



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



908-788-1253
 908-788-1372
 908-806-4204 FAX
humansvc@co.hunterdon.nj.us

P.O. Box 2900
 Flemington, New Jersey 08822-2900
 (Location: 8 Gauntt Place)

REFERENCE:

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

Approved April 26, 2023

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 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	F. Leddy	M. Scherer	E. Cohen	S. Nekola
J. Cassano	J. Gorman	M. O'Reilly	B. Renkens	K. Burghardt
J. Collevchio	L. Case	S. Becker	C. Sagona	L. Nauman
L. Piazza-Long	M. LaQuaglia	E. Neukum	E. Kesler	
R. Cooper			E. Witkowski	
			J. Keebler	
			J. Parauda	
			J. Abbott	
			L. Hayes	
			M. Valli	
			S. Lax	
			S. Elliot	

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.

II. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by F. Leddy and seconded by B. Renkens to approve the meeting minutes of February 22, 2023. M. Valli abstained. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

III. PRESENTATION: Resource Hub – Prevention Resources

Erin Cohen introduced herself as the Prevention Director at Prevention Resources. E. Cohen will be sharing information about Hunterdon County’s Prevention Hub that is managed by Prevention Resources, Inc. E. Cohen reported all New Jersey counties received funding and have a hub. She reported each of these hubs are housed in a local provider agency. Prevention Resources is a substance use provider agency. E. Cohen stated the purpose of these hubs is to provide a connection point for substance use prevention programs and other available resources to community members. The statewide systems of Prevention Hubs provide evidence-based prevention education, interventions, strategies, and programs to support all sectors of our community.

E. Cohen stated both individual and family programs are provided. She explained the family-based program is used to strengthen families. The individual programs are Marijuana/Cannabis Education, Over-the-Counter Medications and PreVenture. She explained PreVenture is an evidence-based prevention program that uses personality targeted interventions to promote mental health and skill development and delay youth substance use. These different programs are available on the prevention hub as well as contact information for each county hub.

The Prevention Hub agencies around the State provide technical assistance and resources to schools and municipalities that guide public health policy updates to impact the environmental systems experienced by all community members. E. Cohen stated Prevention Resources just finished working with New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN) on a school tool kit for marijuana policies. The toolkit is available through the State Prevention Hub website and through Prevention Resources Prevention Hub website. She stated the municipal level toolkit for marijuana is still being worked on due to the legalization of marijuana.

E. Cohen reported the Prevention Hub provides several different ways to provide screenings. She stated there is a CRAFT screening. This is a Community Reinforcement Approach to Family Training (CRAFT), this is for families who have a loved one with a substance use disorder. E. Cohen stated at Prevention Resources, they teach Strategic Prevention Framework Model. This model is used in the substance use prevention field to assess, plan, implement and evaluate. Other resources are used to promote wellness including Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) training, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and Youth Mental Health First Aid. Each of these trainings are available on the Prevention Hub. E. Cohen stated the Hunterdon County Prevention Hub has links for LGBTQ+ resources, resources available in Spanish, and prevention education services. She conveyed the programs are not limited to just school programs, Prevention Resources is able to provide prevention programs to boy scouts, girl scouts, sports teams and more.

E. Cohen reported the Prevention Hub also has a Warmline. The staff at Prevention Resources are trained and available on weekdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm to connect callers to local and state-level resources and other supportive services. A resource helpline staff member is available by calling 908-782-3909. If Prevention Resources is unable to offer the resources a client is looking

for, they will be referred to an agency that is able to provide the resource they need. The Prevention Hub can also be found at www.njprevent.com/preventionhub, by scanning the QR Code, or by emailing preventionhub@njprevent.com.

