

HSAC Minutes  
September 2, 2020

- 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.

*Members Present:*

Joe Fahy – Member-at-Large  
Eleanor McBride – Provider  
Lorenzo McFadden – Provider  
Donna Groome – Provider  
Terri Bryan – Provider  
Carol Haig – Member-at-Large  
John Roy – Consumer Advocate  
Chris Zellers – Consumer Advocate  
Christa Loper – Provider  
Joe Faldetta – Provider  
Joe Sittineri – Provider  
Jamie Moscony – Member-at-Large  
Mary Dozier – Provider  
Nichol Hoff – Consumer

*Members Excused:*

Megan Santiago  
Rose Kuprianov  
Jeffrey Pierson  
Judy Kunec  
Wayne Whelan

*Interested Persons:*

Norma Cordeiro – NJ DVRS  
Jen Hirsch – DCP&P  
Shannon Staino – DCP&P  
Katie Faldetta – Cape Assist  
Elizabeth Meenan – Acenda Integrated Health  
Laura Auble – Acenda Integrated Health  
Nelson Troché – NJ DHS  
Greg Speed – Acenda Integrated Health  
Jennifer Zoyac – CSPNJ  
Kristen Raring – CMC Human Services  
Michelle Altenpohl – SJLS  
Claire Galiano – CARA  
Krista Fitzsimons – Division of Aging & Disability Services  
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

- II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – J. Roy  
Minutes from the 6/3/20 meeting were emailed to voting members. N. Hoff 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 welcomed Council members and interested persons back from the summer break. She began her report by noting that CMC HSAC meetings will continue to be held virtually for the foreseeable future. S. Hand reported that the activities of the Community & Behavioral Health Services Office (C&BHS) and the HSAC over the summer months have largely involved subcommittee meetings (minutes are in the meeting packet), projects, and the processing of contracts and financial payments. On behalf of the CEAS Committee, the HSAC office has completed the process of updating the Homeless Services Resource Directory. The Directory was developed in 2016 as part of the 10 Year Plan. A PDF of the directory was sent to all on the CEAS distribution list. In addition, the HSAC office is in the process of updating the recommendations cited in the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness (developed in 2016) by noting the current status of the each. Regarding the HUD 2020 CoC Competition, as reported previously, HUD has asked the legislature to allow this year to be a renewal year rather than the normal competition. A decision has not yet been announced. The HSAC office like many agencies is waiting on budget news from the respective State Departments. On August 28th, Freeholder Thornton received a letter from Patricia Handshaw, DCF contract administrator, informing him that the Missing and Exploited Children Program and all allocated funding for the program have been eliminated from the Governor's recommended budget as of 10/1/2020. This is the funding that is included in the HSAC Administration contract and is then subcontracted to a local agency most recently Rutgers Southern Regional Child Care Resource and Referral Agency. The amount of funding for Cape May County is \$3,173 with an agency provided match of \$57. All County HSACs have received letters regarding their budgets. The reductions in these budgets is varied and is dependent on what services are included in that County's HSAC administration contract. Further clarification on the budgets is being sought from DCF. As noted in the Executive Committee report, the County is taking the necessary steps to implement the HTF Advisory Board. The potential members have been contacted regarding their continued interest in serving on the Board and the required membership positions have been identified. It is expected that the CDHS will make membership recommendations to the Board of Chosen Freeholders this month. It is hoped that the first meeting of the Board can be held in October. Lastly, the HSAC office will be moving forward with the DCF Needs Assessment requirement. HSAC voting members were asked to participate in the process of selecting the priority need areas (2 basic needs and 2 service needs) on which the Assessment will focus. The results of the survey (16 of the 19 HSAC voting members participated in the survey) indicated that the priority basic needs are Housing and Employment/Career Services; the priority service needs are Substance Use Disorder and Behavioral/Mental Health Services for youth. The next step in the process is to begin conducting the required 10 focus groups. S. Hand asked all to please participate in one of the groups. All will be held virtually. She will be contacting potential participants on an individual basis for participation, as well as, utilizing existing group meetings when appropriate.

### IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché

N. Troché began his report by stating that NJ DHS issued a press release announcing that the Department's budget includes an additional \$192 million in funding for wage increases for frontline workers who care for individuals with disabilities, older residents, and/or who provide childcare. He noted that S. Hand had forwarded the press release to all on the HSAC distribution lists earlier in the day. N. Troché added that he has not received any other "official" budget information. He has asked both NJ DHS and NJ DCF for specific budget information that can be shared with the counties; he will forward anything he receives to S. Hand for distribution. J. Roy stated that information that he has received indicates that School Based Youth Services (SBYS) programs have been eliminated statewide. NJAMA is spearheading the efforts to save these programs. G. Speed reported that Acenda operates two (2) SBYS programs in CMC (one at Lower Cape May Regional and one at CMC Technical High School). The amount of funding allocated to administer these programs equates to \$575,000. Statewide there are 91 SBYS

programs. G. Speed further reported that several representatives from Acenda including himself and Dr. DiFabio will be meeting with Senator Sweeney about the State budget and proposed funding reductions on Friday. N. Troché concluded the discussion by announcing that there will be a rally in Trenton on 9/4/20 from 3 to 4pm in support of the SBYS programs.

