

HSAC Minutes
March 6, 2019

- I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – J. Roy
The meeting was called to order at 2:06pm. Roundtable introductions followed.

Members Present:

Jeffrey Pierson – Freeholder
Barry Keefe – Member-at-Large
Sarah Matthews – Provider
Jamie Moscony – Member-at-Large
Nichol Hoff – Consumer
Megan Santiago – Consumer Advocate
Joe Sittineri – Provider
John Roy – Consumer Advocate
Terri Bryan – Provider
Donna Groome – Provider
Mary Dozier – Provider

Members Excused:

Lorenzo McFadden
Judy Kunec
Carol Haig
Katie Faldetta
Eleanor McBride
Bill Desmond
Rose Kuprianov

Interested Persons:

Christa Loper – RSRCCRRA
Kevin Tomasello – DCP&P
Kristen Raring – CMC Human Services
Betsy Cunningham – SJLS
Leslie Long – The Arc of Cape May
Ashley Sullivan – Substance Use Navigator Cape Assist
Wayne Whelan – Peachtree Health Group
Nelson Troché – NJDHS-CO
Jennifer Hirsch – DCP&P
Norma Cordeiro – NJ DVRS
Pat Devaney – CMC DHS
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

- II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – J. Roy
Minutes from the 2/6/19 meeting were emailed to voting members and hard copies were distributed at the meeting. S. Matthews motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and B. Keefe 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 introducing Nelson Troché from NJ DHS-Community Outreach. He will be the DHS representative to Cape May County now that R. Thomas has retired. S. Hand then

stated that the focus of the HSAC office for the past month has been largely on the bureaucratic processes of contracting and planning, specifically contract closeouts and planning for the implementation of the HTF. With regard to the HTF, County Administration continues to move forward with implementation. There was a work session with homeless stakeholders and County Administration on 2/21/19. At the session, Monarch Housing presented an overview of the HTF with regard to the guidelines/regulations, permissible uses of funding, reporting requirements, and best practice strategies from other counties. Those in attendance then identified what target population they saw as the priority need for this first round of funding and the service they believed to be the most important for this population. The next steps will include the collection of additional data regarding target populations and services, as well as, the administrative processes of establishing the HTF Advisory Board (membership application and conflict of interest policy). As for budgets, the Governor presented his proposed state budget yesterday (3/5/19); an email with a copy of the Governor's budget in brief was emailed to all on HSAC distribution lists this morning. The County budget was introduced on 2/26 and is expected to go to final adoption by the Board of Chosen Freeholders at their 3/26/19 meeting. It continues to appear that all of the contracts funded through the Division of Community and Behavioral Health Services with County dollars will remain funded at CY 2018 levels. However; the County has still not received notification of Peer Grouping funding availability for 2019. Peer Grouping funds are provided to counties with County owned nursing homes and must be used for services that prevent nursing home placement. The funding formula was revised in 2014 and Peer Grouping dollars available to the eligible counties have been decreasing steadily since that time as only those consumers that were in the nursing home prior to 7/1/2014 are eligible to be counted in the new formula. The amount of funding available dropped sharply between 2017 and 2018 making the fact that 2019 funding has still not been announced somewhat concerning. Should Peer Grouping funds no longer be available, other sources of revenue will need to be identified for those services currently funded such as a portion of mobile meals, personal response services, etc. The County Division of Community & Behavioral Health Services (our office) is attempting to gauge interest in a Mental Health First Aid course. This is an 8 hour course that teaches participants how to help someone who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. Flyers are available today for distribution. Anyone interested is asked to call Sharon in the DCBHS office. Lastly, the HSAC office is once again asking agencies to assist in disseminating information about the EITC to their clientele. Informational flyers are available for distribution. Agency representatives are encouraged to take flyers to share with their consumers. J. Roy commented that the Mental Health First Aid class is a fantastic course and feedback from those that have taken the course indicate that all have found it to be very beneficial.

IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché
N. Troché introduced himself to Council. He added that he will be attending Council meetings on a regular basis. N. Troché reported that Governor did introduce his proposed budget yesterday (3/5) and DHS Commissioner Johnson held a conference call with stakeholders regarding the budget yesterday afternoon. He added NJ DHS has done well during budget season and is expected to do so again this year. N. Troché stated that the budget includes additional funding for services associated with opiate abuse. There is also an increased effort to utilize/implement services that are associated with matching federal dollars. N. Troché concluded by stating that he will leave business cards with his contact information, as well as, remain after the close of the business meeting for anyone who would like to talk with him individually. J. Roy noted that copies of all NJ DHS announcements and press releases received since the February HSAC meeting were either emailed to all on the HSAC distribution lists or placed in the “pass around” folder for review.

