

HSAC Minutes
November 4, 2020

- I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – J. Roy
The meeting was called to order at 2:04pm. Meeting held via Zoom. Roll call followed.

Members Present:

Megan Santiago – Consumer Advocate
Joe Fahy – Member-at-Large
Eleanor McBride – Provider
Judy Kunec – Member-at-Large
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
Wayne Whelan – Member-at-Large

Members Excused:

Lorenzo McFadden
Rose Kuprianov
Jeffrey Pierson

Interested Persons:

Greg Speed – Acenda Integrated Health
Elizabeth Reed – NJ DOL/One Stop
Alex Coll – The Arc
Elizabeth Cunningham – SJLS
Danae Palomino – Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative
Jen Hirsch – DCP&P
Sarah Matthews – CMC Habitat for Humanity
Sandra Donley – The Arc
Elizabeth Meenan – Acenda Integrated Health
Laura Auble – Acenda Integrated Health
Jennifer Zoyac – CSPNJ
Kristen Raring – CMC Human Services
Claire Galiano – CARA
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

- II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – J. Roy
Minutes from the 10/7/20 meeting were emailed to voting members. J. Faldetta motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and C. Zellers 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 began her report by stating that the focus of the HSAC office for this past month has been the DCF Needs Assessment. Specifically, the planning, scheduling, recruitment of participants, and the conducting of the required focus groups and key informant interviews. Most HSAC voting members have participated in a focus group; others will be participating in one of the remaining sessions. As in any process, consumer representation is the hardest to secure. Thus, if any agency or individual belongs to a group that would like to be utilized as a focus group, please contact S. Hand to discuss. Regarding the County dollar contracts, the HSAC office will be delaying the issuance of the County dollar contract renewal packages for CY2021 until the County budget process is further along. It is expected that the renewal packages will be sent to funded agencies on or about November 16th. Agencies will have one month to complete and return their packages to the HSAC office. The CDHS (by Division) will be submitting its proposed budget to the Board of Chosen Freeholders. It is hoped that funding for the various programs and services funded through the Department will remain level but there is always the possibility that funding levels may be modified as the budget process moves forward. On behalf of the CEAS Committee, the HSAC office has completed 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. The update was approved by the Executive Committee at their 9/30/20 and by the DCBHS Director on 10/23/20. Anyone wanting a copy of the Update is asked to email S. Hand for a PDF of the document. S. Hand concluded by reporting that the Board of Chosen Freeholders appointed the members to the HTF Advisory Board on 9/22/20. The first meeting of the new Board is scheduled for 11/19/20. J. Hirsch asked if there was funding to provide incentives for focus group participants. S. Hand responded that DCF did not include any additional funding in the HSAC contract to allow for incentives. Given that the contracted amount has not been increased for at least five years, the budget is already maximized. However; S. Hand stated that she would investigate options to see if there were any funds that could be used to provide incentives to consumers for participation.

IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché

N. Troché was unable to attend today's meeting. J. Roy reported that all NJ DHS announcements and press releases received since the October meeting have been forwarded via email to all on the HSAC distribution lists.

- DCF – J. Hirsch

A written report with the Cape May DCP&P local office statistics for the month of October 2020 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 began to increase in September with the start of school. There were 90 new referrals in September; there were 55 referrals in October. Currently, the Cape May DCP&P office is up to 304 cases. There have been 12 children removed from their homes during September and October. Most removals are due to domestic violence and/or substance abuse. J. Hirsch concluded by stating that due to Covid-19 health guidelines and building protocols (limited capacity in office buildings), DCP&P needs additional space to hold supervised visitations. DCP&P staff will provide the supervision; the request is for the physical space to hold the visits. J. Moscony responded that she has space available for use. She asked J. Hirsch to contact her directly to discuss. J. Roy asked if DCP&P has contacted faith-based organizations and/or churches. J. Hirsch responded that she has contacted some churches, some faith-based organizations, and other public buildings such as recreation centers, libraries, etc. Most are operating under the same limited capacity guidelines (if open at all) and/or are hesitant due to liability issues. J. Hirsch noted that the issue of space for visitation is not specific to CMC; it is statewide. S. Matthews offered the Habitat for Humanity Restore space for those hours when the store is closed. G. Speed stated he would check on the availability of space within Acenda buildings. K. Raring suggested that if these

options do not yield the needed space, then J. Hirsch should contact the CMC Board of Chosen Freeholders to determine if space was available in any of the County buildings. J. Hirsch thanked everyone for their suggestions and stated that she would be following up with all those that offered space.

