



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

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



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REFERENCE:

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

Approved May 25, 2022

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 3:30 p.m.

Call In and Webex Only

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

A. Fields	R. Horoschak
B. Renkens	R. Cooper
S. Elliott	F. Leddy
J. Cassano	S. Cohen
J. Gorman	J. Acosta
	J. Collevchio

EX-OFFICIO

M. Scherer
N. Troche

SUPPORT STAFF

M. O'Reilly
E. Neukum
L. Nauman
S. Becker
L. Piazza Long

GUESTS

K. Bloodgood
L. Zimmermann
B. Mastrianni
C. Sagona
R. Hager

COUNTY DIV. REPS.

S. Nekola
K. Burghardt

*Designees

I. CONVENE: OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS 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 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.”

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.

J. Collevechio opened the regular monthly meeting of the Council at 3:33 p.m. with a quorum present.

J. Collevechio read HSAC's Statement of Purpose.

Due to the recent public health crisis, COVID-19, this meeting was call in and Webex ONLY

II. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES: J. Collevechio asked for a motion to approve the March 23, 2022 minutes. A motion was made by J. Acosta and J. Gorman seconded to approve the meeting minutes. There were two abstentions. All members were in favor. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

III. PRESENTATION: Stacey Becker – Hope One: J. Collevechio introduced S. Becker. S. Becker stated she is the Mental Health Administrator and Drug & Alcohol Director for Hunterdon County. She explained the Hope One van started with assistance from the Innovation Grant starting in June 2020 and due to circumstances beyond their control related to the ongoing pandemic, the van was officially launched in February 2021.

The Hope One Van is a mobile resource vehicle that travels around the county offering information. This includes substance misuse information and resources, mental health information resources, social services, senior services and other local human services, as well as local agency resource information.

Additionally, the Hope One Van serves as a mobile medication drop off location, including needles, provides free Narcan and gives out Fentanyl testing strips, as well as information regarding Harm Reduction.

S. Becker continued to convey the Hope One Van provides assistance to and with: individuals struggling with an opiate addiction; linkages to detox, rehab and recovery support services; linkages to mental health services; linkages to housing assistance; linkages for SNAP, GA, TANF and Medicaid; services available in coordination with local non-profit; Narcan education and a medication drop-off site.

The Hope One Van partners with the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office who provide two officers in plain clothes each time the van goes out. They also partner with the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, mental health agencies, substance misuse agencies, One Voice (who continuously provide the van with bags of items for people in need), peer specialists, local non-profits and Prevention Resources, Inc.

How does Hope One reduce Stigma and assist with transportation? They attempt through the Stigma Free campaign to educate the towns about the stigma free movement and help them become stigma free and educate themselves; they are educating community members about necessary resources and where they and loved ones can get help; it normalizes asking for help; transportation to rehab can be arranged right from the van; and appointments for treatment or other services can be made right from the van.

How often will the Hope One Van be available? The van plans on going out on a weekly basis as scheduled on the Hope One site and the Stigma Free Facebook page; more dates will be added in the near future. Inclement weather has recently impacted the schedule. Hope One is available to attend special events such as opiate awareness presentations, street fairs and panel discussions;

and Hope One is always looking for locations in the community to set up to share these resources.

How many unduplicated individuals has Hope One served? Out of the 793 people who visited the van, 274 brochures were handed out, 4 rehabilitation referrals were made, 81 Narcan kits were distributed, 6 Social Services contacts were made, 5 medication drop-offs occurred and 26 other referrals were made such as vaccines, specific sheriff questions, elderly abuse inquiries and neglect questions were asked.

Some ongoing struggles with the Hope One Van are: how to get people to approach the van to discuss the services offered; the stigma of being seen in need of services; the lack of knowledge and denial of the need for services in Hunterdon County; and finding places to take the van in order to attract a larger audience.

