



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE
YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



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REFERENCE:

- Council
- Mental Health
- Youth
- Disability Services
- Substance Abuse
- Transportation

Approved March 22, 2023

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 3:30 p.m.
Human Services Conference Room I
And via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>EX-OFFICIO</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>	<u>COUNTY DIV. REPS.</u>	
R. Horoschak	R. Cooper	M. Scherer	M. O'Reilly	A. Fields	S. Nekola
J. Cassano	L. Case	C. Baxevane	E. Neukum	B. Renkens	L. Nauman
J. Gorman	M. LaQuaglia		K. Burghardt	R. Hager	
S. Elliot	J. Collevchio		S. Becker	J. Parada	
				E. Kessler	
				C. Sagona	
				S. Manship	
				S. Lax	
				L. Zeller	
				L. Haynes	

I. CONVENE: OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:

“This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting has been published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News. A public notice announcing this meeting has also been placed in the lobby of the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services; the first floor on the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street, Flemington, NJ; the Route 12 County Complex, Building #3, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ; and the County Clerk’s Office.”

The Council allows time for comments from the public at the end of each meeting. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person per meeting, in order to ensure that all attendees have an opportunity to be heard. Brief written comments may also be submitted for distribution during the meeting.

PURPOSE:

The Hunterdon County Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) is a county-based planning, advisory, and advocacy organization dedicated to helping the community meet its human service needs. The HSAC seeks to facilitate, coordinate, and enhance the delivery of human services

through collaborative relationships within the county, and between the counties and private and State agencies.

ROLL CALL:

R. Horoschak introduced himself as a Community Representative.

J. Cassano introduced herself as working with the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board.

J. Gorman introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Flemington Area Food Pantry.

R. Cooper introduced herself as a Community Representative.

L. Case introduced herself as a Community Representative.

M. Scherer introduced himself as working in the DCP&P Area Office.

M. O'Reilly stated she is the Human Services Administrator for Hunterdon County.

E. Neukum stated she is the Transportation Coordinator for Hunterdon County.

K. Burghardt stated he is the Division Head of the Department of Housing in Hunterdon County.

S. Becker stated she is the Alcohol and Drug Director for Hunterdon County.

A. Fields introduced herself as the Executive Director of Family Promise for Hunterdon County.

B. Renkens introduced herself as the Service Area Director for Catholic Charities for Hunterdon and Warren Counties.

R. Hager introduced himself as the Community Outreach Coordinator for the NJ Department of Children and Families.

J. Parauda introduced himself as the CEO of Tri County Management Organization.

E. Kessler introduced herself as being from Norwescap Child and Family Services of Hunterdon County.

C. Sagona introduced himself as working with Norwescap CLTC.

J. Collevchio introduced herself as being from Prevention Resources and Safe Communities Coalition.

S. Lax introduced herself as the CEO of Hunterdon Helpline.

L. Zeller introduced herself as the Program Director for Catholic Charities Mobile Response for Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties.

L. Haynes introduced herself as being from Norwescap Career Life and Transition Center.

M. LaQuaglia introduced herself as the NJ CEED Coordinator for Hunterdon County working out of

Hunterdon Medical Center.

S. Manship introduced herself as a Student with Rutgers Social Work. She is attending Graduate School and is completing an Internship with the NJ Division of Aging Services.

S. Elliot introduced himself as the Executive Director for Progressive Center for Independent Living in Mercer and Hunterdon Counties.

S. Nekola stated she is the Division Head of Social Work Services for Hunterdon County.

L. Nauman stated she is the Division Head for Senior Disability and Veterans Services.

II. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by B. Renkens and seconded by J. Cassano to approve the meeting minutes of January 25, 2023. S. Elliot and A. Fields abstained. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. *J. Collevchio – Vice Chair: J. Gorman reported in the previous HSAC meeting, J. Collevchio's two consecutive terms had expired. Therefore, she is not currently eligible to serve as Vice Chair. J. Gorman advised J. Collevchio has offered to extend her time for the Vice Chair position. J. Gorman asked if there was an official process to approve the extension. M. O'Reilly stated there needed to be a motion for J. Collevchio to extend her time until May 2023. S. Elliot made the motion and J. Cassano Seconded. All members were in favor, no abstentions and no objections, the motion carried. J. Collevchio was approved for the extension until May 2023.

B. Review of Committee Members: J. Gorman stated M. O'Reilly provided a list of the committee assignments from last year for review. J. Gorman advised the need for some changes. J. Gorman advised the chairs for each committee are consistent and require no changes. J. Gorman asked if S. Elliot was willing to participate in the review. S. Elliot advised he will participate.

M. O'Reilly advised she has not had contact from J. Spencer regarding the Planning and Integration Committee. M. O'Reilly stated she thought J. Spencer was relocating but has not had contact with him regarding the committee. J. Gorman requested if B. Renkens or S. Nekola would be able to Chair the Committee. B. Renkens advised she will chair the committee.

J. Gorman conveyed that she has reached out to new members to see if there are any committees they are interested in.

M. O'Reilly stated L. Piazza-Long is in need of additional members for the Nominations Committee.

J. Parauda stated he is taking place for L. Zimmerman for HSAC. J. Parauda advised he would be interested in any committees that need representation from Tri County Care Management Organization.

