

HSAC Minutes
April 5, 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
Megan Santiago – Consumer Advocate
Donna Groome – Provider
Chris Zellers – Consumer Advocate
Rose Kuprianov – Consumer
Bridget DeFiccio – Provider
Christa Loper – Provider
Nichol Hoff – Consumer
Joe Sittineri – Provider
Wayne Whelan – Member-at-Large
Carol Haig – Member-at-Large
Terri Bryan – Provider
Joe Fahy – Member-at-Large

Members Excused:

Joe Faldetta
Jamie Moscony
Judy Kunec
Jeffrey Pierson
Lorenzo McFadden

Interested Persons:

Elizabeth Reed – NJ DOL
Jennifer Arenberg – JCDT&OC
Jacki Fuscellaro – CMC Division of Aging & Disability Services
Sarah Matthews – Habitat for Humanity
Michelle Altenpohl – SJLS
Jen Hirsch – DCP&P
Rick Hager – NJ DCF
Jen Zoyac – CSPNJ
Norma Cordeiro – NJ DVRS
Katrina Tattoli – SJLS
Chrissy Ennis – CMC DHS
Sharon Modzelewski – CMC DHS
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

- II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – J. Roy
Minutes from the 3/1/23 meeting were emailed to voting members. J. Fahy motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and R. Kuprianov 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 for the past month has been contract closeouts and budget preparation (for Peer Grouping and the HTF program). All CY 2022 contracts for which the HSAC is the designated administrative entity have been closed out. Many thanks to all the agencies for submitting their CY 2022 final reports. Regarding contracts and budgets, the County CY 2023 budget is not scheduled to be adopted until the 4/11/23 County Commissioner's meeting. This will delay the issuance of County Purchase Orders for CY 2023 service contracts until after 4/11 which will, in turn, delay payments for first quarter services until the Purchase Orders are processed. Agencies are asked to sign and submit their respective Purchase Orders as soon as they are received so that payments for 1st quarter services can be processed as quickly as possible after the receipt of the 1st quarter reports from the agencies. The County received notification of the Peer Grouping (PG) funding allocation for CY 2023 from NJ DHS Division of Aging Services (NJ DoAS) on 3/1/23. The HSAC office has been working with County Department of Human Services and the Division of Aging & Disability Services administration to develop a spending plan and accompanying LOS. To that end, the proposed PG Spending Plan for 2023 has been prepared for review. If Council wishes to approve the PG Spending Plan, a motion will be needed under *new business*. At the SHSAC meeting held on 3/3/23, there was a presentation on the Cover All Kids program. This presentation provided information on the NJ DHS program to provide health care to all children aged 19 and under regardless of immigration status. J. Roy and S. Hand were both at the SHSAC meeting and found the presentation to be very beneficial. S. Hand did try to schedule the presentation for an upcoming CMC HSAC meeting, but the presenters are booked on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 2pm through 12/31/23. While there will not be a presentation at an HSAC meeting, should anyone want to schedule a presentation for their organization/group, please email S. Hand who can provide the contact information for the presenters. Regarding the development of the statewide resource directory, DCF and NJ2-1-1 staff have begun to schedule the various stakeholder focus groups. S. Hand will be participating in the focus group comprised of County HSAC Coordinators on 4/10/23. Lastly, HUD has announced the funding awards from the 2022 CoC Competition. The SNJCoC received full funding for all but two (2) renewal projects (both located in Camden County) – these include housing projects, HMIS, Coordinated Entry, and the planning/administration grant. The SNJCoC was also awarded funding for two (2) new/bonus projects; both new projects will provide additional housing vouchers. In total, the SNJCoC was awarded \$4,618,195.

IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché
J. Roy stated that N. Troché was unable to attend today's meeting. He added that S. Hand forwards all informational emails from NJ DHS to all on the HSAC distribution lists.
- DCF – J. Hirsch
J. Hirsch reported that DCP&P Central Office is reviewing the practice of providing local office statistics. Thus, she does not have the traditional statistical report for the Cape May DCP&P local office. J. Hirsch then reported that the CMC DCP&P local office continues to experience a high number of resignations. Both new hires and seasoned workers are leaving the job. J. Roy stated that it is not just DCP&P that is losing staff as CMOs statewide are having a similar issue. He added that this is happening in most jobs that are challenging. J. Hirsch concluded by stating that the DCF pilot program which allows staff to work from home 2 days per week will be reevaluated by 6/30/23. A decision will be made to continue or end the program. Given the popularity of remote work, the end of the program may cause additional resignations.

