

## HSAC February 16 Meeting Minutes

Location Budd Blvd.

**Present: Commissioner Jim Jefferson, Cameron Baker, Michelle Shirey, Danielle Alia, Lisa Conley, Ingres Simpson, Cadie DiGiambattista, Michael Gower, Luanne Hughes, Kim Gober, Chris Emberger, Kyleigh Stevenson, Elizabeth Bermudez, Khaleha Buroughs, Amy Swanson, Michelle Pandolfo**

Kim Gober calls meeting to order.

Public statement meetings act is read.

Introductions

Commissioner Jefferson swears in voting members of the Human Services Advisory Council Cameron Baker, Kim Gober, and Luanne Hughes.

Commissioner Jefferson announces upcoming 18<sup>th</sup> annual food drive with United Way of Gloucester County running from 2/20-2/26 pickup will be February 27th.

Kim Gober asks for an approval of the November 17, 2022 minutes Ingres Simpson motions, Luanne Hughes seconds, Michael Gower, Lisa Conley, Michelle Shirey abstain and minutes are approved.

Kim Gober asks for a motion to open floor for public comment, Michelle Shirey makes motion, Michael Gower seconds and floor is open for public comment.

No Public comment at this time.

Michael Gower motions to close floor of public comment, Ingres Simpson seconds and floor is closed of public comment.

### **American Job Center - Michelle Shirey**

- Nominations Committee in the fall an email was shared asking the voting members what committees they would like to be on. For allocations Elmorja Thomas, Cadie DiGiambattista, Luanne Hughes, Michelle Shirey, Cameron Baker. For Appeals Michael Gower. CEAS members Kim Gober, Michael Gower, Shane Stevenson, Natalie Fortunato, Regina Ridge. For COMA Eileen Caraker, Ingres Simpson, Jennifer Plews, Regina Ridge. MART- Regina Ridge, Cameron Baker. Nominating - Michelle Shirey. Planning - Kenneth Ridinger, Regina Ridge, Lisa Conley, Cameron Baker. Michael Gower seconds, all in favor, no abstentions and nominations are approved.
- American Job Center has seen an uptick in in-person appointments and walk in customers, volume has increased incrementally over the last half of 2022, and into 2023.
- Mega Job Fair is expanding with the help of partners and Rowan College to include a lunch and learn for HR Directors to learn about the services of the county, the college, and the American Job Center.
- Mega Job Fair will be March 24<sup>th</sup>. Flyer will be shared which also has an interactive link for registration and data capturing, not required to use link but the link is being utilized to best find the needs of the community workforce to aid in job finding and career counseling.

### **Allocations - Elmorja Thomas**

- Met on January 26<sup>th</sup> to review proposals for a 24/7 monitoring youth on the bracelet program. One applicant, Acenda, recommended for award.
- FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program phase 40 has been announced, RFP was released today.
- Allocations committee is slated for 3/9/23.

### **CEAS - Kim Gober**

- Did not meet in February
- Point in Time occurred January 25<sup>th</sup> data to come. Had 5 street outreach teams from the VOA, Acenda, Catholic Charities, Center For Family Services and the Sanctuary for Veterans. Those outreach teams found 20 unsheltered individuals.
- The food pantries involved were able to survey 17 people.

### **COMA – Michelle Pandolfo**

- Met on Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Working on a survey to distribute to school administrators and child study team directors, and possibly a second survey to be developed for teachers, to strategize delivering educational workshops.
- Survey is being done in collaboration with COMA, CIACC, Education Partnerships and IDD Committees.

### **Childcare – Elmorja Thomas submitted written report read into the record**

- The Division of Family Development (DFD) have met with the CCR&Rs to begin the planning phase for Thrive By Three funds for childcare centers. No discussion has taken place for including family childcare providers. NIEER is beginning its work from their strategic plan with the CCR&Rs and school districts in their counties for pre-k expansion. AC NJ and other childcare advocates are trying to educate districts on why it is important for a mix delivery childcare system however, there is still some push back from some educational associations. They want the districts to decide on Pre-K Expansion activities with no community-based input.

### **DHS Staff Persons Report – Michelle Pandolfo**

- As mentioned in the allocations report an RFP went out, and will be shared with council, for the emergency food and shelter program which are FEMA funds that provide emergency shelter services, rental assistance, utility assistance, and food. If an agency can utilize those funds please apply or share with those who can. Will also be shared with CEAS committee.
- Working on finding speakers and presenters for upcoming meetings, if there are any topics of interest or a presentation that would be of interest to this committee please contact Michelle.

### **State Representatives Report – Daniella Alia and Susana Dias**

- Gloucester East is servicing 467 children with 94 in placement.
- Gloucester West is servicing 746 children with 82 in placement.
- Numbers are lower than previous years.
- Seeing success with aiming towards keeping children placed with next to kin.
- Lisa Cerny shares the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group if it would be of assistance to any clients contact Senior Services.

### **Public Comment**

Kim Gober asks for motion to open floor for public comment, Michael Gower makes motion, Luanne Hughes seconds and floor is open for public comment.

Chris Hemberger of the Southwest Council announces upcoming wellness programs, he is having a presentation at Margaret Dombrosky Swedesboro public library on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm on alternative approaches to pain management. Also working with Jefferson Health to do a SCAM presentation at Brightview Senior Living in Woodbury on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am which includes a lunch. Starting a program called WISE which stands for Wellness Initiative for Senior Education aiming towards turning that into a senior club in collaboration with Monarch diner and get to be part of the initiative for NJPN. Contact Chris if anyone is interested in joining.

Kim Gober asks for a motion to close the floor of public comment, Michael Gower motions to close public comment, Cadie Digiambattista seconds and floor is closed for public comment.

### **Old Business**

- Michael Gower announces they are coordinating with the HSAC and the commissioners for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Gloucester County Cares About Hunger Food Drive. February 27<sup>th</sup> will be the day of the collection and drop off to United Way.
- Pureland East to West Shuttle is still continuing and is a free shuttle which is a way to connect residents to the Pureland industrial park. There is also an internal circulator at the industrial park which takes residents to the warehouses.

Kim Gober asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Luanne Hughes motions, Cadie DiGiambattista seconds and the meeting is adjourned.

Next Meeting is March 16, 2023