum allotment of SNAP benefits. She added that she discussed this program change in detail at the February meeting. J. Roy commented that there has been a lot of news coverage on the issue. D. Groome then stated that for NJ there was an additional change in the SNAP program in that the minimum amount a household will receive is \$95 per month.

- e. CEAS – S. Matthews  
S. Hand reported for S. Matthews. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 3/14/23.
- f. CIACC – S. Modzelewski  
Minutes from the 2/15/23 meeting were distributed in the meeting packet. S. Modzelewski highlighted the following items from the minutes: 1) CIACC is required to have written Policies and Procedures that must be ratified on an annual basis. CIACC approved a copy of the Cape May County Policies and Procedures as presented at the meeting. 2) Agency representatives provided updates on their services and activities. ~Several programs continue to be short staffed. ~Cape Assist is providing Teen Mental Health First Aid (peer-to-peer model). The training was recently conducted at the Tech high school and will be implemented in every high school in the county. ~ Shore Family Success Center has scheduled a lunch and learn, Autism 101, on 3/15 for any professional working with youth diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum. The speakers are Isabelle Mosca, Professional and Parent, and Chris Devaney, autism Behavioral Specialist. The next CIACC meeting will be held on April 19th.
- g. Membership – C. Loper  
C. Loper reported that Council membership is currently full. In addition, annual conflict of interest (COI) statements were requested (via email) and received from all but two (2) voting members. She asked that those members submit their COI statements ASAP.

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

## VI. Liaison Reports

- a. MHADA Board – P. Belasco  
Minutes from the 1/24/23 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. P. Belasco reported on the following: 1) The 2024-2026 CMC Comprehensive Alcohol and Drug Plan has been submitted to DMHAS. 2) The Board discussed ongoing state initiatives and RFPs (these are detailed in the minutes). 3) The Board reviewed various data sets including those on CMC overdoses and the wait times for outpatient services.
- b. Youth Services Commission – S. Modzelewski  
Minutes from the 1/10/23 meeting were distributed in the meeting packet. S. Modzelewski highlighted the following from the minutes: 1) Jersey Cape and One Stop presented information about youth employment services available in the county. A variety of programming is available, and the Jersey Cape webpage and Facebook Page provides information on programs. 2) Josh Mercado reported on No Limits Boxing Academy. The academy is a boxing and youth development center that serves children in Cape May County. All programs are free, and equipment/gear is provided. Weekdays there are training programs for youth in two age categories: 7- to 10-year-olds and 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. There is also an afterschool program for Cape May Technical High School 3 days per week which serves 30-50 kids. The BAM (body

and mind) Program is for Cape May County High school students to work out 2 days a week (daytime) and serves 10-16 kids. Gym Buddies showcases a variety of events and special guest trainers such as Army National Guard and local law enforcement. The facility can host about 150 youth. There are events for community engagement such as live wrestling and boxing tournaments. The motto is “exhaust the body, relax the mind” as the workouts help to lower the defense mechanisms, so the youth are willing to open-up. The next YSC meeting will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup>. J. Arends of CFBNJ asked if she could be provided with contact information for No Limits Boxing Academy as the CFBNJ may be able to partner with the organization. S. Modzelewski responded affirmatively. She will send to S. Hand to distribute.

## VII. Old Business

1. S. Hand stated that she would like to take a minute to explain the structure of the HSAC and the format of Council meetings since there were a few new people in attendance today. She then provided a historical perspective of the County HSACs and that they were designed to be the broad-based planning bodies for the counties. The work of the Council is done in the subcommittees with the full Council meeting serving as the hub to disseminate and share information on the activities and initiatives of each committee. Overtime, other planning boards and councils have been developed that are specific to target populations. Rather than having a duplication of efforts, these groups have formed a reporting relationship with the HSAC to share the information on their work.
2. R. Kuprianov stated that she would like to provide an update on the Resources for Independent Living (RIL) program coming to CMC. She then reported that the Executive Director of RIL and Assemblyman McClellan attended the February FSC#10 meeting. At the meeting, they shared drawings and specifications for the space that will be used for the RIL program. R. Kuprianov added that the space will include a kitchen where program participants can learn to cook independently. It is hoped that the program will be operational by mid-summer.

## VIII. New Business

1. M. Santiago reminded those present of the CMC Healthy Community Day to be held on 4/1/23 at the Wildwood Convention Center. The event begins at 10am but there will be a breast cancer awareness walk preceding the event at 9am. M. Santiago stated that there will be yoga and health screenings available at the event. J. Roy noted that the flyer for the event was very well done. S. Hand stated that she will resend the flyer to all on the HSAC distribution lists in case anyone needs another copy.
2. R. Kuprianov asked M. Altenpohl about the SJLS guardianship project. Specifically, if these services were being provided by attorneys in the CMC SJLS office. M. Altenpohl responded that the project is through the SJLS Private Attorney Involvement Program, but services are available in CMC. M. Altenpohl stated that she can provide a brochure on the Guardianship Project to anyone interested. S. Hand asked M. Altenpohl to send the brochure to her and she will send out to all on the HSAC distribution lists.
3. S. Hand stated that R. Hager of DCF had to leave for another meeting, but he asked that the following be reported: 1) “New Jersey Youth Resource Spot” is an updated online set of resources for young people, addressing a number of areas to support youth, ages 14 to 21. This is the website: <https://www.nj.gov/njyrs>. On the following website, there are many assets to help promote the “Cover All Kids” Health Insurance initiative. For all agencies and individuals who interact with families with children, please see this link and utilize those resources. Children are eligible, regardless of their immigration status: <https://nj.gov/coverallkids/>.

## IX. Public Response

There was no public response.

Meeting adjourned at 2:47pm.