

## HSAC Minutes

June 1, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm. Roundtable introductions followed. J. Roy stated that prior to proceeding with the business meeting agenda, the HSAC would like to take a few minutes to honor a very special individual who is a long-term colleague of the HSAC as the DCP&P Local Office Manager. A recognition award was then presented to Diane Rhile (J. Hirsch accepted for D. Rhile).

#### *Members Present:*

Joe Faldetta – Provider  
John Roy – Consumer Advocate  
Nichol Hoff – Consumer  
Judy Kunec – Member-at-Large  
Wayne Whelan – 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

#### *Members Excused:*

Lorenzo McFadden  
Carol Haig  
Joe Sittineri  
Mary Dozier  
Jeffrey Pierson  
Rose Kuprianov  
Megan Santiago  
Christa Loper

#### *Interested Persons:*

Brad Preston – Community Food Bank NJ  
Robert Abbamondi – Community Food Bank NJ  
Sarah Matthews – Habitat for Humanity  
Jennifer Arenberg – JCDT&OC  
Krista Fitzsimons – Division of Aging & Disability Services  
Jennifer Hirsch – DCP&P  
Katie Faldetta – Cape Assist  
Peter Belasco – CMC Human Services  
Sharon Modzelewski – CMC Human Services  
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

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

Minutes from the 5/4/22 meeting were emailed to voting members. T. Bryan motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and J. Kunec 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 stated that the HSAC office has been working on the following items of business: 1) The HTF Advisory Board has opened for a 3rd round of applications for the HTF program of housing subsidy and intensive case management. Two of the three households (HHs) recommended during the 2nd round are not participating in the program due to unforeseen circumstances. Thus, there is availability to assist other HHs. The funding announcement was issued on 5/17, the applications were available as of 5/24, and applications are due on 6/30/22. Anyone interested in applying on behalf of a client is asked to contact S. Hand for the form. 2) The 2022 PITC numbers have been received. The PITC data indicates that there was a total of 119 homeless persons in Cape May County on the night of the PITC (conducted on 1/26/22 asking about the night of 1/25/22). The number of homeless individuals remained at 86 while the number of homeless families increased from 8 in 2021 to 11 in 2022; the number of persons in the families rose from 26 in 2021 to 33 in 2022. This equates to an overall increase of 7 persons from the 2021 PITC. A summary of the 2022 PITC including the data tables as prepared by Monarch Housing has been compiled and shared with the CEAS Committee. Anyone wanting a copy of this summary is asked to contact S. Hand directly. 3) On behalf of the CEAS Committee, the HSAC office will begin the update of the Homeless Resource Directory this month. The Directory was developed in 2016 as part of the 10 Year Plan; it has been updated annually since development. The Directory will be sent out to all agencies currently listed in the document with the direction to edit current information for changes and/or add any new programs. It is hoped that a draft will be ready for review by the July CEAS meeting. In addition, anyone knowing of a program that should be included or would like more information on this project is asked to contact S. Hand. 4) Regarding contracting, the closeout process for the 2020 HSAC grant has been completed. 5) The poll of the HSAC voting membership regarding meeting preference indicated that the majority prefer that Council meetings remain virtual for the remainder of 2022. For 2023, the voting members prefer for Council meetings to be primarily virtual through Zoom with periodic meetings held in-person. While the vote specifically said “one in-person meeting per quarter” this may be modified according to the number of meetings per year and circumstances impacting in-person meetings. It is expected that there will be at-least two (2) but no more than four (4) in-person meetings per year. 6) Lastly, it is expected that DCF will be discussing their plans for the next iteration of the HSAC Needs Assessment with the County HS Directors at a meeting that has been scheduled for 6/9/22. Information on the NA will be shared as it becomes available.

### IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché  
J. Roy stated that N. Troché sends his apologies for today's meeting; he was planning on attending but sent an email earlier today indicating that he was out of work due to illness. J. Roy 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 the statistics for the Cape May DCP&P local office for the month of May 2022 are not yet available. She then reported that for the month of April, there were 65 intakes and 296 cases. Three (3) children were removed in April and two (2) adoptions were finalized. J. Hirsch concluded by stating that the DCP&P staff have been approved to work remotely two (2) days per week (not Mondays or Fridays) beginning on 6/15/22. There are other schedule options for those staff choosing *not* to work remotely.

