

HSAC Minutes
December 7, 2022

- I. Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions – J. Roy
The meeting was called to order at 2:01pm. Roundtable introductions followed. J. Roy stated that HSAC recognition award for 2022 is being presented to a very special individual who has been at the helm of Cape May County government for many years and who was instrumental in the implementation of the HSAC in the County. The recognition award is being presented to CMC Commissioner Director Gerald Thornton.

Members Present:

Joe Sittineri – Provider
John Roy – Consumer Advocate
Rose Kuprianov – Consumer
Judy Kunec – Member-at-Large
Wayne Whelan – Member-at-Large
Joe Fahy – Member-at-Large
Donna Groome – Provider
Chris Zellers – Consumer Advocate
Terri Bryan – Provider
Megan Santiago – Consumer Advocate

Members Excused:

Bridget DeFiccio
Nichol Hoff
Lorenzo McFadden
Carol Haig
Joe Faldetta
Mary Dozier
Jeffrey Pierson
Jamie Moscony
Christa Loper

Interested Persons:

Natalie Kuprianov – Consumer/Guest
Nelson Amey – Former Member/Guest
Sarah Matthews – Habitat for Humanity
Jennifer Arenberg – JCDT&OC
Christina Ennis – CMC DCBHS
Jennifer Hirsch – DCP&P
Michelle Altenpohl – SJLS
Danae Palomino – Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative
Pat Devaney – CMC Human Services
Sabrina Hand – HSAC Coordinator

- II. Additions and Corrections to the Minutes – J. Roy
Minutes from the 11/2/22 meeting were emailed to voting members. T. Bryan motioned to accept the minutes as circulated and J. Kunec 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 most of the activities of the office are covered under the various committee reports including the Executive Committee report. She added that there are a few updates to the information discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. S. Hand then reported the following: 1) The DCF work group tasked with developing the plans for the statewide resource directory/database met on 11/30/22. At the meeting, those present discussed the various levels of need of those who utilize directories/database, the components needed to make a user friendly and effective directory/database, and additional stakeholders such as the NJ DOH that need to be included in the planning meetings. The next meeting of the planning group is scheduled for 12/19/22. 2) The CDHS (by Division) had its meeting with the budget committee and the Board of County Commissioners this morning (12/7/22). While the Department is seeking level funding for most programs and/or services, there is always the possibility that modifications will be made to the Department's proposed budget during the budget process. 3) For the HTF, the Advisory Board will not meet in December; the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 1/3/23. An update on participating households and funding utilization will be provided to Board members in December for discussion at the January meeting. 4) The HSAC office will be issuing its annual survey regarding the HSAC meetings via Survey Monkey again this year. The goal of the survey is to determine if HSAC members/interested persons are happy with the meeting format or if there are recommendations for improvement. The survey tool adds a question about open discussions during the public comment section of the agenda. The goal of this question is to ascertain if attendees would like the meeting format to include a less formal segment of the agenda to discuss/ask questions on issues that may or may not be related to HSAC operations. The minutes for this section would be limited to the topics discussed rather than the full conversations. The survey will also solicit input from attendees regarding the preferred format (virtual, in-person) for future meetings. The survey link will be sent to all HSAC voting members and to those interested persons that are in attendance the December meeting. S. Hand concluded by expressing her sincere appreciation and gratitude for everyone's continued participation, commitment, and support of the HSAC and the human/social services community. She wished those present a very happy holiday season and a happy, healthy new year.

IV. State Department Reports:

- DHS – N. Troché

J. Roy stated that N. Troché was unable to attend today's meeting. J. Roy noted 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 months of October and November 2022 was distributed with the meeting packet. J. Hirsch highlighted the following from the October and November statistics: there were 83 intakes in October and 72 in November, there were 268 total cases in October and 254 in November, and five (5) children were removed in October and November. Thus far this year, six (6) adoptions have been finalized. J. Hirsch concluded by stating that the local office continues to be very busy. S. Matthews asked if there were any data available on the caseload size today compared to the caseload size of previous years as it relates to the changes in the County's demographics as the number of children living in the County has decreased over the years. J. Hirsch responded that she would investigate to see if that data is available.