Added difficulties during COVID were: hurdles with businesses and places to allow the Hope One Van to visit; engaging with people who were concerned to approach the van or thought they were able to provide vaccines; many of the area agencies were shut down during COVID, so there was less access to individuals than otherwise expected; and) finding enough staff to participate with the van and managing the challenges of several staff members working remotely.

S. Becker advised the Hope One Van needs locations to take the van, help with getting the word out about their services and locations, partnerships with agencies and peer specialists and community buy-in to approach and support the van which is the biggest challenge.

S. Becker, Assistant Mental Health Administrator and Alcohol & Drug Director can be reached at 908-788-1253, email, Hopeone@co.hunterdon.nj.us and website, <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/hopeone.htm>.

J. Collevchio thanked S. Becker for her informative presentation and asked how someone could schedule Hope One at their location. S. Becker stated she is the contact for a schedule and ensure herself and the sheriffs would be available to be present. J. Collevchio asked if S. Becker could explain Narcan and its significant and importance. S. Becker reported that Narcan is the overdose reversal drug that works on opioids and Fentanyl. The issue is there is so much manufactured Fentanyl being flushed into illegal substances right now, it is taking two or three doses of Narcan to reverse an overdose. They encourage people to take Narcan and keep on their person. You never know when someone may need it. Every kit that is given comes with two doses of Narcan in the form of a nose spray. In Hunterdon County, the amount of Fentanyl found in heroin has reached over 90%. Fentanyl is also making its way into other drugs such as cocaine, crack, methamphetamine and marijuana.

R. Horoschak inquired what the criteria is used to send the Hope One Van. S. Becker stated they are trying to get to everyone in the county. There are some difficulties, as some of the towns in the county do not have major businesses. Her prosecutor contact keeps her advised so if there is an area where many overdoses occurred, she will look to get the van out in that location. It is her goal to visit every single municipality in Hunterdon County. More local businesses outside of corporate businesses are easier to approach and park in their parking lots. S. Becker advises where the Hope One Van will be located is posted on their Facebook web page. L. Zimmerman asked if the libraries are included in communication. S. Becker will look into it. Based on J. Gorman's question about substance use disorder, S. Becker is primarily focused on this because that is what the Innovation Grant was developed to address. Discussion ensued.

S. Becker added DMHAS just put out a grant opportunity, for each county to have a Hope One Van.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Nominations for Chair/Co-Chair: J. Collevchio stated the vote will take place in May. L. Piazza Long stated she reached out to a few members to inquire if they were interested in the chair and co-chair positions. She had been told one person will think about the chair position and J. Gorman agreed to be the Co-Chair. She asked if anyone is willing at this point, please let her know. She will get back to the group. J. Collevchio thanked both L. Piazza Long and J. Gorman.

B. NAACP Hunterdon – Scott Cohen: S. Cohen stated that he asked M. O’Reilly to distribute out the invitation for the very first, The NAACP of Hunterdon County’s Induction Ceremony that will be held at The Stangl Factory, 50 Stangl Road, Flemington on Sunday, May 15, 2022 at 2:00 pm. This has been in the works for well over a year and the team is very excited. He continued they obtained all of the materials and documents to official charter and the membership numbers were up high enough to charter in January about a year and a half’s worth of work. The registration link can be located on the invitation. Their first official Board meeting will be on June 7, 2022 at the Hunterdon County Library Complex on Route 12. A lot of elected officials, as well as many of community members present. Welcome all! Thank you. L. Zimmermann stated she forwarded the invitation to her entire Tri-County CMO team.

