

HSAC Minutes
March 2, 2022

- I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – J. Roy
The meeting was called to order at 2:02pm. Meeting held via Zoom. Roll call followed.

Members Present:

Joe Faldetta – Provider
Joe Sittineri – Provider
John Roy – Consumer Advocate
Bridget DeFiccio – Provider
Chris Zellers – Consumer Advocate
Lorenzo McFadden - Provider
Donna Groome – Provider
Nichol Hoff – Consumer Advocate
Wayne Whelan – Member-at-Large
Carol Haig – Member-at-Large
Terri Bryan – Provider
Christa Loper – Provider
Joe Fahy – Member-at-Large
Rose Kuprianov – Consumer

Members Excused:

Mary Dozier
Jamie Moscony
Judy Kunec
Megan Santiago
Jeffrey Pierson

Interested Persons:

Brad Preston – Community Food Bank NJ
Robert Abbamondi – Community Food Bank NJ
Claire Galiano – CARA
Jennifer Arenberg – JCDT&OC
Elizabeth Reed – NJ DOL/One Stop
Rick Hager – NJ DCF
Jen Hirsch – DCP&P
Joel Mastromarino – DCP&P
Krista Fitzsimons – CMC Division of Aging & Disability Services
Peter Belasco – CMC DHS
Jen Zoyac – CSPNJ
Norma Cordeiro – NJ DVRS
LaTanya Wood El – Acenda Integrated Health
Sarah Matthews – CMC Habitat for Humanity
Sharon Modzelewski – CMC DHS
Pat Devaney – CMC DHS
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – J. Roy
Minutes from the 2/2/22 meeting were emailed to voting members. B. DeFiccio motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and J. Fahy 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 stating that the focus of the HSAC office for the past month has been on contracting – closing out CY 2021 contracts and implementing CY 2022 contracts for those services for which the HSAC is the designated administering agency and planning – developing and overseeing the application process for the HTF housing assistance program. Regarding budgets, the County budget was introduced on 2/22/22; it is expected to be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners at their 3/22/22 meeting. Governor Murphy has scheduled his budget address for 3/8/22. NJ DHS will provide a synopsis of the Department’s proposed budget after the Governor’s address. As noted in the Executive report, proposals in response to the RFP for DV Shelter Services were due on 2/9/22. Clarifications were needed prior to scheduling the Program Review Committee meeting. All clarifications have been received. The PRC is scheduled to meet on 3/4/22. For the HTF, the Advisory Board is scheduled to meet tonight (3/2). The Board had opened the application cycle for a second round on 2/1/22. The Board is expected to review the applications and make funding recommendations at this evening’s meeting. The SHSAC met on 2/25/22. The only information on the HSAC Needs Assessment process was that there were no further updates. It was also noted that the HSAC regulations are being moved forward for readoption with a notation that there may be additional language changes after the adoption. To that end, County HSACs are being asked to send any suggested revisions to N. Kapetanakis, Chair of the SHSAC, for discussion and consideration at the April SHSAC meeting. There are two (2) RFPs out that could impact CMC: The 1st is for the recovery center; the amount is \$100,000 and the award will be announced this Friday. The 2nd RFP is for Early Intervention Support Services which is an “urgent care” model attached to the psychiatric screening service; that award date is 3/28/22. Lastly, there will be a presentation on the community “pop-up” events (official title is the Initiative for Community Wellness – “iComWell” program) sponsored by Acenda immediately after the close of the business meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend the presentation as this is an opportunity to get information on agency services out to the community.

IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché
N. Troché was unable to attend today’s meeting. J. Roy stated that S. Hand forwards all informational emails from NJ DHS to all on the HSAC distribution lists.
- DCF – J. Hirsch
A written report with the statistics for the Cape May DCP&P local office for the month of January 2022 was distributed with the meeting packet. J. Hirsch stated that she would be reporting orally on the February 2022 statistics which she received just prior to the meeting. She then highlighted the following from the February statistics: there were 55 intakes (49 for child abuse/neglect investigations and 6 for child welfare assessments) and 303 cases (a total of 589 children with 76 of those children in a resource home placement). Four (4) children were removed in February and there were no adoptions. J. Hirsch then reported that six (6) new workers have been hired for the Cape May office and more may be hired; the office is grateful for the new staff as several staff members left during COVID. She concluded by asking if anyone knew of any agency or service that provides lock boxes as DCP&P provides these to households to safely store medications. J. Faldetta responded that Cape Assist has identified funding that will allow them to order the boxes for DCP&P.

V. Committee Reports:

a. Executive Committee – J. Roy

Minutes from the 2/23/22 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. J. Roy referenced #7 of the minutes to note that the Executive Board voted to hold the annual HSAC luncheon and presentation of plaques at the June meeting (postponed from December due to COVID). S. Hand added that she has been able to confirm the site and is working to confirm the vendor.

b. Disability Services Committee – K. Fitzsimons

Minutes from the 2/15/22 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. K. Fitzsimons reported that the minutes provide a good summary of the status/activities of CMC programs. She highlighted the following from the agency reports: annual events sponsored by County Departments that are typically held indoors in the spring have been cancelled for 2022; a decision for those events held outdoors or in the fall has not yet been made, SJLS has hired additional attorneys in the CMC office allowing for the office to offer more assistance in family and educational law, and there continues to be a statewide shortage in beds available for respite group homes due to limited staff in group homes and that staff being needed for group home residents. K. Fitzsimons added that there have been more developments in the reopening of the CMC Easter Seals program since the DSC meeting. K. Fitzsimons asked R. Kuprianov to provide the update since the FSC#10 has been working on this issue. R. Kuprianov stated that the FSC#10 of which she is co-chair with Ann Borger has been working with Assemblyman McClellan and representatives of Easter Seals to identify a location to house the day program. Currently, Easter Seals is offering a community inclusion program which does not have a facility component but is comprised of community outings/field trips. The details have been worked out and Easter Seals will be reopening a hybrid program that will include both community outings and in-house programming. The facility is located within the Crest Haven complex. The facility will require renovations prior to use. It is expected that the new Easter Seals program will begin in September 2022. R. Kuprianov added that a flyer for the new program is being developed; she will forward to S. Hand for distribution once available. J. Roy commended R. Kuprianov for her efforts and the efforts of FSC#10 to bring the Easter Seals program back to CMC. R. Kuprianov thanked J. Roy and noted that the reopening of this program is giving her a great sense of accomplishment for not only herself, but everyone involved with the process. R. Kuprianov concluded by stating that regarding the statewide shortage of respite beds, a program has been identified that is not linked to the consumer's HMO that can provide up to 21 days of respite. More information is needed on the program, but she will continue to investigate and report back to Council.

c. Program Review Committee – J. Kunec

J. Roy reported for J. Kunec. The PRC is scheduled to meet on 3/4/22 to review the proposals submitted in response to the RFP for DV Shelter Services funded with County dollars and administered by the HSAC. The Committee's funding recommendations will then be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

d. WFNJ-WTW – D. Groome

A written report detailing WFNJ/SNAP caseload numbers for Cape May County for the 4th quarter of 2021 was distributed with the meeting packet. The report also included graphs comparing the caseloads from 2016 through 2021. D. Groome noted the graphs were sent out in color to allow for ease of comparison. She added that the data begins with 2016 as that is the year that she started as the Director of Social Services and that data began to be tracked in this manner. D. Groome highlighted the following trends from the graphs: GA – in 2016, the average GA caseload was 187, this represents the highest caseload since tracking began. In 2021, there was a sharp peak in the caseload when the number of cases were similar to 2016 but by the end of 2021 the numbers lowered to the point of the lowest caseload during the tracking period; the average caseload was 139. D. Groome added that the GA 28-day requirement has been suspended since

