

HSAC Minutes  
May 3, 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:*

Nichol Hoff – Consumer  
John Roy – Consumer Advocate  
Judy Kunec – Member-at-Large  
Bridget DeFiccio – Provider  
Joe Fahy – Member-at-Large  
Donna Groome – Provider  
Chris Zellers – Consumer Advocate  
Joe Faldetta – Provider  
Lorenzo McFadden – Provider  
Carol Haig – Member-at-Large  
Joe Sittineri – Provider  
Mary Dozier – Provider  
Rose Kuprianov – Consumer

*Members Excused:*

Christa Loper  
Jamie Moscony  
Megan Santiago  
Jeffrey Pierson  
Wayne Whelan  
Terri Bryan

*Interested Persons:*

Sarah Matthews – CMC Habitat for Humanity  
Greg Speed – VIM/CVAC  
Jen Zoyac – CSPNJ  
Danae Palomino – Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative  
Danielle Lowry – Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative  
Jacki Fuscellaro – Division of Aging & Disability Services  
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 4/5/23 meeting were emailed to voting members. J. Kunec 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 reported that the County CY 2023 budget was adopted at the 4/25/23 County Commissioner's meeting. There was a delay in the budget approval process at the State level which then caused a delay in the County budget adoption process. Now that the budget has been approved, County Purchase Orders for CY 2023 service contracts have started to be issued. 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. For the HTF, the Advisory Board met on 5/2/23 to develop a proposed budget for CY 2023. The Board had met in February to prepare a proposed budget but since the County budget was delayed in adoption, the HTF Board took the opportunity to revise the proposed budget based on current usage. The proposed budget recommendations will be sent to the County Commissioners for review and consideration. The 2023 budget includes funding for the continuation of three (3) participating households – two (2) single households and one (1) family household in the housing subsidy and intensive case management program. All households are working with the case managers. The 2023 Point-In-Time numbers have been received from Monarch Housing. Monarch issues the data in formatted tables required by HUD. S. Hand compiles the tables and then prepares a summary for local use. As is the standard practice, the data was sent to County Administration for review and approval to distribute. Once the data is approved for distribution, it will be shared with Council and the CEAS Committee. The CY 2023 Peer Grouping (PG) allocation plan was completed and submitted to the NJ DHS Division of Aging Services on 4/6/23. The HSAC had approved the CY 2023 PG spending plan and accompanying LOS at the 4/5/23 Council meeting. The We √ for 21 campaign kickoff event will be held on June 6th at the Wildwood Convention Center. This will mark the return to in-person training sessions as the program had been virtual for the past 3 (three) years. There will be 3 sessions – 9am, 11:30am, and 5pm. Please call (609) 465-1055 to register. This will be the 31st year for the campaign aimed at preventing those that are underage from purchasing/consuming alcohol.

#### 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  
J. Hirsch stated that DCP&P Central Office is no longer providing the local office statistics. Thus, she does not have the traditional statistical report for the Cape May DCP&P local office. J. Hirsch reported that the CMC DCP&P local office continues to have many new hires. She then reported that DCF pilot program allowing staff to work from home 2 days per week will end on 6/30/23. With the end of the pilot program, DCF will decide to either end the program altogether or to adopt the practice into policy. Given the popularity of remote work, it is hoped that the practice becomes policy. J. Hirsch concluded by announcing that the DCP&P local office recently participated in “Bring Your Child to Work Day”. Over 35 children participated in the CMC office. One of the activities included having the children conduct a safety assessment of a mock family room. The goal was to model the activities for the children on those things that DCP&P workers do daily.

#### V. Committee Reports:

- a. Executive Committee – J. Roy  
Minutes from the 4/26/23 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. J. Roy stated that the Executive Committee decided to hold the June Council meeting in-person at the RCE site. The meeting will be held on 6/7/23 at 2pm, which is in accordance with the established schedule. S. Hand added that there is the possibility that there may be a training opportunity attached to the meeting. The information will be included in the meeting notice should the training session materialize.
- b. Disability Services Committee – J. Fuscellaro  
Minutes from the 4/19/23 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. J. Fuscellaro highlighted the following from the minutes: 1) there is an update on the Cape Tech construction

project, 2) NJ DVRS referrals have increased, 3) Disability Awareness Day will merge with Healthy Community Day beginning in 2024, and 4) the annual senior jamboree will be held on 5/11/23 at the Avalon Community Center.

