

HSAC Minutes
October 5, 2022

- I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – J. Roy
The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm. Meeting held via Zoom. Introductions followed.

Members Present:

Christa Loper – Provider
John Roy – Consumer Advocate
Judy Kunec – Member-at-Large
Bridget DeFiccio – Provider
Jamie Moscony – Member-at-Large
Joe Fahy – Member-at-Large
Donna Groome – Provider
Chris Zellers – Consumer Advocate
Terri Bryan – Provider
Lorenzo McFadden – Provider
Carol Haig – Member-at-Large
Joe Sittineri – Provider
Mary Dozier – Provider
Rose Kuprianov – Consumer

Members Excused:

Nichol Hoff
Jeffrey Pierson
Wayne Whelan
Megan Santiago
Joe Faldetta

Interested Persons:

Sarah Matthews – Habitat for Humanity
Elizabeth Reed – NJ DOL
Jennifer Arenberg – JCDT&OC
Joel Mastromarino – DCP&P
Rick Hager – DCF
Michelle Altenpohl – SJLS
Katrina Tattoli – SJLS
Greg Speed – CVAC
Danae Palomino – Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative
Claire Galiano – CARA
Jennifer Hirsch – DCP&P
Peter Belasco – CMC Human Services
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

- II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – J. Roy
Minutes from the 9/7/22 meeting were emailed to voting members. D. Groome motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and J. Sittineri 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 stated that she would be giving a brief oral report as most of the activities of the office are covered under the various committee reports including the Executive Committee report. The HSAC office has completed the update of the recommendations cited in the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness (developed in 2016). The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the document for distribution at their September meeting. A PDF of the document was sent to all HSAC voting members, the HTF Advisory Board, the CEAS distribution list, and Commissioners Thornton and Pierson on 10/4/22. The SNJCoC submitted the application and accompanying project proposals for the 2022 HUD CoC Competition on 9/28/22. The SNJCoC is also working on the application for the 2022 HUD Supplemental NOFO to serve unsheltered homeless. This plan and accompanying project applications are due to HUD by 10/20/22. The completion of these plans and the review/ranking of project proposals has been a major focus of HSAC staff for the past month as it required four (4) proposal review committee meetings and the reading/scoring of 40+ proposals. Regarding contracting, the HSAC office will be issuing the renewal application packets for those human services' programs funded with County dollars and administered by the HSAC by the end of October. Agencies will have approximately one (1) month to complete and return the applications for CY 2023 funding. As previously reported, the contract requirement for County HSACs for SFY 2023 is not a needs assessment but rather a resource directory. The DCF work group to develop the plans for the resource guide/database met on 9/27/22. The goal is to develop a master resource directory/database for NJ. It seems likely that NJ2-1-1 will be used as the host platform. The details related to the directory are still to be determined. This initial meeting was simply to develop consensus regarding the master directory concept. The group is expected to meet again in a few weeks. S. Hand concluded by reporting that NJ DCF has developed a concept paper on the Department's plan to revamp the SBYS program. She added that she just received the concept paper and has not had a chance to fully review, however; it appears that there will be a move to programming through community "hubs" rather than at individual schools. D. Groome stated that she is saddened by the proposed loss of the current SBYS program design. J. Roy reported that the DCF concept paper was shared with the CIACC. There are concerns regarding the change in program setting (moving out of the schools which reduces access for students) and design. J. Moscony shared her disappointment and concern as a SBYS provider in that current SBYS providers were not invited to participate in the discussions regarding the proposed change in program design/concept. A discussion ensued regarding advocacy for maintaining the current SBYS program model. B. DeFiccio stated that NJAMHAA is speaking with stakeholders across the state and that advocacy efforts like those undertaken two (2) years ago when SBYS funding was in jeopardy have already begun. B. DeFiccio will keep Council updated on this issue. S. Hand concluded the discussion by stating that anyone who did not receive the concept paper but would like a copy should email her directly.

IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché
J. Roy stated that N. Troché was unable to attend today's meeting. He then noted that S. Hand forwards all informational emails from NJ DHS to all on the HSAC distribution lists.
- DCF – J. Hirsch
J. Hirsch stated that the statistics for the Cape May DCP&P local office for the month of September 2022 are not yet available. She then reported that the Cape May local office has been busy with intakes and new referrals. She added that new staff have been hired.

V. Committee Reports:

- a. Executive Committee – J. Roy
Minutes from the 9/28/22 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. J. Roy stated that S. Hand provided updates and/or more information on some of the items discussed at

the Committee meeting during her administrator's report. He asked if there were any questions on the Executive Committee report. There were none.

b. Disability Services Committee – K. Fitzsimons

J. Roy stated that K. Fitzsimons was unable to attend today's meeting. He asked R. Kuprianov to provide an update on the Resources for Independent Living (RIL) program coming to CMC. R. Kuprianov reported that Lisa Killion-Smith, Executive Director of RIL, attended the September FSC#10 meeting. At the meeting, she gave a comprehensive presentation on RIL's proposed program. RIL will be able to start the Day Habitation program with as little as one (1) consumer as they will offer other programs and services to offset costs. R. Kuprianov stated that she was very excited about the new program as it provides CMC consumers with increased options. J. Roy stated that he attended the presentation and was also pleased with the plans. He added that he was impressed with the fact that 51% of RIL's Board are persons with or they live with a person with I/DD. R. Kuprianov stated that JCDT&OC will be sharing information on their services and programs at an upcoming FSC#10 meeting. S. Hand noted that the next meeting of the DSC is scheduled for 10/18/22; it will be held via Zoom.

