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CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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The County of Gloucester complies with all state and federal rules and regulations against discrimination in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, and activities. In addition, County encourages participation of people with disabilities in its programs and activities and offers special services to all residents 60 years of age and older. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the County's ADA Coordinator at (856) 384-6842 / New Jersey Relay Service 711.



Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC)
February 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes
4:00 PM Zoom Conference Budd Blvd.

Present: Kim Gober, Eileen Caraker, Kathy Connolly, Michael Gower, Eileen Henderson, Luanne Hughes, Jake Jones, Ken Ridinger, Jennifer Rodriguez, Michelle Shirey, Elmorina Thomas, Lisa Cerny, Dawn Carruolo, Susanna Dias, Michelle Pandolfo, Tiara Molock, Kaitlyn McConomy

Call to Order / Conflict of Interest

Kim Gober called the meeting to order at 4:05pm. The Open Public Meeting Act was read and the HSAC meeting is in compliance under the New Jersey Sunshine Law. No conflicts of interest.

Welcome/Introductions

Oath of Office administered by Scott Burns of County Counsel, to the following members:

Jake Jones, Michael Gower, Elmorina Thomas, Eileen Caraker, Eileen Henderson, Ken Ridinger and Jennifer Rodriguez.
(Terms: 12-21-20 thru 12-20-23)

Approval of November 19, 2020 Minutes

Chairperson Gober asks for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting. Elmorina Thomas makes motion, Eileen Henderson seconds. All in favor.

Public Comment

Chairperson Gober asks for a motion to open Public Comment. Elmorina Thomas makes motion, Michael Gower seconds.

- No public comment

Michael Gower makes a motion to close Public Comment. Elmorina Thomas seconds, floor is closed.

Sub-Committee Reports

Allocations (Elmoria Thomas)

- In December, 5 agencies requested and received funding through the Social Services for the Homeless grant program:
- Joseph's House \$30,000
- SCUCS \$53,000
- Catholic Charities \$84,300
- Volunteers of America \$51, 290
- Center for Family Services \$28,710 (Women & Children)
- In January, 4 agencies received funding through FEMA Phase 38:
- Joseph's House \$50,000
- Center for Family Services \$10,048
- Volunteers of America \$35, 500
- Social Services \$18,240

Appeals (Kim Gober)

- No appeals

CEAS (Kim Gober)

- No meeting this month.
- Point In Time was January 27th, no statistics available at this point.

MART (Michelle Pandolfo)

- No report

Planning (Eileen Henderson)

- Needs Assessment was submitted to the State and in on website. Lisa and her team did a fantastic job.
- The report prepared by Michelle is very professional and provides charts prioritizing the areas in need.
- From a provider's point of view, this is an incredibly useful tool prioritizing areas of need.
- Link provided will be useful for those preparing grants.

Nominating (Michelle Shirey)

- Ideas reviewed for Nominating Committee.
- Survey to be sent to membership to determine categories to be filled.
- Good response is expected as people are very willing to help at this time

COMA (Eileen Caraker)

- At the meeting on 2/9 membership and organizations were discussed.
- Attempting to revitalize organization.
- Working on poster distribution "Being a Child Shouldn't Hurt", if you know of a location to post please advise Michelle.
- Resource guide being updated to include COVID information.
- Discussed doing an educational piece on "resiliency" via Zoom.

Child Care (Elmoria Thomas)

- DHS extended Covid 19 Child Care Assistance Program through the end of the school year.
- The concern is when they will be notified of vaccine eligibility
- Determining the number of individuals will be of assistance scheduling vaccine

American Job Center/WDB (Michelle Shirey)

- Moved to Rowan College of South Jersey, affording easy accessibility for clients
- Open to the public by appointment only.
- Most programs virtual via zoom.
- Job fair platform purchased for Mega Job Fair to be held in April allowing for unlimited users.
- Work First NJ clients participate voluntarily as many are home with children.
- An orientation application has been developed as a gaming ap that can be used on phones.
- Replaces on-boarding process.
- Time is monitored for credential gains.
- Ease of use allows access to programs effective 4/1.
- Presently at 75% of normal capacity, representative of clients/customers actively looking for work and training.
- Big increase in dislocated worker activity.

DHS Staff Person's Report (Michelle Pandolfo)

- Survey to be sent to voting members of this council by 2/28 using Survey Monkey.
- Results should be helpful in building HSAC.
- Attended the State HSAC meeting regarding Needs Assessment.
- Phase 2 is wrapping up at this point, it was discussed (as this is an every other year process) updating rather than compiling full needs assessment.
- Deputy Commissioner of Operations for DCF is sharing assessments with Children in Court Committee.
- State is looking to improve connections with CIACC.
- Housing is one of several consistent themes, looking to consolidate and have outreach.
- CIACC is teaming up with Southwest Council to do needs assessment planning for Substance Abuse Prevention Infrastructure for Youth
- A provider, Sunshine Advantage, reached out to see if HSAC would like a presentation. Sunshine Advantage provides ABA Services for children in the home with autism and they accept NJ Family Care and commercial insurance. They will be presenting at CIACC meeting and would be available to present at HSAC if there is an interest. It was determined that the HSAC is interested in this presentation.

State Representative Reports

- Dawn Caruollo reported NJ Dept. of Children & Families local offices are closed to the public.
- In person visits are made for children in foster care.
- Increase in investigations of complex cases, families with multiple needs.
- 228 children in placement.
- 379 families being served.
- 286 active investigations.
- Increase in kin placement, decreasing trauma for children.

Chairperson's Report (Kim Gober)

- No report

Public Comment

- No comment

Old Business

- No comment

New Business

- Michael Gower of United Way reported the Food Drive will run 2/22 to 2/28.
- Cari Burke of ACENDA reported funding has been received to hire community health care workers to reduce impact of Covid 19.
- Serving as liaison to share services and resources in Gloucester, Cumberland, Cape May, Salem and Atlantic Counties.
- Information requested to be shared in communities.
- Kim Gober stressed the gap in services for homebound regarding vaccination of persons entering homes.
- Lisa Cerny attended Directors of Disability Services meeting, focused on Covid delivery services.
- President of Directors reached out to corporations to administer directly and was advised the State makes the determination.
- Kim Gober contacted State regarding low income elderly housing, discussion to continue.
- Issues and barriers to getting Covid vaccine discussed
- Special Accommodations to be added to website when registering for vaccine
- Transportation to vaccine sites to be addressed by State
- Michelle Shirey asked if Council members would participate in Economic Recovery Collaborative's Access & Equity Committee. Those interested to provide contact info.

Adjournment

Kim Gober asks for a motion to adjourn. Michelle Shirey makes a motion to adjourn. Ken Ridinger seconds motion, meeting is adjourned.

Next meeting: March 18, 2021