c. Program Review Committee – J. Kunec

No report.

d. WFNJ-WTW – D. Groome

D. Groome stated that the March 2023 WFNJ/SNAP caseload numbers for Cape May County were not yet available. She then reported that she was happy to report that the messaging regarding the end to the SNAP maximum allotment (as of 2/28/23) was well received in the community. It appears that consumers received the information in a timely manner, and no one was caught off-guard at the grocery store. D. Groome added that the minimum amount a household will receive in SNAP benefits has been increased to \$95 per month; it had been \$16. Consumers should be encouraged to apply. D. Groome concluded by announcing that the Division of Social Services has maintained a 99% timeliness rate. She explained that the Division is held to a 95% timeliness rate for determining WFNJ-GA, WFNJ-TANF, and SNAP benefits. This means that 95% of applications received must have a determination on case eligibility within 30 days. She is extremely proud of the Division of Social Services and the staff for maintaining the 99% rate.

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

S. Matthews reported that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 5/9/23.

f. CIACC – S. Modzelewski

Minutes from the 4/19/23 meeting were distributed in the meeting packet. S. Modzelewski highlighted the following items from the minutes: 1) Statewide 2022 Children System of Care Data Trends document was distributed. Statewide, trends for services have gone up, such as mobile dispatches and CMO admissions. Similar increases have been reported at the CIACC meetings by the agencies/organization representatives. 2) Agency representatives provided updates on their services and activities. Job vacancies continue to impact service providers, such as, increase in wait times/decrease in the number of youths served, and the added workload on current staff. The next CIACC meeting will be held on May 17th.

g. Membership – C. Loper

S. Hand reported for C. Loper. She stated that Council membership is currently full. In addition, the HSAC office is monitoring the approval process for the proposed State HSAC regulations for any potential changes to membership requirements/guidelines.

A motion was made by M. Dozier 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 3/14/23 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. P. Belasco reported that the Board continues to monitor all the newly implemented State initiatives such as the DMHAS-funded Early Intervention Support Services program and the AOG-funded Arrive Together initiative along with the planned State initiatives such as the DCF-funded NJ4S and the mobile response component to the suicide and the crisis line, 988. The MHADA Board will be monitoring these initiatives to ensure there is access to the mental health and substance use disorder systems for Cape May County residents and that capacity meets the demand for services. The next meeting of the MHADA Board is scheduled for 5/9/23.

b. Youth Services Commission – S. Modzelewski

Minutes from the 3/14/23 meeting were distributed in the meeting packet. S. Modzelewski highlighted the following from the minutes: 1) Youth Services Commission approved an expansion of the Station House Adjustment program. The expansion will consist of a 4-week program that will meet once per week for 90 minutes via Zoom. The lessons will be designed to stand alone so a participant can join at any time and attend each lesson over any 4-week period. The lessons will be constructed by using materials from the evidence-based life skills curriculum Botvin's Life Skills and Second Step. 2) The Community Participation Subcommittee reported on ideas to increase community awareness of the YSC, such as brochures, flyers, and monitoring questionnaires. 3) The guide to *CMC Behavioral Health & Court Services for Youth & Families* was updated. The guide lists resources for Court involved youth and families or at risk of involvement. The guide is posted on the YSC webpage. The next YSC meeting will be held on May 9th.

VII. Old Business

1. D. Groome stated that she would like to update Council on the Medicaid recertification process. She provided a brief synopsis of the issue. 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. The CMC Division of Social Services began to work on recertifications on 4/1/23. It is very important that Medicaid recipients respond to the recertification notice. Managed Care organizations are sending out postcards advising consumers to watch their mail for their recertification packet. 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). Consumers can call 1-800-701-0710 (statewide number) or 609-886-6200 x2428 (CMC Social Services) with questions and/or to report their current address. In addition, the Division is taking steps internally to ensure that all potential consumers are notified regarding the importance of the Medicaid recertification. This includes crossing temporary shelter recipients with their Medicaid renewal to make sure that accurate contact information is on file and screening everyone who comes to reception in Social Services for their Medicaid renewal (contact information).

VIII. New Business

1. C. Zellers announced that Rutgers through the School of Social Work is hosting a webinar entitled "Substance Use Education is Wellness for Rural Communities: How to Identify Problems, Resources, and Combat Stigma" on 5/25/23. A flyer with program details including registration information was included in the meeting packet.

IX. Public Response

There was no *public response*.

Meeting adjourned at 2:38pm.