



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 June 19, 2023.

COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM (CEAS) COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Monday, March 20, 2023 2:00 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

A. Fields
M. Moore
M. Class-Ramirez

GUESTS

J. Abbott
O. Kenolorode
M. Bate

EX-OFFICIO

STAFF

L. Piazza-Long
M. O'Reilly
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: The January meeting minutes required changes and will be tabled for a vote until the next CEAS meeting June 19, 2023.

III. REPORTS:

A. Homeless Prevention Program/Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program – Family Promise of Hunterdon County: A. Fields advised that she received an email from the Department of Community Affairs regarding waivers approved for the Homelessness Prevention Program. She would like to explain what the email means. The first waiver states, no applicant determined by the program, to be unlikely to pay shelter costs after the period of assistance has ended, shall be eligible for assistance. A. Fields advised that shelter or housing payments are one of the assistance categories for HPP. After Family Promise pays

the arrearage, the applicant needs to demonstrate sustainability, that caveat is temporarily waived per DCA, so applicants do not have to prove sustainability in order to receive HPP assistance.

A. Fields stated the second waiver states no applicant should be eligible for assistance for back rent unless they have resided in an apartment unit for 3 months prior, that is also waived at this time. A. Fields advised it used to be a six (6) months' time-period. A. Fields advised applicants used to have to prove they were in the unit for six (6) months and paying rent on time before they fell behind in order for HPP to assist. A. Fields conveyed all of that is waived right now so they can help regardless of sustainability as well as when applicants fell behind on rent.

A. Fields stated the third waiver explains how assistance could not be provided if the applicant went to court for an eviction and signed a payment arrangement with the landlord. This is now waived as well.

A. Fields advised that the income eligibility for this program is up to (80) percent AMI. Family Promise was only able to aid a certain group of people of a certain income. This was low-income program, now that is waived as well so we can help anybody through June of 2023. This program, with the waivers, is allowing them to pay Security Deposits and up to (2) months of rent.

B. Tri-County Continuum of Care: M. O'Reilly reported, that at the last Tri County CoC Executive Committee Meeting, Michael Callahan from the Office of Homelessness presented on funding that is available to CoC's, Counties or Lead Agencies. M. O'Reilly advised that the application is available through two separate tracks of funding, so in theory all CoC's could potentially receive one of the tracks of funding. M. O'Reilly advised the First Track of funding is geared towards a cohort of trainings in the fall. Each applicant would have to guarantee that a certain number of members of the CoC would be able to attend virtual and in person trainings as part of this cohort.

The Second track of funding will have technical assistance and access to CoC level data. DCA did show the Executive Committee samples of data that you can dig into and analyze. The state will have access to all programs and look at all the people accessing the various systems through the CoC. As more information becomes available it will be shared with the group.

M. O'Reilly advised there will also be a meeting in the next few weeks to go over the request for letters of intent documents for fiscal year 2023. It seems like HUD may be releasing the NOFO in late May of this year which is much earlier than in the past two years.

M. O'Reilly wanted to let everyone know that the department is developing a utility brochure for statewide and local utility programs. If agencies have a local utility program and want to send that information, we can make sure the information is listed. We received feedback that people do not know where to go for utility assistance.

M. Moore reported that in working with families that apply for LIHEAP later in the season, , it seems Norwescap is overwhelmed by the applications. M. Moore asked is there a way to do a push to make sure we all work together to make sure people are applying for assistance earlier in the season?

M. O'Reilly advised that the department can certainly share information with our groups to

get the message out earlier in the season to help prevent a backlog. M. O'Reilly mentioned that people can apply online through the DCA website or can apply through Norwescap for USF and LIHEAP.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Point In Time Debrief:** M. O'Reilly reported going over the Point in Time (PIT) for 2023. M. O'Reilly advised some of the counties reported that they had a higher participation rate that they had in previous years and those counties believe it is because they were able to host a Homelessness Event, similar to our Care Event. M. O'Reilly reported that it is important to think about planning for a PIT type event during the summer months to see if the committee can nail down a location for next year, have agencies sign on and sign up for 2024.

M. O'Reilly reported on the statewide CoC meeting that was held on Feb 8, 2023. Michelle Carver from USICH talked about the Federal Strategic Plan to end Homelessness. M. O'Reilly will find the link to that document, she does not know if anyone has had a chance to read through it. There is an updated federal strategic plan to end homelessness. The link will either be shared in the chat or sent after the meeting, along with the updates on waivers for the Homelessness Prevention Programs that Angela discussed earlier in the meeting.

- V. NEW BUSINESS:** None at this time.

VI. AGENCY NEWS:

L. Piazza-Long reported on a topic that it is not housing related but affects most of the people in this room regarding staffing with Medicaid and how much it is going to change going forward.

L. Piazza-Long reported the Pandemic waiver for Medicaid is ending. Beginning April 15, 2023, mailings, with the earliest closing date of June 1, 2023, will begin. If recipients do not return the paperwork to recertify, their Medicaid case will be closed. L. Piazza-Long advised that there are many steps we must take before Medicaid will be closed including mailings and phone calls.

L. Piazza-Long requested encouraging all clients to fill out their applications when they are mailed to them because they will no longer have continuous eligibility on the Medicaid system without filling out their application. Recipients have not been closed since March of 2020 for a failure to do a redetermination and that will now start again.

Through the Cover All Kids program, the Division is able to add undocumented children if they meet income standards to Medicaid, they may also qualify based on their household status.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m. M. Class-Ramirez made a motion and M. Moore seconded. The next meeting will be Monday, June 19, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.