March of 2020 and has not yet been reinstated. The GA mandatory work requirement was reinstated on 2/1/22; the first cohort of those required to participate were referred to the One Stop on 2/22/22, but since March 2020 there has been no mandatory work participation. TANF – 2016 recorded the highest case count since tracking began. There were increases in 2021 but TANF cases were not as impacted by COVID as GA and SNAP. The ups and downs of the TANF caseload are more in line with the seasonal nature of the CMC economy. Currently, TANF numbers are the lowest that they have been in history; this is true for the county, the state, and nationwide. The primary reason for denial of TANF in CMC is not participating with child support. SNAP – the pandemic has created an increase in SNAP cases. 2016 was the year of the highest number of SNAP cases until September/October of 2021. 2021 is now the year with the highest number of cases. 2019 had the lowest number of cases (2020 began as the lowest number of cases until COVID). D. Groome concluded by noting that in NJ SNAP recipients do not have to participate in a work activity or prove they are working; it is voluntary. C. Galiano commented on the increased number of SNAP cases by stating that CARA places flyers for the program in bags of food from their food bank. She added that she is pleased to see that outreach efforts are working. R. Abbamondi of the Community Food Bank NJ stated that the Food Bank has staff available to assist consumers with SNAP applications. Anyone interested in this service should contact R. Abbadmondi directly.

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

The next meeting of the CEAS Committee is scheduled for 3/8/22 at 10am.

f. CIACC – S. Modzelewski

S. Modzelewski reported that the next CIACC meeting is scheduled for 3/16/22 at 1:30pm.

g. Membership – C. Loper

C. Loper reported that voting membership for Council is full. In addition, all annual Conflict of Interest Statements have been received.

A motion was made by T. Bryan and seconded by B. DeFiccio to accept the committee reports as presented. Motion carried.

VI. Liaison Reports

a. Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council – M. Dozier

K. Fitzsimons reported for M. Dozier. K. Fitzsimons stated that the Division's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has begun. This is a free tax preparation service that is available to low- and moderate-income individuals/couples. Appointments are required. A flyer on the program including logistics such as sites and times was included in the meeting packet.

b. Workforce Development Board – T. Bryan

T. Bryan prepared a written report which was included in the meeting packet. She highlighted the following from the report: 1) the Adults & Dislocated workers program is doing well, 2) the OJT program is also doing well, but could use more referrals as there are plenty of employers looking for workers, and 3) all youth programs both in and out of school programs are struggling for participants but they are open. T. Bryan concluded by stating that all referrals are welcomed.

VII. Old Business

There was no *old business*.

VIII. New Business

1. B. Preston of the Community Food Bank of NJ (CFBNJ) stated that CFBNJ has started an initiative in Atlantic County that provides mobile food distribution. This allows food to be brought to the consumer. He explained that CFBNJ would like to bring this service to CMC. He asked for suggestions of locations such as motels, campgrounds, mobile home parks, etc. P. Devaney asked if he would like to be invited to attend events. B. Preston responded that CFBNJ would send the Resource Access Team that R. Abbamondi leads to community events. The mobile food distribution would be more appropriate for locations with long term residents and where a schedule could be established that would allow for consistency. S. Hand asked B. Preston to put his email in the "chat box" so that those with suggestions for sites could email him directly.
2. J. Roy announced that Cape-Atlantic INK has been awarded approximately \$68,000 in Community Development funding from CSOC for Cape May and Atlantic Counties. The dollars will be used to fund several projects based on needs identified through the various needs assessments including the HSAC and CIACC needs assessments. Cape-Atlantic INK has issued an RFP for this funding. He noted that S. Hand has shared the funding announcement with all on the HSAC distribution lists and S. Modzelewski has shared with the CIACC distribution list. There will be a bidder's conference on 3/4/22 from 10-11am. While it is not mandatory, all are encouraged to attend.

IX. Public Response

J. Roy announced that there will be a presentation on the "iComWell" initiative by LaTanya Wood El of Acenda immediately after the close of the business meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:48pm.