Progressive Center for Independent Living – S. Elliott reported there will be a Support Coordination Info Fair for vendors, for parents, for anyone on May 12, 2022 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Church of The Holy Spirit. Come out and meet our Support Coordinators, get to know the transition process into DDD and explore local providers and services. Please RSVP by May 5, 2022.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. DCF Needs Assessment Update – Meagan O’Reilly: M. O’Reilly reported that the Director’s Association that she is part of shared with the DCF Commissioner and her staff all of the different needs assessments the counties are responsible for, i.e. alcohol and drug plan, aging plans, etc. basically everything the county is responsible for that does not necessarily fall under HSAC or DCF. It is important to look at what had already been done to eliminate any possible duplication with the DCF Needs Assessment. This is currently in the process, and DCF should have all of the assessments. They will look at where the gaps are and build the DCF Assessment from there. The thought was to combine the DCF Needs Assessment with the County HSAC Assessment within the three-year cycle; 2021-2023. She met with J. Spencer to go over the DCF Needs Assessment update and provided him with the information that the Planning & Integration Committee had worked on from over a year ago. More updates will be provided hopefully by the summer months.

VI. REPORTS:

A. County Department of Human Services (CDHS): M. O’Reilly stated she is happy to announce that the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services was awarded a grant for Communication access through The Deaf and Hard of Hearing under the state Department of Human Services in the amount of \$75,000 which will provide funding to support the installation of hearing loops in three county meeting locations, portable hearing loops for use at reception areas and funds to develop county programming in American sign language.

The State Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services has awarded funding to Rutgers for Early Intervention Support Services or (EISS), which will bring urgent care mental health treatment to Hunterdon County. The county currently does not have these services.

The New Jersey EISS model is a psychiatric urgent care clinic that offer adults access to crisis intervention services without having to rely on local hospital emergency departments. They provide rapid access to short term, recovery oriented, crisis intervention services. The program is intended to serve individuals who are 18 years of age or older, who are experiencing exacerbated symptoms of a mental illness. Services include assessment, psychiatric evaluation, pharmacologic interventions, short-term counseling and psychotherapy, psycho-education, time-limited case management, referral and linkage. EISS has routine “after-office” hours (e.g. weekends), accommodates “walk-ins” and offers quick access to staff with psychiatric prescriber privileges, when needed. This is very exciting for Hunterdon County!

We will share more information as it becomes available on where this center will be located, hours of operation and information regarding the available services. She is hopeful Rutgers will come to all of the HSAC meetings providing updates and informational needs.

Tri County CoC plans to release a letter of intent for FY22 in May 2022 with a June 2022 return date. More information will be shared soon via email.

The Tri County CoC lead – Family Promise of Sussex County is working on a project called Mapping with Mindfulness. They are working with a map software provider and are working to add all of the services available within the Tri County area to this map (similar to the GIS system). It is still being beta tested, and once it is running, I will plan to ask them to attend some of our county meetings once they are ready to launch this service.

Along with the minutes and agenda for this meeting and in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, we sent out the New Jersey Task force on Child Abuse and Neglect’s Statewide Prevention Plan for 2022-2025. This state plan includes different six priorities and various strategies to achieve these goals. The purpose of the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect is to study and develop recommendations regarding the most effective means of improving the quality and scope of child protective and preventative services provided or supported by State government, including a review of the practices and policies utilized by the Child Protection and Permanency (formerly Youth and Family Services) and Family and Community Partnerships (formerly Prevention and Community Partnerships) in the Department of Children and Families.

- B. NJ Department of Human Services (DHS):** N. Troche reported the leadership have been very busy with the budget cycle. He continued at a federal level that temporary protective status for the Ukraine and Sudan had been expanded services to those who have been coming to the United States since April 11. N. Troche is very happy to hear about the grant award for The Deaf and Hard of Hearing under the state Department of Human Services and suggested to invite Commissioner Neary if the need presents itself.

- C. NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P):** M. Scherer reported for the month of March, the Hunterdon local office is currently working with 260 youth with 16 youth in placement and received 48 referrals in this month, which is up 17 youth from last month. Brandi Harding who was overseeing the Hunterdon County DCP&P office has moved on and

Alisa Gaurino is the interim supervisor in charge of the office. Drug use is still a major issue with the families in Hunterdon County. L. Zimmermann inquired about the child abuse numbers. M. Scherer will go back to inquire and provide at next month's meeting.