J. Gorman asked how long the Prevention Hub has been around. E. Cohen stated Prevention Resources received a grant a year ago and has been working on the Prevention Hub for approximately a year. The State just launched a State Prevention Hub (www.njpreventionhub.org), with information regarding each hub located in New Jersey. The State Prevention Hub provides contact information for every agency that manages a Prevention Hub in New Jersey. E. Cohen conveyed Prevention Resources launched their hub approximately six (6) months ago and the State launched their website shortly after.

J. Gorman asked how much traffic the Hub website and Warmline have received. E. Cohen stated Prevention Resources is continuing to receive phone calls; however, it is difficult to determine if the phone call comes in because individuals know of the Prevention Hub or because Prevention Resources is known in the community. E. Cohen conveyed her focus is marketing. She stated Prevention Resources receives dozens of phone calls per day looking for prevention programs, early intervention, recovery services or AA groups.

F. Leddy stated she works with the Workforce New Jersey population in Hunterdon County and asked for additional information to share with clients. E. Cohen stated she will share her email in the chat and anyone looking for flyers or additional information can contact her.

C. Sagona conveyed all organizations refer clients to other agencies and asked if there were difference between other agencies referring clients and the Prevention Hub referring clients. E. Cohen advised the focus of the Prevention Hub is prevention. If a client calls for other services, they can refer clients to other agencies. She stated the majority of calls Prevention Resources receives are from individuals who are looking for some sort of prevention education. E. Cohen stated schools will call asking Prevention Resources to give a presentation on prevention education, or parents call looking for advice after they find marijuana in their child's bedroom. She advises the biggest difference with Prevention Resources and their hub, is that they are focusing on prevention and treatment in the substance use field. Discussion ensued.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. STATE HSAC Meeting: M. O'Reilly advised she attended the most recent State Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) meeting. There was discussion from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) regarding their movement towards creating a statewide resource hub. DCF is looking for feedback from community members and agencies. DCF will be hosting listening sessions, interviews, and focus groups as they are building out this process. They will be working with 2-1-1. M. O'Reilly will share information regarding the listening sessions and focus groups once she receives it. She reached out to 2-1-1 to inform them Hunterdon County HSAC would be interested in providing feedback. M. O'Reilly stated DCF's goal is for the 2-1-1 website to include thorough information so individuals looking for services throughout the State are able to quickly pinpoint the services they need. Additional information will be shared once available.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. HSAC Survey: M. O'Reilly reported J. Gorman provided an update regarding the HSAC Survey

earlier in the day via email. M. O'Reilly conveyed the survey has only received one-hundred and fifty (150) responses to both the English and Spanish versions of the survey. There were between six hundred (600) and seven hundred (700) responses the last time the survey was administered. M. O'Reilly stated the survey has been open since October 2022 and she would like to increase the number of responses before the survey closes on March 31, 2023. J. Gorman included the survey flyers in her email and M. O'Reilly advised the closing date on the surveys have been updated. If anyone requires assistance troubleshooting the survey, please contact the Department of Human Services.

J. Gorman encouraged the group to complete the survey themselves if they have not already and to share the survey links with others. J. Gorman conveyed she previously shared the survey flyers with clients via email but will now start sharing the link for the survey over text. J. Gorman asked for suggestions as to how the group can share and increase responses over the next eight (8) days.

J. Collevchio conveyed she advised all staff to share the survey with their consumers and will follow up with them to ensure that has been done. She advised she shared the flyers with Eleanor at the Senior Center and a few other agencies she has worked with. She suggested posting the flyers at the libraries. M. O'Reilly stated J. Keebler posted the flyers at the libraries. J. Keebler conveyed the survey flyers were shared in a previous newsletter and he will include them in the next newsletter as well. J. Gorman suggested sharing the flyers with K. Blanda to distribute with her Partnership for Health network.

VI. REPORTS:

A. County Department of Human Services (CDHS): M. O'Reilly advised effective March 1, 2023 the additional pandemic SNAP benefits ended. She stated the minimum for SNAP benefits has been raised to \$95.00. The minimum federal benefit is \$23.00 so the State is covering the difference of \$72.00.