V. Committee Reports:

- a. Executive Committee – J. Roy

Minutes from the 11/30/22 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet via email. J. Roy referenced #9 of the minutes regarding the HSAC meeting schedule to remind those present that the CMC HSAC does not meet in January. He added that the Executive Committee is

recommending that the Committee (Executive) be empowered to convene and conduct business on behalf of Council should an issue arise that necessitates action prior to the next HSAC meeting (February 2023). R. Kuprianov made a motion that the Executive Committee be empowered as stated by J. Roy. W. Whelan seconded. Motion carried.

b. Disability Services Committee – K. Fitzsimons

J. Roy reported for K. Fitzsimons. The next meeting of the DSC is scheduled for 1/18/23; it will be held via Zoom.

c. Program Review Committee – J. Kunec

J. Kunec reported that the Executive Committee serving as the Program Review Committee (PRC) reviewed the CY 2023 renewal application summaries for those programs administered by the HSAC. She noted that minor revisions were needed for all applications. The agencies were contacted, and revisions were due to the HSAC office on 12/5/22. The PRC is recommending that the HSAC office move forward with the preparation of the CY2023 contracts pending the review and acceptance of all needed revisions. W. Whelan made a motion to approve the renewal of the six (6) County \$ contracts administered by the HSAC. M. Santiago seconded. Motion carried.

d. WFNJ-WTW – D. Groome

A written report detailing the DFD WFNJ/SNAP caseload numbers for Cape May County for July 2022 was distributed with the meeting packet. D. Groome stated that she would note that the GA cases were higher this past July than the numbers traditionally seen in July, whereas the SNAP cases were lower. D. Groome then reported that she has done an analysis of applications submitted to the Division. There has been a 60% increase in the number of applications this year than those submitted in 2021. She added that the Division has 30 days to review and make a determination on an application once it is submitted. In September, the Division received a total of 853 new applications (for GA, TANF, and SNAP combined); the Division received a total of 1,027 new applications in October. It is believed that overall inflation including the increase in food costs is causing more people to apply for services. In addition, DFD sent letters to consumers that are receiving WIC to notify them of their potential eligibility for SNAP benefits. In CMC, this equated to 400 households and the potential for the Division to receive an additional 400 applications.

e. CEAS – S. Matthews

Minutes from the 11/15/22 CEAS meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. S. Matthews reported that in addition to agency/program and SNJCoC updates, the CEAS Committee conducted several housekeeping business items at the meeting. She added that the calendar of meeting dates and meeting format for CY 2023 were established, representatives to the SNJCoC Executive Board were selected, and a list of agencies to present during the agency spotlight segment in 2023 were identified. The Committee also began preliminary planning for the 2023 PITC.

f. CIACC – S. Modzelewski

Minutes from the 11/16/22 were distributed in the meeting packet. J. Roy reported for S. Modzelewski. The following items were highlighted: Three presentations were provided: 1) Nicoletta Tomarch of The ARC of New Jersey Family Institute presented information about the organization which provides families with resources and education to access the supports and services for individuals with an intellectual and developmental disability. Organizations helps families find the best way to navigate the service delivery system and its changes. 2) Temerity Berry, of Cape Assist, facilitated a recorded presentation by Joe Faldetta regarding Underage Marijuana Use Prevention which included discussion about the layering of prevention services by

using multiple strategies over multiple sectors, and the importance of making connections with youth to then have the difficult conversations about drug use; and 3) Jen Kugler of Acenda explained the agency's Trauma, Treatment, and Support Services Program. The purpose of the program is to mitigate the impact of witnessing domestic violence for the children exposed to this form of violence through Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. The next CIACC meeting will be held on 12/14/22.

g. Membership – C. Loper

S. Hand reported for C. Loper. She stated that the Committee's written membership report which lists the Committee's recommendations for membership and CY 2023 HSAC officers was distributed with the meeting packet. The Membership Committee is asking for action on two (2) items of business. First, J. Fahy made a motion that the HSAC recommend J. Faldetta to the Board of County Commissioners for a second term. T. Bryan seconded. Motion carried. Second, the following slate of officers for CY 2023 recommended by the Committee at the 11/2/22 Council meeting be submitted for a vote: John Roy – Chairperson, Wayne Whelan – Vice Chairperson, Christa Loper – Membership Chairperson, Judy Kunec – Program Review Chairperson, Donna Groome – Director and Carol Haig – Director. J. Roy opened the floor to additional nominations. There were none. T. Bryan made a motion to close the nominations and J. Fahy seconded. Motion carried. M. Santiago motioned to accept the slate of officers as presented by the Membership Committee and R. Kuprianov seconded. Motion carried.

