



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

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

humansvc@co.hunterdon.nj.us

REFERENCE:

- Council
- Mental Health
- Youth
- Disability Services
- Substance
- Use Disorder
- Transportation

To be approved March 20, 2023.

COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM (CEAS) COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2023 2:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams meeting
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: **235 705 589 390**

Passcode: **DvJuMz**

Join by phone:

+1 856-338-7012 United States, Camden

Phone Conference ID: **278 147 64#**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

S. Lax
A. Fields
J. Gorman
M. Bate
M. Class-Ramirez

GUESTS

M. Mattaliano

EX-OFFICIO

STAFF

L. Piazza Long
M. O'Reilly
K. Burghardt
S. Nekola

*Designee

I. CONVENE:

“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 provided in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News. A public notice announcing this meeting has also been placed in the lobbies of the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, the first floor of the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street Building #1, Flemington, NJ; the first floor of the Route 12 County Complex, Building #3, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ and County Clerk’s Office.”

II. MINUTES: A motion was made by M. O’Reilly and K. Burghardt seconded to approve the meeting minutes of October 17, 2022 and December 19, 2022. All were in favor. The motion passed.

III. REPORTS:

A. Homeless Prevention Program – Family Promise of Hunterdon County: A. Fields reported the program obtained an extension through July 2024. The program is still able to pay relocation costs for first time applicants, section 8 recipients or up to 3 months in arrearage for back rent.

B. HPRP Update – Family Promise of Hunterdon County: A. Fields reported Family Promise of Hunterdon County still has HPRP monies, the rents in Hunterdon County are higher than the Fair Market Rent (FMR). A. Fields stated she had a conversation with Anthony, the new state HPRP representative, regarding a concern that they are having difficulty helping households as their rent is often over the FMR. A. Fields stated she is waiting for an update from Anthony. A. Fields advised the program is still able to get people in housing and can pay up to twelve (12) months in rental assistance or pay three (3) months arrearage and three (3) to four (4) months forward for those in need. A. Fields stated she is seeing more arrearage payments but in December the program assisted more people with relocation into apartments. A. Fields advised the program is bound by FMR and what they are seeing an overage of over 300 dollars above FMR that they cannot pay with this funding source. A. Fields conveyed she is working through those issues with State Representative Anthony to see how they can help residents. A. Fields advised the program is still housing people according to the FMR.

J. Gorman asked how an individual qualifies for the program? A. Fields stated each individual must have an income at or below 30 percent AMI for the state. Individuals can work through the HPP Program and make up to 70,000 dollars and be in arrears. A. Fields also stated they are seeing entrepreneurs who used to do well are currently not seeing work or income. A. Fields advised the state is doing some re-arranging and changing of the program.

J. Gorman asked if the individuals need to call Family Promise. A. Fields advised that people should contact Family Promise if they are behind in rent or are looking for assistance with relocation.

C. Tri-County Continuum of Care: M. O'Reilly reported the Tri County CoC is working on the LSA submission. J. Gorman asked if anyone is in charge of EFSP now. M. O'Reilly stated all EFSP funds have been exhausted and there is no current award granted to the county. M. O'Reilly stated Hunterdon County did not receive phase 39 funding. M. O'Reilly stated there was some set aside money sent to the state set aside committee. She reached out to Bonnie from United Way for assistance in connecting with the United Way of Essex County, however she did not receive a response from United Way of Essex County. M. O'Reilly conveyed she received an email from EFSP stating there is funding available to agencies that are assisting migrants. M. O'Reilly stated if there is a need for funding the county can apply for aid. No one indicated a need for migrant funding during the CEAS meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Point In Time Debrief: M. O'Reilly stated she attended the recent Point in Time training. She stated Michael Callahan shared a PowerPoint Presentation. Michael Callahan oversees the Office of Homelessness Prevention within the Department of Community Affairs. Ms. Pringle, who is an individual with lived experience with homelessness, is on the board with Monarch Housing. Ms. Pringle and other people with lived experience provided feedback to Monarch when designing the Point in Time Survey as part of the lived experience committee. M.

O'Reilly advised the presentation will be distributed to the group once received.

M. O'Reilly reported the PIT Training focused on street outreach and staff and volunteer safety when conducting the Point in Time Survey. M. O'Reilly stated there are (3) three different areas that they are looking at: Urban, Suburban and Rural areas. The presenters provided ideas of some different places to look for people experiencing homelessness. M. O'Reilly stated one area that has not been investigated in Hunterdon County are farms and encampment areas. M. O'Reilly stated while conducting the Point in Time Count the guidance from Monarch is to look, observe and assess the situation. While conducting the PIT Count, staff will need to assess if people are willing to talk or determine if it may be better to try again another day when the individual is willing to talk to someone.

M. O'Reilly advised Michael Callahan announced that the State Section 8 list will open in concurrence with the PIT count. M. O'Reilly stated the announcement has been disseminated and anticipates that DCA will distribute flyers with a QR Code to be distributed with the Point in Time Survey. M. O'Reilly advised the idea is to offer each individual completing the PIT survey an opportunity to complete the pre-application process for the DCA lottery. M. O'Reilly stated Hunterdon County volunteers conducting the count, could bring a laptop, tablet, or other type of device to assist in this process.

M. O'Reilly conveyed L. Piazza Long, S. Nekola and herself had separate conversations about compiling a list of resources that can be given out during the point in time survey. M. O'Reilly advised the procedure for the Point in Time survey will remain the 7-day count like in years past. The Point in Time Survey will be held overnight beginning Tuesday, January 24, 2023 continuing into Wednesday, January 25, 2023. January 25 through January 31, volunteers will be asking individuals where they spent the night of January 24, 2023. M. O'Reilly stated she sent out the Point in Time resources and advised if anyone has not received them to let her know. She stated the information distributed includes a Reference Guide. It includes the following: abbreviations, user guide, training schedule, and the PIT survey. M. O'Reilly advised the email contains a practice link for survey monkey. M. O'Reilly stated some agencies will have a separate survey monkey link that was created for HMIS programs, so that Monarch can compare HMIS data with the shelter summary form.

J. Gorman asked if the group thinks the resource guide is needed on a constant basis. She conveyed some may have a difficult time understanding the information, therefore, it would be best to ensure the information is concise.

L. Piazza-Long asked for an update regarding the project homeless event, or if the event will be tabled for this year. M. O'Reilly advised there is not enough time for the project, if anyone would like to hold the event next year, the planning needs to start this summer.

J. Gorman asked if there is any rule when talking to a participant that would prevent them from handing out gift cards. M. O'Reilly advised agencies can provide gift cards or other donations they would like to encourage participation in the PIT count. M O'Reilly conveyed the Human Services Department has Naloxone that can be distributed as part of the Hope One project.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SNAP/MA Changes: L. Piazza-Long reported an update that as of February 2023, the state

will no longer be providing Max benefits for food stamps. Effective March 1, 2023 new applicants or current SNAP recipients will only be eligible for what is now determined by the system. The state recently approved a bill raising the minimum SNAP/Food Stamp amount to \$50 dollars. Medicaid will also be affected in April as well as recipients will need to recertify for Medicaid. There will be a large number of individuals affected. L. Piazza-Long advised to expect numerous calls requiring assistance due to these changes.

J. Gorman asked if there has ever been a discussion about making personal products (such as diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products) eligible for purchase using food stamps. L. Piazza-Long advised SNAP is a federal program therefore, the state and county have no ability to make that decision.

VI. AGENCY NEWS: No reports.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m. K. Burghardt made a Motion and M. Moore seconded. The next meeting will be Monday, March 20, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.