R. Horoschak stated the nominations committee requires all members of the Bylaws and Nominations Committees, integrally run by HSAC, to be Commissioner appointed members. All other committees can be chaired or occupied by non-members of HSAC.

J. Gorman asked if M. LaQuaglia would be interested in joining the Nominating Committee. M. LaQuaglia advised she would be interested in joining.

J. Gorman suggested creating a Planning and Integration Committee for J. Paruada to participate in.

M. O'Reilly stated there were needs in the legislative, outreach in communication and housing committees.

J. Paruada stated he would join the legislative committee.

C. Sagona and L. Case stated they were interested in joining the housing committee.

Discussion Ensued.

IV. OLD BUSINESS: None at this time.

V. REPORTS:

A. County Department of Human Services (CDHS): M. O'Reilly stated there are no updates on the Social Worker Position in the Human Services Department. M. O'Reilly stated she put in a request for the position in the 2023 budget. M. O'Reilly advised she is waiting on official approval from the CFO, County Administrator and Commissioners.

J. Gorman requested to know how the position is funded. M. O'Reilly advised the position is federally funded through HUD.

M. O'Reilly reported Human Services has two RFP opportunities.

M. O'Reilly stated one opportunity is the American Rescue Plan which provides an opportunity for funding to support housing, mental health, substance abuse disorder and domestic violence.

M. O'Reilly stated the second opportunity is the Innovation Grant for a Peer Recovery Specialist to join Hope One.

M. O'Reilly reported at the Commissioners Meeting, the department received approval to apply for additional funding from NJ Transit for the CRRSA and ARP Funds. M. O'Reilly advised the funds would help support non-emergency medical transportation for seniors and people with disabilities who need a wheelchair accessible vehicle to get to appointments where individuals are having difficulty getting to their medical appointments through existing services provided.

M. O'Reilly reported the Point in Time Count Survey has closed. M. O'Reilly advised there is no data available to share at this time. M. O'Reilly advised the data would be available by the end of March to April timeframe. M. O'Reilly advised there will also be a follow up meeting with Monarch.

B. NJ Department of Human Services (DHS): M. O'Reilly advised of an update on SNAP and Medicaid. M. O'Reilly stated Legislation was passed to raise SNAP benefits to a minimum of \$95.00 dollars per household. M. O'Reilly stated effective April 1, 2023 individuals will start receiving letters in the mail for Medicaid recertification. She reminded agencies to make their consumers aware in case they have moved and have not updated their new address.

- C. NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P):** C. Baxevane reported statistics for the month of January. C. Baxevane stated DCP&P reported (234) children for the month of January. (7) welfare referrals. (45) protective referrals. (16) physical abuse on the DCP&P hotline, (59) child neglect, (1) sexual abuse, and (1) emotional abuse.

D. HSAC Committee Reports:

Bylaws Committee - R. Horoschak advised the bylaws have been re-evaluated over the last 5 years. R. Horoschak advised they are currently monitoring. R. Horoschak requested the Nominations committee be aware that the Chair and Vice-Chair must be submitted by April.

Planning and Integration Committee - M. O'Reilly stated the HSAC Survey is still in process. M. O'Reilly advised receiving 10 more responses than in the previous meeting. The count stands at just over 100 currently. M. O'Reilly advised that it would be best if the survey could officially close by the end of this quarter, to allow for time to compile the data, and report back to the full committee by May. Discussion Ensued.

Legislative Committee - S. Elliot stated there are increasing efforts in placing persons with disabilities into the workplace via the Work Ability Implementation process. S. Elliot reported having a young individual in the Office of Dispatch with the State Police acting as the Functional Needs Coordinator. S. Elliot stated A1701 legislation currently in the senate is requesting funds for two or more people to create a three-person position under the Office of Emergency Management with the State Police.

S. Elliot requested the committee research how legislation impacts Hunterdon County.

S. Elliot conveyed seeing an increase of activity in disability work in human services where in the past this has not been a priority on the state or federal level.

Discussion Ensued.

Outreach in Communication – J. Gorman conveyed this group has been reaching out to new participants to see how they can assist the committee.

Housing Committee – R. Cooper reported not receiving any feedback from the letter that was proposed to be sent out to all municipalities in January 2023. R. Horoschak advised L. Case and C. Sagona who shared interest in joining the committee, would be available to help and complete tasks of that nature.

Discussion Ensued.

VI. GOALS & ACTION: No Report.

- VII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS PERIOD:** Public comments are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes per person. Brief written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting for distribution during the meeting.

R. Horoschak requested to know if there if there was a Project Idea and timeline for this year? J. Gorman advised this year's project, as of this meeting, is to work on completing the HSAC Survey. J. Gorman advised the completion of the HSAC Survey will generate ideas for the next project.

Discussion ensued about the survey and how it is distributed. Information was relayed in the last meeting and noted that the survey is not sent out to residents via mail.

VIII. *MOTION TO ADJOURN: R. Cooper made a motion and S. Elliot seconded. All members were in favor, the motion carried. The next meeting will be held March 22, 2023.

*** = Item Requires Action**

Note to Council Members: If members are unable to attend the meeting, please notify the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services at 908-788-1253.