- DCF – K. Tomasello
K. Tomasello distributed a written report with the following statistics with regard to the Cape May DCP&P local office for the month of February 2019: 405 total cases, (this = 761 active children with 168 of those children in resource home placement). The cases breakdown into the following categories: 90 investigation cases, 216 in-home service cases and 99 placement cases (=405 cases). In addition, there were 88 intakes (67 for child abuse/neglect investigation and 21 for child welfare assessment). Thus far this year, 3 adoptions have been finalized. K. Tomasello further reported that DCF has posted the Area Director position for the Atlantic, Burlington, & Cape May office; interviews are expected to begin in the near future. Amanda Hammond is the Acting Area Director. He concluded by stating that the DCP&P Cape May Local Office will be undergoing a Quality Services Review in April. Once the Review is completed, there will be an exit conference (County providers will be invited to attend).

V. Committee Reports:

- a. Executive Committee – J. Roy
Minutes from the 2/27/19 meeting (held via email) were distributed. J. Roy referenced #3 of the report regarding the use of HSAC training funds to contribute to the cost of the SNJCoC annual meeting/training session and #6 of the report regarding the awarding of APP funds to CCS/SBYS and CAMC funds to Rutgers SRCRR to state that a motion was needed to approve all three (3) cited recommendations. J. Moscony made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Executive Committee with regard to the referenced items of the 2/27/19 minutes. T. Bryan seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Services for the Disabled Committee – K. Fitzsimons
The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 4/16/19. S. Hand reported that the Disability Awareness Day planning committee has begun to meet and plan for the 2019 event. This year's event will be held on October 22nd at the 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 December 2018 was distributed. D. Groome highlighted the following statistics from the report: 140 GA cases, 94 TANF cases, and 3,740 SNAP cases. The WFNJ participation rate was 16.7%. In addition, D. Groome stated that she has compiled data on these same programs – GA, TANF, SNAP, and WFNJ participation rate for a three year period (2016-2018). A handout was distributed that provided a page for each program for the cited time period. D. Groome noted the following from this report: the GA caseload has decreased significantly from 2016 to 2018 as has the TANF caseload. The SNAP caseload has also decreased over the same time period. The WFNJ participation rate is the most difficult statistic to truly measure as there are multiple variables that influence this rate with most of those being factors that are beyond the control of the agency/program. She added that CMC had its highest participation rate ever in May of 2018. D. Groome then stated that in addition to depicting the caseloads and participation rates over time, the graphs also serve as a means to illustrate the trends in these programs with regard monthly (seasonal) fluctuations that occur at same time every year and the impact on the caseloads for Social Services. D. Groome concluded by stating that Social Services kicked off its extended hours yesterday (3/5). She explained that the Agency will be staying open until 6:30pm every Tuesday. It is hoped that the evening hours will accommodate working consumers.

- e. CEAS – S. Matthews
S. Matthews reported that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 3/12/19. She then noted that the SNJCoC annual meeting (this is the meeting that is open to all CEAS Committee attendees in all four member counties) will be held on 3/25/19 at RCGC. This year the SNJCoC has partnered with the National Alliance to End Homelessness to conduct a full day session on “System Design for an Effective Homeless Response Plan”. The event is free but registration is required. Flyers with event and registration details are available for those interested.
- f. CIACC – K. Raring
K. Raring reported that the minutes from the January CIACC meeting were distributed and highlighted at the February HSAC meeting. The next meeting of the CIACC is scheduled for 3/12/19 at 1:30pm.
- g. Membership – B. Keefe
B. Keefe reported that Membership business is addressed in #2 of the Executive Committee report. He added that Council is in need of two (2) members (1 consumer and 1 member-at-large). Anyone interested in Council membership is asked to contact S. Hand for an application.

A motion was made by B. Keefe and seconded by S. Matthews to accept the committee reports as presented. Motion carried.