D. HSAC Committee Reports:

R. Horoschak reminded the term for the officers for the Council, as well the committees end in May. Any committees must get everything in order to get ready to nominate Chairs and Co-Chairs and decide in May. J. Collevchio thanked R. Horoschak and stated this task is already underway.

R. Cooper advised of a group she found based on personal circumstances called Visiting Physicians. She can provide additional information upon request.

Housing Committee – K. Burghardt provided an update on the housing event that was just held. He explained this event was put together for renters, landlords and staff from various agencies and organizations. There were about 30 people attended within a two-hour period. People were connected to emergency housing and learned about the Section 8 program. The Willows started accepting applications today. K. Burghardt conveyed the Housing Committee questionnaire had been distributed at this event. It is for providers, renters and landlords. All of the information can be found on the website. R. Cooper added with S. Nekola and M. O'Reilly, flyers were printed and given to the Hunterdon County Library and will be displayed on the LINK buses.

Planning & Integration Committee – M. O'Reilly reiterated that she spoke with J. Spencer and recirculated the information regarding the assessment.

Outreach & Communication Committee – F. Leddy conveyed the committee discussed how they were outreaching prior and maybe that was not the best approach to get the message out. Additionally, they discussed spearheading a couple of projects that may help some of their constituents.

J. Collevchio conveyed the council has been looking for outreach and found gaps that were not at the table for the council meetings. They are discussing different sectors of the communities that are represented by members and guests participating in this meeting who are representing consumers in the county. Discussion about using the HSAC as a resource and using the words of the consumers and their needs back to the council members. J. Gorman formulated a spreadsheet that itemized the organization and what consumer group that the members represent. J. Gorman emailed a short while ago to the HSAC membership. She further explained that the spreadsheet is a list of voting and non-voting members and what organizations, and consumer groups are represented. This sheet identifies how much of the population is being represented by the council. The intent following the meeting is that each committee that is being represented to bring forward one or two initiatives that are thought to be great to have; something measurable, tangible and doable. Additionally, within the membership, vote upon it and ultimately, have one or two initiatives within HSAC that all the of members supports with needed funding and finally sit down with Commissioner Shaun Van Doren to advise of these supportive initiatives. She reiterated the spreadsheet was developed to represent the breadth of the community, as well as possibly at a next meeting, a submission of an idea could be presented that could win the support of the council. J. Collevchio added and spoke of various examples and approaches. Discussion ensued. Based

on R. Cooper's suggestion, it would be helpful to submit any ideas a week before (by May 17) the next HSAC meeting.

R. Horoschak suggested to continue to seek representation from Fisherman's Mark and a member of clergy, as well as the Hunterdon Healthcare Foundation. K. Blanda will be present at the next meeting.

Legislative Committee – S. Elliott stated in all of his 20+ years serving in the Human Services field within the past year or two, he had not seen so many bills related to disability, which is a good thing. The NJ Workability Program had been signed by Governor Murphy and will more information will be forthcoming. The bill will be presented to the Medicaid Advisory Council Committee within the next few weeks.

S. Elliott announced the Office of Emergency Management Department is seeking a full time AFN Coordinator within the New Jersey State Police.

S. Elliott stated he had been recently appointed by the governor to the Casino Revenue Fund Commission. A hot topic that will be coming up is the no smoking sections in Atlantic City casinos. It is anticipated there will be some opposition, and this could impact this fund by 25%.

S. Elliott raised another piece of legislation called the NJ Long-Term Care Ombudsman (NJLTCO) which works to protect the rights and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of New Jersey residents aged 60 and older who live in long-term care facilities. All services are free and confidential. Any questions or suggestions, please contact S. Elliott.

E. CDHS Committee Reports: No Report at this time.

VII. GOALS & ACTION: None at this time.

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.

IX.* MOTION TO ADJOURN:
J. Gorman made a motion and S. Elliott seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m. The next meeting will be held May 25, 2022.

***= Item Requires Action**

Note to Council Members: If members are unable to attend the meeting, please notify the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services.