- DCF – J. Hirsch

A written report with the Cape May DCP&P local office statistics for the months of May, June, and July was distributed with the meeting packet. J. Hirsch stated that the statistics were self-explanatory but she did want to highlight the fact that referrals to DCP&P are down 20% across the state compared to the same timeframe from previous years; the decrease is attributed to Covid-19 and the “isolation” of families/children due to closures/social distancing. She added that the CMC DCP&P office has only had five (5) removals in the last three (3) months. It is expected that referrals will increase once school reopens. Regarding budgets, the Youth Advocate Mentoring and the Family Preservation Services Step Down programs have been eliminated effective immediately. CMC DCP&P staff are working with the providers of these services to transition children/families to other resources/services. J. Hirsch noted that the CMC DCP&P Local Office is open; most workers continue to work remotely with only 20-25% of staff permitted to be in the building at the same time (no staff member is permitted to work a full day in the office; shifts are staggered). However; all contacts, visits, and evaluations with families/children are being conducted in-person (utilizing various sites). J. Hirsch concluded by stating that the DCP&P office is continuing to follow Covid-19 protocols regarding cleanliness/sanitizing of offices and vehicles, as well as, temperature checks and procedural questions (checklist) for entering the building. S. Staino reported that the DCP&P Area Office has seen an increase in the number of adolescents needing placement especially in Atlantic and Burlington Counties. She then noted that the Area Office will be moving from Mays Landing to Egg Harbor Township.

V. Committee Reports:

a. Executive Committee – J. Roy

Minutes from the 8/26/20 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. J. Roy asked if there were any questions on the minutes. There were none.

b. Disability Services Committee – K. Fitzsimons

Minutes from the 7/21/20 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. K. Fitzsimons reported that the DSC had a very robust meeting on 7/21. As the minutes indicate, the meeting focused on each of the agencies in attendance providing a summary of the activities, operations, and initiatives of their respective organizations. In addition, the committee discussed the impact of Covid-19 on programs/services, as well as, the potential financial impact on the state budget for FY2021. K. Fitzsimons commended the agencies for their creativity and commitment as all have continued to move forward to serve the consumers of CMC during these challenging times.

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, April, and May 2020 was distributed with the meeting packet. D. Groome highlighted the following statistics from the reports: GA cases = 180 (March), 166 (April), 165 (May). D. Groome stated that 180 cases is a high number for March but this was the time when Covid-19 protocols were just being implemented. This meant that warming centers were closed and there was a return to hotel/motel placement. In addition, there was an increase in use of the Immediate

Need program. TANF numbers remained relatively consistent over the three-month period. They were as follows: TANF cases = 106 (March), 108 (April), 114 (May). The WFNJ participation rate dropped significantly over the three-month period as the State suspended all work-activity requirements. A date to resume these requirements has not yet been announced. The participation rate was 10.5% in March, 4.5% in April, and 4% in May. The SNAP cases = 3,584 (March), 3,746 (April), 4,006 (May). D. Groome stated that the 3,584 cases in March is consistent with current numbers. The 4,006 in May is a considerable increase; this number was 3,632 in May of 2019. D. Groome summarized by reporting that Covid-19 has significantly increased SNAP and GA caseloads statewide.

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

S. Hand reported for S. Matthews. Minutes from the 7/14/20 CEAS meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. S. Hand reported that the meeting focused on status updates on programs/services offered locally (through Cape May County specific funds) and those offered through the SNJCoC including the continued impact of Covid-19 on agencies – their services and operations. In addition, there was a presentation by J. Nunziato of NJ 2-1-1, the statewide homeless hotline administrator, on utilization statistics for CMC from 1/1 – 6/30/20. Lastly, the Committee was informed of two (2) new Covid-19 housing initiatives being implemented by NJ DCA.

f. CIACC – K. Raring

The minutes from the 7/21/20 CIACC meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. K. Raring highlighted the following from the minutes: 2020 CIACC Grant has been executed and monies are secured; CMO has experienced the highest summer numbers to date – over 200 CMC youth are receiving services; and the ACFSO grandparent support group and Youth Partnership programs are meeting in-person utilizing Covid-19 guidelines. The next CIACC meeting is scheduled for 9/15/20.

g. Membership – C. Loper

C. Loper stated that the Committee's written membership report which lists the Committee's recommendation for the reappointment of M. Dozier and C. Haig to a 2<sup>nd</sup> term on Council was distributed with the meeting packet. C. Loper made a motion to recommend M. Dozier and C. Haig to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term on Council. J. Faldetta seconded. Motion carried. C. Loper concluded by stating that E. McBride has retired from Acenda but will remain a voting member and Vice Chairperson of Council until 12/31/20; a replacement will be appointed effective 1/1/2020.

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

VI. Liaison Reports

a. MHADA Board – P. Devaney

Minutes from the 8/11/20 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. S. Hand reported for P. Devaney. She stated that the minutes provide a status update on all the projects/issues that the Board has been overseeing, coordinating, and/or discussing such as the Jail Grant, Recovery High School, Innovation Grant, etc.

b. Youth Services Commission – K. Raring

Minutes from the 8/18/20 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. K. Raring noted the following from the minutes: YSC 2021 Innovations Application – the application was submitted and is currently being reviewed by the JJC and program updates were provided. The next YSC meeting is scheduled for 10/13/2020.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

1. S. Hand reminded those present that the HSAC Needs Assessment process (surveys, focus groups, etc.) will begin this month. She asked that everyone participate when called upon.

IX. Public Response

There was no public response.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.