### V. Committee Reports:

- a. Executive Committee – J. Roy  
Minutes from the 5/25/22 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. J. Roy referenced #9 of the minutes regarding the HSAC summer meeting schedule to remind those

present that the CMC HSAC does not meet in July and the August meeting will only be held if there is business to be discussed/decided. He added that the Executive Committee is recommending that the Committee (Executive) be empowered to convene and conduct business on behalf of Council should an issue arise that necessitates action prior to the next HSAC meeting. T. Bryan made a motion that the Executive Committee be empowered as stated by J. Roy. W. Whelan seconded. Motion carried.

b. Disability Services Committee – K. Fitzsimons

The next meeting of the DSC is scheduled for 7/19/22; it will be in-person at SSSD.

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 March 2022 and a quarterly report depicting the statistics for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022 were distributed with the meeting packet. The quarterly report illustrates the monthly changes in program caseloads. D. Groome stated that DFD statistics are about two (2) months behind in being released. For March, the caseloads were as follows: GA = 170, TANF = 86, SNAP = 4,337 and the WFNJ participation rate = 2.1%. D. Groome noted that while consumers are being referred to the One Stop for services; they are not required to participate in a work activity. D. Groome then stated that Social Services is experiencing a significant increase in applications in all areas (GA/TANF/SNAP) compared to last year at this time (April/May). This is very unusual as this is the time of year that normally reflects a decrease in applications for all benefits. She added that she has culled data on the number of applications and when comparing the number of applications made this April to those made in April 2021, there has been a 249% increase in GA, a 53% increase in TANF, and a 53% increase in SNAP applications this year. D. Groome will be comparing the number of applications to the number of cases to see how many of the applications were deemed eligible by DFD. D. Groome concluded by stating that the Division is attempting to identify the cause of this trend so that they can further evaluate the situation. K. Faldetta asked if the application data was available by municipality. D. Groome responded that limited data is available by municipality, but she will pull together any data that is available to see if there are some areas of the County that are being more impacted than others.

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

Minutes from the 5/10/22 CEAS meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. S. Matthews reported that in addition to agency/program updates, the CEAS Committee received a presentation from Kerona Sharpe of the Camden Coalition regarding the “My Resource Pal” (MRP) database including the housing navigation component which provides information on available housing units. This database began in Camden County and has been expanded to the other three (3) counties in the SNJCoC. All agencies were encouraged to consider contacting K. Sharpe (her contact information is in the minutes) to have their organization’s information listed on the database and to gain access to the housing navigation services.

f. CIACC – S. Modzelewski

Minutes from the 5/18/22 meeting were distributed in the meeting packet. The following items were highlighted: 1) Liz Schopfer gave a presentation about Acenda’s Functional Family Therapy for youth ages 11-18 with behavioral challenges. 2) Agency representatives provided updates on their services and activities. Some providers talked about the impact on service availability due to the increase in need combined with clinician shortages. For example, a) according to MRSS, the program received 275 dispatches in one month, but the program is only designed to receive 130 dispatches. There is no access to mental health services and Intensive In-

Community is full. b) Acenda has one child psychiatrist. Acenda covers multiple counties in South Jersey. c) Youth Partial Care has no staff. The program supervisor runs a virtual program at a reduced schedule because the provider cannot meet the staff requirements of an in-person program. d) It was reported that for-profit entities can pay \$20,000 to \$25,000 more per year to employee candidates right out of school. e) Participants at the meeting shared several examples of the amount of wait time for clinician licenses (one report was 2 years) and wait time for approval to take tests (one individual reported they are still waiting one year later). Those present discussed the issue of the delays in the issuances of certifications, licenses, etc. noting that CSOC is aware of the issue and the Social Workers' Association has contacted the Licensing Board only to be told that the Board is working as fast as it can with a total of two (2) staff persons. S. Modzelewski concluded by noting that the next CIACC meeting will be held on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