M. O'Reilly advised that effective April 1, 2023, current Medicaid recipients will begin to receive recertification packets on a rolling basis. M. O'Reilly stated the importance of connecting with individuals to let them know of this change and conveyed that if the recipient's addresses are not updated in the system that they will not get the recertification packets in the mail. She encouraged recipients to contact the Division of Social Services to update their address to ensure receipt of the recertification packet.

M. O'Reilly reiterated the HSAC Survey will be closing the end of March. She will share the flyers with K. Blanda and J. Keebler as suggested.

M. O'Reilly reported the Route 12 Library will be having a Grand Opening of their updated facility on Route 12 this weekend. She conveyed herself and several division heads visited Library to view the new space. Prior Needs Assessments showed feedback requesting activities for teenagers, M. O'Reilly highlighted how wonderful the space for the teenage group turned out.

J. Keebler stated Library Staff is looking forward to the Grand Opening on Saturday, March 25, 2023. He conveyed there is a brand-new teen space and Emily is the head of teen services. J. Keebler stated there are not many places in Hunterdon County where teens can go for free to spend time together. He stated the space can be used for teens to work independently or to collaborate with other teens or even to relax. He reported there is a gaming room where the teens

can relax as well as a makerspace with 3D printers. J. Keebler reported a large meeting room was added to the Route 12 Library and is open to anyone looking for a meeting space. The Library has also added small group studies for smaller groups to meet. He conveyed these small group studies were made for smaller group meetings of up to eight (8) individuals. J. Keebler stated the Grand Opening is Saturday March 25, 2023 but individuals can reach out to Emily or himself to receive an official tour at a different time.

J. Keebler was asked what programs were offered regularly for the older adult population. He advised the Library offers craft and music programs, and the senior population enjoys the movie showings the Library offers. A training lab was also incorporated into the Library re-design, to provide a flexible space for computer training.

- B. NJ Department of Human Services (DHS):** M. O'Reilly stated N. Troche was not in attendance. She conveyed she received a PowerPoint from the New Jersey Department of Human Services regarding the budget plan that was submitted for review. M. O'Reilly will share the PowerPoint with the group via email. The budget includes new programs and proposed increases to individuals working in direct services with clients and consumers. Many programs will be renewed.

M. O'Reilly reported under New Jersey *Cover All Kids* Health Initiative, any child under the age of nineteen (19) regardless of immigration status, is eligible to apply for Medicaid. The assistance program is based on income and asset requirements, if the criteria is met, the child does not need to have legal status. She reported approximately nine hundred (900) applications have been received statewide.

- C. NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P):** M. Scherer reported for the month of February DCP&P was working with two-hundred and twenty-five (225) active children. Ten (10) children were in placement. There was a total of thirty-four (34) referrals for the month of February. M. Scherer stated the placement numbers are low and the number of referrals has also been low.

D. HSAC Committee Reports:

By-Laws Committee – R. Horoschak advised the By-Laws Committee is monitoring things to ensure they run smoothly. R. Horoschak requested at a previous meeting a list of members of the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC). He asked how the list is coming along. M. O'Reilly advised she can share a list of members when she shares the PowerPoint of New Jersey Department of Human Services Budget. J. Gorman encouraged participants who regularly attend the HSAC meetings to consider submitting an application to join the Council. S. Elliot requested a list of members and member email addresses for each committee as well.

Nominations Committee – L. Piazza-Long reported she reached out to all members of the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC). She stated J. Gorman shared information of an individual who is potentially interested in being co-chair but has not heard from anyone else. L. Piazza-Long advised she will be in contact with the individual interested in being co-chair. She advised in order to provide a slate of officers required by April, she needs responses to her emails.

Planning and Integration – B. Renkens stated she did not have a report and will connect with M. O'Reilly. Discussion ensued.