VI. Liaison Reports

- a. MHADA Board – P. Devaney
Minutes from the 2/12/19 meeting were distributed. P. Devaney stated that the 2nd page of the minutes provides the local update. She then noted the following issues/topics that the Board is currently working on or has discussed: P. Devaney is working with the Board to finalize the CMC Substance Abuse Plan for the next 3 years, fatalities from drug overdoses are down 20%, NARCAN deployments are up 300%, in the 1st quarter of 2018, CMC had the 6th highest % of fentanyl in heroin bags by the last quarter of 2018, CMC was down to 19th in the % of fentanyl in heroin bags, admissions to treatment have gone down every year (CMC does not seem able to get individuals into treatment – the Board will investigate increasing the rates for treatment to see if this assists with admissions), and the number of prescribers for medically assisted treatment has increased from 5 in 2016 to 13 today.
- b. Youth Services Commission – K. Raring
Minutes from the 12/13/18 meeting were distributed. K. Raring noted that the 2/12/19 YSC meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next YSC meeting is scheduled for 4/9/19 at 3pm. She added that new bylaws have been drafted for the YSC; these will be presented and discussed at the April meeting.

VII. Old Business

- 1. P. Devaney provided an update on the Recovery High School. She stated that as reported in the 12/13/18 YSC minutes, there was still no award of funding. However; as of the MHADA minutes of 2/12/19, there had been notification of the funding award in the amount of \$500,000 to be spent by 6/30/19 with no promise of continued funding. Thus, Middle Township School District and Cape Assist were moving quickly to implement the program. Two youth have been approved for the program and another is in the midst of the application process. Since a site could not be rented prior to the funding award, Cape Assist had offered to house the program at least initially in its offices in Wildwood. The City of Wildwood notified the Agency that housing a “school” was not a permitted use of the current facility which is located in a commercial zone and that the Agency would need a variance to house the “school”. Cape Assist has explained that this is not a traditional “school” but a “program”. City officials

determined that a variance would still be needed and voted to decline the variance. Cape Assist has been given until the end of the month to move the program. P. Devaney then praised the cooperation of CMC agencies and the CMC community as Cape Assist is receiving offers of space for the program from other organizations. More information on this issue will be shared as it becomes available.

2. P. Devaney reported that the effort to “grow” resiliency teams in all school buildings in CMC continues to move forward. She provided a brief explanation of the resiliency team concept as it relates to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). The first cohort of schools participated in a three-day training session last summer. There will be another series of training sessions next summer. This will include the first cohort of schools, as well as, new schools. A session for preschool staff is also being pursued.

VIII. New Business

1. Freeholder Pierson stated that he would like to update Council on several issues/items. 1) The homeless stakeholders meeting held on 2/21/19. The event was well organized, provided quality information on the HTF, solicited community input, and was well attended. He praised County staff for their efforts to plan, schedule, and host the event. He also praised the community stakeholders for their participation and attendance. 2) The tax preparation assistance that is being offered to the public free of charge (there are income limits but a family of 4 making \$55,000 or less is eligible) through the RSVP Program within the Division of Aging and Disability Services in partnership with the United Way and Campaigns for Working Families. This program is working very efficiently. 3) SOAR, the Social Services outreach program to senior citizens implemented last year continues to be well received and provides a valuable service. 4) The Code Blue system has undergone substantial changes this year both in how services are provided and funding utilized for said services. Freeholder Pierson commended all those involved who came together to work on this issue to develop a system to help those in need under the new rules/regulations. 5) Lastly, the County has purchased the vacant K-Mart complex in Rio Grande. The complex will be renovated to house several County Divisions. In addition, space will be rented to several state and federal offices, as well as, commercial entities. It is expected that some portions of the complex will be ready for occupancy in early 2020.
2. T. Bryan reported that CMC Workforce Development is working with partners to offer another CDL training program. Classes are scheduled to begin 3/25/19. Flyers with program details were available for those interested. P. Devaney asked if the “energy careers” program had begun. T. Bryan responded that the “Getting Into Energy Careers” program began on Monday (3/4). Thirteen individuals are in the class and so far, all is going well. She added that this is a partnership program with Atlantic Electric and offers employment opportunities upon completion with jobs starting at \$25 per hour. T. Bryan concluded by stating that the money being used for this round of the “Energy Careers” program is 2018 money. Thus, another program is being planned for June/July with 2019 funding.
3. M. Santiago announced that flyers were available for the annual CMC Healthcare Resource Day to be held on 4/6/19 at the Wildwood Convention Center.
4. J. Roy stated that May is Children’s Mental Health Month. To that end, Cape-Atlantic INK and the Cape-Atlantic FSO are working to plan a resource event and activities to be held on 5/4/19 at the Y.A.LE. School in Northfield, NJ. More information on this event will be shared as event details are confirmed. J. Roy concluded by noting the Family Planning Support Council #10 will be hosting its annual spring forum on 4/6/19 at CMC Special Services School again this year. There will be speakers from DHS and DCF during the breakout period. They will offer information and hold a Q&A session.

IX. Public Response

There was no public response. Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.