c. Program Review Committee – J. Kunec

No report.

d. WFNJ-WTW – D. Groome

A written report detailing WFNJ/SNAP caseload numbers for Cape May County for June 2022 and a quarterly report depicting the statistics for the 2nd quarter of 2022 were distributed with the meeting packet. The quarterly report illustrates the monthly changes in program caseloads. D. Groome stated that the caseload numbers decreased slightly in all categories between May and June (common for this time of the year). She added that both the GA and SNAP caseload are still higher than pre-pandemic levels. D. Groome noted that she reviews both DFD statistics (which are behind) and County maintained statistics which are more current. Typically, there are not many new applications over the summer months; this year was different as there was an increase in applications for a variety of services this summer with SNAP applications being 240% higher than last summer. While the number of applications has increased, the number of cases has remained relatively stable. This can be attributed to cases terminating and the denial of new applications. Most denials are due to the applicant not submitting required documentation. Lastly, the Division of Social Services is preparing for the end of the public health emergency. Once the end of the emergency is declared, there will be a return to the redetermination/recertification process for Medicaid (suspended during the emergency) and an end to the maximum allotment for SNAP benefits (under Covid waivers). The Division is preparing for not only the increase in processing of cases but in the number of questions from consumers who may not understand the difference in their SNAP benefits.

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

Minutes from the 9/13/22 CEAS meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. S. Matthews reported that the agency/program reports provide updated information on local services to the homeless. She added that while agency representatives continue to report a scarcity in available rental units, there was some good news in that there is an increase in the availability of motel rooms that are used for emergency shelter. S. Matthews then reported that the "agency spotlight" for September was CARA. She added that C. Galiano provided the Committee with a detailed presentation on the services offered by CARA.

f. CIACC – S. Modzelewski

J. Roy reported for S. Modzelewski. Minutes from the 9/21/22 meeting were distributed in the meeting packet. The following items were highlighted: 1) Jen Valentine gave an informative

presentation about Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children of Atlantic, Cape May, and Camden Counties. The advocates are appointed by Family Court Judges to advocate for the best interest of children who are in out of home placements. Atlantic Cape CASA serves 80% of youth in out of home placements in a given year. There are 13 CASAs in NJ. Camden CASA recently merged with the Atlantic Cape CASA. 2) Agency representatives provided updates on their services and activities. Several programs continue to be short staffed. 3) Cape Assist will provide a Teen Mental Health First Aid training to 10th graders at four high schools (Ocean City, Tech High School, Middle Township, Lower Cape May Regional). 4) October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month which will be recognized by CARA with prevention activities. The agency put in a veteran's line for domestic and sexual violence; and advocates are being trained. Agency is seeking to hire a veteran therapist. The next CIACC meeting will be held on October 19th.

g. Membership – C. Loper

C. Loper reported that Council is currently at full membership (with the reappointments of herself and W. Whelan by the CMC Commissioners). She added that the Committee will begin looking to develop a slate of candidates for CY 2023 Council officers. Any voting member interested in serving as a Council officer should email S. Hand.

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

VI. Liaison Reports

a. MHADA Board – P. Belasco

Minutes from the 9/13/22 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. P. Belasco reported on the following: 1) The Board has two (2) membership openings – anyone interested should contact P. Devaney. 2) Hope One program is going well and is looking to expand by buying a car for the “Knock and Talk” program. 3) Overdose Awareness Day was a huge success. 4) There is a concern regarding the number of people that do not go to CRMC after an overdose; the issue is being further analyzed. 5) The EISS program has hired a director and should be operational within the next month. B. DeFiccio added that three (3) key staff positions have been filled and while not yet fully staffed, the program can accept referrals. 6) An RFP for the Strengthening Families program was issued. 7) The County has signed up on the portal for Opioid settlement funds; the first payment is expected in October. 8) The County received its allocation for 2023 SUD funds. The proposed allocation plan is attached to the minutes.

b. Youth Services Commission – S. Modzelewski

S. Hand reported for S. Modzelewski. Minutes from the 9/13/22 meeting were distributed in meeting packet. The following were highlighted: 1) County Commissioners approved the 2023 application which is due to the State in October. The application requests funding for three programs: Family Management prevention program, Station House Adjustment program, and Intensive Supervision Program. A decision regarding the use of an additional unexpected \$34,204 in funding will be made at a later date. 2) Program representatives provided updates on their activities. The next YSC meeting will be held on November 9th.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

1. D. Groome announced that the County component of the One Stop Career Center has joined the County Department of Human Services as of 9/25/22. It had been previously housed under the County Department of Planning.

2. J. Roy stated that M. Santiago provided flyers on the County Health Department flu clinics. The flyers were included in the meeting packet and are in both English and Spanish.
3. R. Kuprianov announced that the Sweethearts Ball for persons with I/DD will be held on 10/30/22 at the Wildwood Convention Center. The cutoff for signing up is 10/10/22. R. Kuprianov will email S. Hand an event flyer with all the program details for distribution.
4. R. Hager stated that he previously emailed the link to the DCF Youth mental health PSA. He noted that the PSA is available in English and Spanish. R. Hager then reported that DCF is accepting comments on the revamped SBYS program through October 14th.
5. C. Galiano stated that October is DV Awareness month. CARA will be hosting two (2) candlelight vigils; CARA will also be hosting their Red Alert Fundraising event on 10/20/22.

IX. Public Response

There was no public response.

Meeting adjourned at 2:57pm.