Legislative Committee – S. Elliot stated he will be scheduling the Legislative Committee’s next meeting for two (2) weeks from now. He stated there is a stakeholder’s group that is working hard to get the work ability implemented. Once implemented, an educational session will need to be scheduled.

Outreach and Communication Committee – J. Gorman advised she does not have an update. She asked for an update regarding approval for the case manager position. M. O’Reilly stated the position request was submitted in the 2023 Budget Request. She reported she will be meeting with the County Commissioners and Administration tomorrow afternoon. She hopes to have news by the April HSAC meeting.

Housing Committee – R. Cooper reported the Housing Committee discussed creating a new poster to share with the County Libraries. She asked for a volunteer to draw an image of what they imagine Hunterdon County looks like with hot air balloons floating over a farmhouse and apartment building. C. Sagona volunteered to try creating a poster for the Housing Committee to share. Discussion ensued. R. Cooper stated the Housing Committee is discussing creating a municipality list to connect all twenty-six (26) of the municipalities in Hunterdon County.

VII. GOALS & ACTION:

VIII. 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.

Norwescap – L. Hayes announced starting mid-April, Norwescap will be resuming their free computer classes. Their essential series will be their first class. The series will consist of six (6) classes that are held on Tuesday and Thursday.

C. Sagona reported Norwescap holds an Online Career Club on the last Thursday of each month for clients and staff. She advised Jane Goodman from One Stop will be discussing One’s Natural Tendencies as far as the job match at the March Career Club meeting. This will discuss matching an individual’s tendencies to job requirements. C. Sagona reported Al Bassetti will be discussing the challenge of receiving Mental Health Care when an individual is under-insured or does not have insurance at the April meeting. She reported Norwescap is always looking for guest speakers to speak to their Online Career Club each month. The group meets the last Thursday of each month from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm.

J. Collevchio asked if Norwescap was only looking for programs that are career oriented since it is a career club. C. Sagona conveyed the full title of the club is Career and Life Club, so topics do not need to be career related. Discussion ensued.

Flemington Area Food Pantry – J. Gorman reported the Food Pantry’s Annex became operational last week. The location is across from the 7-11 by Hunterdon Central High School. She reported the Food Pantry is servicing the Senior Centers out of that location. They are excited about the extra space.

Hunterdon Health – M. LaQuaglia reported Hunterdon Health is hosting a Men’s Health Breakfast on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 8:30 am. Day of registration begins at 8:30 am or individuals can pre-register. M. LaQuaglia has a flyer she can distribute. The breakfast will be held in person at the Salvation Army in Flemington. A hot breakfast will be served. She advised a urologist and

cardiologist will be speaking at the breakfast and will be available to answer questions. J. Gorman asked if this was the first time the Salvation Army has held a breakfast like this. M. LaQuaglia stated this will be the first one held since COVID. She shared her email in the chat for anyone looking for additional information.

Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board – J. Cassano shared in the chat that the Summer Youth Employment Program is now accepting youth applications for their program.

Department of Children and Families (DCF) – M. O'Reilly reported R. Hager shared an email conveying DCF is having IT issues so she read R. Hager's report. DCF's New Jersey Youth Resource Spot is updated it is an online set of resources for young people addressing several areas supporting youth ages fourteen (14) to twenty-one (21). A link is listed in the email, following the link will provide assets to help promote Cover All Kids health insurance initiative. R. Hager encourages all agencies and individuals who interact with families and children to follow the link and utilize the resources. M. O'Reilly will forward his email and include the link. She conveyed the Department of Children and Families (DCF) will be present at New Jersey Association of Counties Annual Conference. The conference will take place May 3, 2023 – May 5, 2023 at Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Registration for the conference is now open.

- IX. *MOTION TO ADJOURN:** There being no further business S. Elliot made a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 22, 2023. J. Collevchio seconded the motion. All members were in favor, the meeting adjourned at 4:21 pm. The next meeting will be held April 26, 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.