g. Membership – C. Loper

J. Roy stated that there is no official report as Council membership is full.

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

VI. Liaison Reports

a. MHADA Board – P. Belasco

Minutes from the 5/10/22 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. P. Belasco reported that Kelly Benigno is the new coordinator of the Overdose Fatality Review Board and the “988” phone system becomes operational on 7/16/22. For those wanting more information on the “988” system, they should look up “988” and Val Mielke on You Tube. P. Belasco then highlighted the following from the minutes: 1) Heroin Issue: Hope One has developed “coins” that individuals are now giving out within the community to people who are seeking to enter recovery. 2) iCOMwell – Acenda’s SAMSHA-funded Initiative for Community Wellness is scheduled to take place next in Woodbine over the summer. 3) We Check for 21 – posted to the front page of the County’s website. Will be advertised in Herald and Gazette and run through the end of June. 4) GCADA Youth Leadership Grant – application for proposed activities in all active municipal alliances submitted on time. Grant funds youth leadership and prevention-related activities. Year 1 of 3: Term 1: 7/1/22 - 3/14/23. 5) A DMHAS review of deficit funded programs at Acenda found that staffing challenges have resulted in low levels of service for most non fee for service programs except Screening and Intensive Family Support. Acenda reported an increase in applications recently and is moving to fill all positions. 6) Acenda announced that DMHAS awarded them Cape May County’s Early Intervention Support Services (like a MH Urgent Care model). P. Belasco asked B. DeFiccio to provide an update on the implementation of this program. B. DeFiccio responded that Acenda is working to finalize contract negotiations with DMHAS; this is expected to be completed soon. The program will be housed at the Acenda site in the Crest Haven Complex. The goal is to provide mental health services to consumers outside of the Emergency Room setting and keep those consumers out of the hospital system. P. Belasco concluded by noting that the next MHADA Board meeting will be 6/14/22.

b. Youth Services Commission – S. Modzelewski

Minutes from the 5/10/22 meeting were distributed in meeting packet. The following items were highlighted: 1) There was a presentation by South Jersey Legal about their Education Law Project which helps eligible low-income residents with civil education matters, such as special education, HIB (harassment, intimidation, bullying, homeless, truancy, etc.) 2) The JDAI Council also discussed Innovation programming and voted the following decisions for the 2023 funding: a) discontinue the Family Court Advocate Program in 2023 based on the data/lack of participating families. The program will end on December 31, 2022; and b) continue the Probation Enrichment, Incentive, and Orientation program at the current level of funding and

specifications. 3) Program representatives provided updates on their activities. The next YSC meeting will be held on July 12th.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

1. B. Preston of the Community Food Bank NJ (CFBNJ) stated that mobile food pantry has established a “regular” date for the Wildwood site. The truck will be at the Wildwood Public Housing Authority on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. The truck is in Rio Grande on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month in the parking lot in front of Catholic Charities. The Food Bank is working to establish a permanent time slot for the Tuckahoe site. The time for all sites is from 9:30 to 11:30am. B. Preston noted that CFBNJ has a new truck which has additional compartments for foods needing refrigeration/freezing. The CFBNJ continues to look for new partners (must be a 501c3) in CMC to increase food distribution within the County. This can be existing food pantries that need help in remaining stocked. He added that the many food pantries need assistance with supplying produce and protein. The CFBNJ can provide both. B. Preston concluded by stating that the CFBNJ looks for partners/mobile sites in communities that have a high need and are somewhat remote. Those present suggested the Channel Apartments in Lower Township as a potential site for the mobile truck. B. Preston will contact the management to see if it can be arranged. J. Roy asked if they had pursued any sites in Woodbine. B. Preston responded that CFBNJ has two (2) partner agencies in Woodbine that are well utilized. They had also taken the mobile food pantry to Woodbine a few times. The mobile pantry was underutilized; this may be due to the established food pantries and the use of those pantries. B. Preston will share flyers on upcoming food distribution sites with S. Hand so that she may send out to those on the HSAC distribution lists.

IX. Public Response

1. J. Roy reminded those present that the CMC HSAC does not meet in July. A decision regarding the August meeting will be made in July with a meeting notice being sent to all on the distribution lists at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.