V. Committee Reports:

a. Executive Committee – J. Roy

Minutes from the 10/27/20 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. J. Roy referenced #9 of the minutes regarding the HSAC holiday schedule to remind those present to check the meeting notice for December as a decision regarding the traditional luncheon will be noted within that announcement.

b. Disability Services Committee – K. Fitzsimons

Minutes from the 10/20/20 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. S. Hand reported for K. Fitzsimons. S. Hand stated that the DSC meeting focused on agency representatives providing a summary of the activities, operations, and initiatives of their respective organizations. She noted that the Committee meeting was held using an abbreviated agenda as several DSC attendees then participated in a focus group for the Needs Assessment.

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 July and August 2020 was distributed with the meeting packet. D. Groome noted that the caseload numbers have been going up and down over the summer months which is unusual based on the seasonal nature of the County's economy but is consistent with the impact of Covid-19 on service needs. D. Groome highlighted the following statistics from the August report: GA cases = 184, TANF cases = 109, and SNAP cases = 3,884. The WFNJ participation rate was 5.9%. D. Groome stated that the participation rate is low statewide as DFD has issued a waiver which eliminates the work activity requirement for WFNJ participants. Consumers have not been required to participate in a work activity since March.

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

S. Matthews reported that the next meeting of the CEAS Committee is scheduled for 11/10/20.

f. CIACC – K. Raring

K. Raring reported that the next meeting of the CIACC is scheduled for 11/10/20.

g. Membership – C. Loper

C. Loper stated that the Committee's written membership report which lists the Committee's recommendations for CY 2021 HSAC officers was distributed with the meeting packet. As is stated in the HSAC bylaws, Council officers will be voted upon at the last meeting of the calendar year for the upcoming year. Thus, the vote will be conducted at the December meeting. She noted that all current Council officers will be seeking an additional term except E. McBride; W. Whelan is being recommended as the vice chairperson.

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

VI. Liaison Reports

a. MHADA Board – P. Devaney

Minutes from the 10/13/20 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. S. Hand reported for P. Devaney. She stated that the minutes include an attachment which lists the opiate addictions programs in Cape May County; there are 21 programs.

b. Youth Services Commission – K. Raring

Minutes from the 10/13/20 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. K. Raring highlighted the following: YSC bylaws were amended, revised, and approved. County administered youth program are being virtually monitored. J. Roy commented that this is the first time that the program monitoring visits have been conducted virtually. He commended K. Raring for her efforts to organize and conduct these visits. He added that she did an excellent job with this uncharted task. The next YSC meeting is scheduled for 12/8/20.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

1. D. Groome stated that Code Blue season is upon us. For the past few years, the County has utilized a warming center model for emergency shelter during Code Blue declarations. The warming centers have been operated by three municipalities with funding provided by the County. After careful consideration, the warming center model will not be used for the upcoming Code Blue season due to Covid-19 and the congregate nature of the warming centers. Instead, hotel/motel placements will be used. If a Code Blue declaration is made during the day (business hours), consumers can call Social Services for assistance. If after hours (and holidays/weekends), consumers will continue to call NJ2-1-1.
2. M. Santiago announced that the Health Department will be hosting a flu clinic on 11/7/20 at the Holly Beach Fire Station. Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, please call (609) 465-1187.
3. S. Matthews reported that CMC Habitat for Humanity is now accepting applications for home ownership. Applications are available at the Restore during business hours (10am to 6pm, Monday through Saturday). Eligibility criteria is listed on the application.

IX. Public Response

There was no public response.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.