



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



REFERENCE:

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

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

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

Draft to be approved September 13, 2023.

COUNTY ALLIANCE STEERING SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:30 p.m.
 Via Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT

C. Honthy R. Neiber
 V. Miller

STAFF

A. DeLuca
 M. O'Reilly

GUESTS

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 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.”

C. Honthy opened the meeting of CASS at 3:30 p.m. with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Statement.

C. Honthy stated she is member of CASS and a resident of Clinton, New Jersey.

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

V. Miller stated she is member of CASS and a resident of Hunterdon County.

R. Neiber stated he is a lieutenant for the Hunterdon County Prosecutor’s Office.

A. DeLuca stated she is the Program Development Specialist/County Alliance Coordinator for Hunterdon County.

II. MINUTES: C. Honthy made a motion and R. Neiber seconded to approve the meeting minutes of January 11, 2023. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

III. REPORTS:

- A. **County Update:** M. O'Reilly reported Hope One accompanied Operation Helping Hand at Shad Fest. She thanked R. Neiber for informing the group about the festival. She conveyed Hope One provided fifty-one (51) individuals with free Naloxone and trained those individuals on how to administer it. M. O'Reilly added that the Hope One team made over three hundred (300) contacts at the Shad Fest, and they plan attend Shad Fest again in the future.

M. O'Reilly announced the Division of Housing is opening their Choice Voucher waiting list. The list reopens every five (5) years and was last open in 2018. She stated the list will be on-line and will be open June 1, 2023 through June 15, 2023. The waiting list is not first come first served; all individuals who apply within that period will have an equal opportunity to be selected from the lottery. M. O'Reilly advised that the Housing Division staff will be available to assist individuals who do not have access to the internet to apply for the waiting list. Staff will be available to assist individuals June 1st through the 15th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A training will be held to teach interested agencies about the application process in order to assist clients.

M. O'Reilly announced L. Nauman, the Division Head of Seniors, Disabilities and Veterans Services, is leaving her position with the County. Her last day will be Friday, May 12, 2023.

M. O'Reilly advised the County has received feedback from the State regarding the CCP Plan. M. O'Reilly and S. Becker are working on revisions and will submit the plan back to the State once revisions are complete.

- B. **Municipal Alliance Program:** A. DeLuca reported with the end of the school year approaching, all five (5) alliances have scheduled their May meetings. She stated Delaware Valley Municipal Alliance met on Tuesday of this week and discussed programming for next school year. Central Hunterdon Municipal Alliance is scheduled to meet on May 17, 2023. South Hunterdon Municipal Alliance plans to meet on Monday, May 22, 2023. North Hunterdon and Voorhees Municipal Alliances are both scheduled to meet Thursday, May 25, 2023. A. DeLuca conveyed email communication and phone calls in between monthly meetings with alliance members and herself have continued. This communication ensures the goals of programming are a constant conversation and that goals are accomplished.

A. DeLuca reported all alliances did well spending down their funds and submitting their bills on time. The Municipal Alliances collectively left \$159.24 unspent and in total, spent 99.63% of the grant. A. DeLuca is proud of the teamwork, collaboration and effort that has been put into this program. She requested feedback from each individual alliance regarding programming that they received. All five (5) alliances gave positive feedback, and they are satisfied with the programs that have run.

The 3rd quarter report was due to GCADA on April 28, 2023, and it was submitted before the deadline. The 4th quarter report is due September 29, 2023.

A. DeLuca conveyed since the Educational Services Commission (ESC) is no longer handling the billing for the Hunterdon County Municipal Alliance Program, a new entity has been established. She reported the new fiscal agent will be the Hunterdon County Finance Department. The billing process will remain the same as it was when it was carried out through ESC. When a program is completed, the bills will be submitted to the alliance's Municipal

Alliance Coordinator. The Municipal Alliance Coordinator will then check that all figures are correct. If the figures are correct, the Municipal Alliance Coordinator will then send the bill(s) to A. DeLuca to be reviewed. Once bill(s) are approved/finalized by A. DeLuca, they will then be sent to the Hunterdon County Finance Department. V. Miller asked if using the County Finance department will be on-going, or if another fiscal agent will need to be found in the future. A. DeLuca advised the County Finance Department will remain the fiscal agent.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. FY2024 County Municipal Plan Grant Process Update:** A. DeLuca reported the FY2024 grant process is well on its way to being completed. She stated all twenty-six (26) municipalities have received their Form 1A documents to be signed by their Mayors. She advised out of all twenty-six (26) municipalities, twenty – three (23) Form 1As and twenty-four (24) Form 1Bs have been returned to her. A. DeLuca conveyed she has followed up with the three (3) outstanding municipalities and should be receiving their forms soon.