V. Committee Reports:

a. Executive Committee – J. Roy

Minutes from the 3/30/23 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. J. Roy referenced #7 of the minutes regarding the June Council meeting to state that while the Executive Committee will make a final decision at their April meeting, it appears likely that the CMC June HSAC meeting will be held in-person at RCE.

b. Disability Services Committee – J. Fuscellaro

J. Fuscellaro reported that the next meeting of the DSC is scheduled for 4/19/23; it will be held via Zoom.

c. Program Review Committee – J. Kunec

No report.

d. WFNJ-WTW – D. Groome

Written reports detailing the DFD WFNJ/SNAP caseload numbers for Cape May County for January and February 2023 were distributed with the meeting packet. A comparison report for the two months was also included in the packet. D. Groome stated that the comparison report depicts a small increase in all benefit applications (programs) from January to February. She added that the Division of Social Services did not receive as many calls as were expected regarding the end of the SNAP maximum allotment for those receiving SNAP benefits (receipt of the maximum allotment ended 3/1/23). However, the Division is expecting to receive increased calls as SNAP cases are recalculated upon recertification. It was noted that the minimum SNAP benefit in NJ is \$95 per month (NJ has the highest monthly minimum of any state).

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

Minutes from the 3/14/23 CEAS meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. S. Hand reported for S. Matthews. She stated that in addition to the local program updates, this meeting included discussions on the new pre-screening component of the Coordinated Assessment process and on outreach strategies for working with unsheltered homeless. The meeting also included a presentation on the SNJCoC.

f. CIACC – S. Modzelewski

S. Modzelewski reported that the next meeting of the CIACC is scheduled for 4/19/23.

g. Membership – C. Loper

C. Loper stated that the Committee's business is addressed in #2 of the Executive Committee report. She noted that Council membership is currently full and that membership vacancies for CY 2024 will begin to be discussed at the September Executive Committee meeting.

A motion was made by R. Kuprianov and seconded by W. Whelan 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 is still operating. A limited number of appointments remain available at the Lower Township Senior Center; appointments are available through 4/18/23. This is a free tax preparation service that is available to low and moderate-income individuals/couples. Income limit is \$60,000 or less per year. Age is not a component of eligibility (do not have to be a senior citizen). In celebration of Older Americans Month, the Senior Jamboree will be held on 5/11/23 at the Avalon Community

Center. This is the first jamboree since 2019. The theme for the event is “western”. M. Dozier concluded by acknowledging the work of J. Fuscellaro in planning and organizing the event.

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 an update to the training provider site – njtrainingsystems.dol.state.nj.us has been changed to Intelligrants. Training providers will be notified of the change. 2) The High School Equivalency is being discontinued as of 5/31/23; there will be a return to the General Equivalency Diploma. 3) Allison Spinelli is no longer with the Cumberland, Salem, & Cape May Workforce Development Board. Christy DiLeonardo is now the Division Director. T. Bryan concluded by stating that more changes will be forthcoming; she will share the information as it becomes available.

VII. Old Business

1. D. Groome reminded those present that in December Congress uncoupled the Medicaid recertification process from the Public Health Emergency (PHE). This means that as of 4/1/23, all Medicaid recipients are required to be recertified for Medicaid. While there was always a requirement to be recertified (even during the PHE), no one was terminated from Medicaid due to not completing their recertification or for no longer meeting eligibility requirements. As of 4/1/23, recertifications will be processed as they were prior to the PHE. That is, Medicaid recipients must respond to the recertification notice, and they must continue to meet all eligibility criteria or they will be terminated. D. Groome stated that she is asking everyone that works with consumers to stress to those consumers the importance of making sure that their Medicaid provider has their current contact information (address/phone number) and to watch their mail for a postcard notifying them that their renewal packet will be arriving shortly.

VIII. New Business

1. S. Hand presented the proposed Peer Grouping (PG) Spending Plan and accompanying program LOS for 2023. She noted that the overall spending plan reflects level funding as compared to the 2022 PG spending plan. As noted in the Executive Committee report, the PG allocation to the County has decreased significantly over the past few years. The County has agreed to provide additional funding to maintain these vital services/programs through 2023; this funding is identified on the spending plan as “County 645”. W. Whelan made a motion to approve the 2023 Peer Grouping Spending Plan and LOS synopsis as presented. T. Bryan seconded. Motion carried with two abstentions (D. Groome and M. Dozier).
2. S. Hand announced that the Social Security Administration is hosting a two-part forum on “Aspects of Childhood Disability and Childhood SSI”. The first part of the forum is scheduled for 4/19/23 from 1-3pm via Microsoft Teams. A flyer on the forum was included in the meeting packet for those interested; the flyer contains the registration information.
3. R. Hager of DCF announced that DCF will be exhibiting at the NJ Association of Counties’ Annual Conference at Caesars in Atlantic City from 5/3 to 5/5/23. Registration for attendees is now open at [http://njac.org/association of Counties](http://njac.org/association%20of%20Counties).

IX. Public Response

There was no *public response*.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.