A motion was made by J. Kunec and seconded by J. Sittineri to accept the committee reports as presented. Motion carried.

VI. Liaison Reports

a. MHADA Board – P. Belasco

Minutes from the 10/11/22 meeting were distributed with the meeting packet. P. Devaney highlighted the following from the minutes: 1) The Recovery High School is doing well. There are currently 7 students; 6 are from CMC. 2) The SBYS program will continue to be funded for another year (current model). DCF has issued an RFP for the "hub and spoke" model; it is available on the DCF website. P. Devaney noted that the RFP is extensive. DCF has grouped CMC with Atlantic County for this RFP. The schools identified as high risk in CMC are Wildwood, Woodbine, and Middle Township; it is believed DCF used socio-economic indicators to assess risk. 3) The Early Intervention Support Services (EISS) program that is to be an urgent care model for mental health was awarded to Acenda in CMC. The program will be housed at the Acenda site in the Crest Haven complex. The Agency is having difficulty in hiring staff. It was noted that there are long-range plans to move the psychiatric screening service out of CRMC (the hospital setting) to a more comfortable site to lessen the anxiety of those being screened. 4) The County issued an RFP for prevention services that utilized EBPs. After a review of the 7 applications received, the Board voted to recommend to the County Commissioners that Cape Assist be awarded funding for a Strengthening Families program for families with children aged 6 to 10. 5) The process is underway to identify a provider for 12-hour and the 48-hour IDRC program. 6) The MHADA Board awards for 2022 are being given to K. Faldetta for her work with SUD and to the Branches for mental health. P. Devaney noted that Branches has a new executive director. She suggested that she be invited to an upcoming Council meeting to introduce herself to the representatives of the other agencies operating in the County. P. Devaney concluded by asking G. Speed if he wanted to provide an update on CVAC (Citizens Veterans Advisory Committee). G. Speed responded that CVAC works to link veterans living in CMC with resources and services. The Agency has recently worked with several homeless veterans. The current housing market and the scarcity of rental properties has made this a very challenging issue. CVAC has been having discussions with Cape Hope regarding a joint venture

that would utilize a plot of land to provide permanent housing for veterans. He will update Council on this project as it develops.

b. Youth Services Commission – S. Modzelewski

Minutes from the 11/9/22 meeting were distributed in meeting packet. S. Hand reported for S. Modzelewski. The following items were highlighted: 1) Commission approved Cape Assist to provide Strengthening Families program in 2023. 2) Programs provided updates on their services and activities. 3) A presentation about the No Limits Boxing Academy (NLBA) located in Rio Grande was provided. NLBA is a boxing and youth development program to help youth become the best versions of themselves through boxing, fitness, academics, etc. The next YSC meeting will be held on January 10th.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

1. M. Santiago announced that the CMC Health Department will be bringing back their resource day in 2023 (the event had been shuttered due to Covid). The event will be held on 4/1/23 at the Wildwood Convention Center. The event is entitled “CMC Healthy Community Day”. M. Santiago stated that she will forward the invite for potential vendors/exhibitors to S. Hand for distribution once it is finalized. R. Kuprianov asked if this event was partnering with the Disability Awareness Day (DAD) event. M. Santiago responded that there have been discussions regarding the partnering of the two (2) events, but it is not being done for 2023 as there are issues with the site. It is believed that the ramps used to get from the parking lot to the boardwalk are too steep and therefore, the site is not accessible. It is hoped that a solution will be identified, and the events will be able to be held jointly in 2024. R. Kuprianov noted that she thinks it would be very beneficial to combine the two (2) events but would like to see the DAD event maintain the presentation of the Frank Unkle award.
2. S. Matthews announced that Habitat for Humanity has two (2) portable aluminum ramps that are available for use by CMC residents. The ramps can be used for up to 6 months. These ramps are perfect for allowing someone access to their residence until a permanent ramp can be built or for other temporary situations. Anyone interested in a ramp is asked to contact S. Matthews directly at (609) 463-0244 or sarah.matthews@habitatcapemay.org. She concluded by Cape May Habitat is just beginning the ramp program; Salem County has 36 ramps in circulation.

IX. Public Response

1. J. Roy reminded those present that the CMC HSAC does not meet in January. The next meeting is scheduled for 2/1/23; a meeting notice will be sent to all on the distribution lists at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.