Regarding the additional grant application documents, A. DeLuca advised the grant plans were expected to be submitted through the Municipal Alliance Grant System (MAGS), however, GCADA has revised their process for this grant submission and the grant applications will be submitted by paper copy. The MAGS system will be discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

Regarding the programming for next year, the alliances have been meeting and discussing programming for next year. No programming has been scheduled yet.

- B. FY2023 DMHAS Funding:** A. DeLuca reported Matt Bellace presented his Wellness Programming – *Natural Highs* and *Coping/Resilience for Students* back in February to the middle school population. She was informed the presentation was a success and the students and staff were impressed with his work.

V. Miller asked if Matt Bellace was from DMHAS. A. DeLuca conveyed he works for himself and the DMHAS Youth Leadership Grant covered the cost of his presentation. She conveyed he focused on natural highs, emotional resilience, mental health, seeking out positive friendships, expressing feelings in productive ways, and pursuing natural healthy highs. She added the Mental Health Kits coincided with the Matt Bellace Programming.

A. DeLuca requested feedback from the schools that received the Mental Health Kits. The items that stood out were the rubik's cubes, fidgets, calming strips, the calming/mindfulness cards, calming corner kit, and sound machine. A. DeLuca added one of the schools reported that some students looked at the calming/mindfulness cards before doing the morning announcements for ideas.

- C. FY2024 DMHAS Funding:** A. DeLuca reported the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) funding that was received this year, will be the same amount to be received next year. The second grant term will span from September 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025. The Matt Bellace Wellness Programming and Mental Health Kits will be the programming used for the second grant term.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. MAGS System: A. DeLuca stated the Municipal Alliance Grant System (MAGS) was planned to be up and running for the FY2024 grant submissions. GCADA revised their process for this grant submission, FY2024, the grant plans will be submitted by paper copy. GCADA hopes to have the new system up and running by the fall and will hold trainings on how to use the new system. Once A. DeLuca has more information, she will share it with the group. A. DeLuca asked if there were any questions.

V. Miller asked if CASS members will be trained on the new MAGS system. A. DeLuca advised she is not certain. Once she has a definitive answer, she will let the group know. Discussion ensued.

VI. NEWS AND UPDATES:

Prosecutor's Office: R. Neiber announced Operation Helping Hand partnered with Hope One and they attended Shad Fest.

R. Neiber added the Prosecutor's van went to the vendor to be converted to a space that can be used during all climates. It will be outfitted with an interior table, chairs, storage area and will have an awning on the exterior. The van will be attending its first event, Community Day, on June 10, 2023. This event will take place at the Hunterdon County fairgrounds. There will be resources there and the event should attract a large crowd. The Prosecutor's Office also plans to bring the van to hotels, motels, food pantries, coffee shops, and other high traffic areas. He encouraged the group to inform the Prosecutor's Office of any upcoming events so they can attend.

R. Neiber reported the Prosecutor's Office is seeing an increase in Methamphetamines. He advised they have seen more Methamphetamines than they have seen Heroin recently. All specimens are being sent to the lab and are reported to contain fentanyl or xylazine.

R. Neiber was asked what the demographics were. He advised it does not discriminate and they are dealing with high school aged individuals through individuals in their 70s. He stated they plan to use the van as support for family members, not just for individuals in need. Discussion ensued. R. Neiber reported the highest age range of fatal overdoses is individuals between the age of 22 through 32.

V. Miller asked if Operation Helping Hand and Hope One were in all counties or just Hunterdon County. R. Neiber advised there is an Operation Helping Hand in every County and they are funded by the AG office. M. O'Reilly advised there are approximately twelve (12) Hope Ones throughout New Jersey. Discussion ensued.

A. DeLuca announced CASS is looking for members. If anyone knows of anyone who may be interested in joining, they can be referred to A. DeLuca.

V. Miller made a motion and C. Honthy seconded to adjourn the meeting of May 10, 2023. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m. All were in favor. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.