

HSAC Meeting Minutes March 16, 2023

Via Zoom

Present: Lisa Cerny, Kim Gober, Michelle Pandolfo, Fran Harwell, Jennifer Plews, Bethany Vega, Sharon Veneziale, Eileen Caraker, Michael Gower, Ingres Simpson, Natalie Fortunato, Gina Ridge, Susana Dias, Kyleigh Stevenson, Rick Hager, Elmorina Thomas, Dawn Masilotti, Luanne Hughes, Elizabeth Bermudez, Megan Allain, Khaleha Burroughs, Maxine Davis, Cameron Baker, Dawn Masilotti, Lisa Conley, Danielle Ziegler, Sharon Veneziale, Dawn Carruolo, Carmen Trifiletti

Kim Gober calls HSAC meeting to order

Reading of the Open Public Meetings Act

Kim Gober asks for a motion to approve the February 16, 2023 minutes, Michael Gower motions, Elmorina Thomas seconds and minutes are approved.

Michael Gower motions to open floor for public comment, Elmorina Thomas seconds and floor is open for public comment.

Presentation Sharon Veneziale – Director of Crisis Services at Acenda Mental Health Urgent Care

Urgent Care Mental Health is a living room model and is a 30 day program that serves ages 18 and up, it is a linkage service which serves as a bridge to other programs. The people who are served come from the emergency rooms, the community, families, anywhere besides the hospital. It is a diversion program, with the goal to divert people from the emergency room and build quality of life and stability. Currently staffed are APN's, nurses, supervisors, therapists, two peer champions, and two administrators who work as a team to help people get linked to services and while waiting for those services they are able to speak to peers and have therapy and groups. Takes walk in's and added the ICMS which is intensive case management services available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1pm-5pm. People can come through the door with a housing crisis, nowhere to go, hungry, or social services needs the ICMS will help with that and do applications right online. In addition, the mental health urgent care will take calls as well as appointments. Process is as follows the client will fill out a small packet of paperwork then are scheduled to see a nurse and right afterwards receive an assessment for general medical. Then there will be a sit down with a peer then the assessment will be scheduled and will have a follow up within 2 days and they are welcome to come in any day they want. No one will be discharged until they are linked to services.

Kim Gober asks for motion to close public comment Elmorina Thomas motions, Michael Gower seconds and public comment is closed.

Subcommittee Reports

Allocations - Elmorina Thomas

Met the 9th to consider three proposal's applying for FEMA emergency food and shelter program funds. Each proposal for funding has the understanding that any compliance issues should be addressed and the final decision is sitting with the local FEMA board.

CEAS – Kim Gober

- Received a presentation from Jarrett Lash, Sheltainer Homes/PortAble, Inc. These homes are turnkey ready and can be used as transitional housing.
- Catholic Charities gave a brief presentation on their SSVF Grant application, a previous request for a letter of support was already approved in February. They have been receiving this grant for a number of years and they cover the southern region of the state. About 20% of the grant is for Gloucester County Veterans that meet the criteria.
- CPAC gave a presentation on SNJCoC and the various subcommittees. A calendar with meeting dates and times will be shared.
- Going to a streamline process for Coordinated Entry
- PIT: Deduplication has been completed, Monarch Housing will send some preliminary feedback to staff and then it will be sent to NJHMFA who is the lead on this project. We had a great outreach program this year, located about 20 unsheltered homeless and were able to link them to services and we visited several food pantries to survey individuals. This will give us better information as we continue to plan for services. South Jersey Dream Center donated a large allotment of Bomba Socks, jackets, scarfs gloves, etc. that was used by both street outreach and Food pantries.
- There is going to be a planning session for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Grant on Friday, March 24th from 11-1pm at Rowan University in James Hall
- Christina Velazquez gave a brief update on HOME-ARP Funds, there was public participation on both the focus groups and public hearings. The data and consensus was there is a need for more immediate housing. The plan which was on last night Commissioner's Agenda calls for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance with supportive services. Plan is due to HUD on March 31, 2023. We have until 2030 to expend those dollars.
- Christina also announced that the public service funds portion from CDBG RFP will be released on April 3 with an in-person technical assistance meeting at Rowan College of South Jersey-Gloucester Campus on April 5.
- Due to the length of the meeting, roundtable and reports were tabled.
- Working on streamlining process to coordinated entry. Completed de duplication of data will send preliminary feedback. Had a lot of outreach for PIT, located 20 unsheltered homeless. SJ dream center donated allotment of socks, scarves, and gloves etc., which were used.
- March 24th grant at Rowan University at James Hall, Christina Velazquez gave update on home ARP funds. Data ad consensus was there is a need for more immediate housing. March 15 tenant based supportive services, have until 2030 to expend these dollars.

COMA – Eileen Caraker

- Working on school survey and distribution should be coming up in the near future for the needs assessment for schools to see what is the best education going forward for administration, child study team directors, and adding a second layer geared toward teachers and first line workers.
- Next meeting is April 4th for COMA at 10am.
- April is child abuse awareness month, Susana working on resource fair for April 26th at Fisola park with the CAC and DCP&P.
- Eileen Caraker makes a motion to recommend Ingres Simpson as a member to the COMA committee, Natalie Fortunato seconds and motion is passed.

Nominating - Michelle Pandolfo on behalf of Michelle Shirey

Asking to accept the resignation of Brian Jones as recommended by the nominating committee, Fran Harwell motions, Elmoría Thomas seconds. Resignation is passed.

Childcare - Elmoría Thomas

- Making families aware of the earn income tax credit and any free tax service along with the vita program.

American Job Center

- Mega Job fair is March 24th Friday 9-12 at the RCSJ gymnasium with a Human Resource Managers lunch following job fair.
- Flyer to be distributed.
- Supportive services will be present as well as over 100 employers; will also have resume and interviewing sessions prior to job fair.

DHS Staff Persons Report - Michelle Pandolfo

- Attended the state HSAC meeting and some items discussed were that 211 is in the process of revising technology and website, looking to update the initial system that was set up in 2017 looking to improve search functions and directory to keep resources current.
- During that meeting there was a presentation on “Cover All Kids” which aims for all kids in New Jersey regardless of immigration status to have access to health benefits. All kids under the age of 19 can apply either online or by phone. And its important that applicants follow through on application process.

State Representatives

Rick Hager

- Department of Children and Families will share flyer for cover all kids to be distributed.
- NJ youth resource spot which is a online set of resources for youth ages 14-21 will be shared.
- NJ Association of Counties is having its annual conference May 3rd – 5th at Ceasers in Atlantic City, to register visit website.

Dawn Masilotti

- Since last meeting have seen a reduction of children in placement.
- Currently have 108 children living at home whose families are engaged in services with the goal of maintaining them safely in home.
- Placement numbers are down.
- 253 children involved in active investigations.
- Resource development specialist have been arranging to go out into schools and community to do some in services.
- Statewide has had initiatives to place children with kin which is going well, will be ramping up efforts to recruit unrelated resource parents. Aiming for specific target populations to find best matches.

Public comment

Michael Gower motions to open floor for public comment, Fran Harwell seconds and floor is open for public comment.

Bethany Vega

- Southwest Council Camp Y.E.Y information is beginning to be circulated which is the Youth Empowering Youth free summer camp, summer applications are up for counselors to apply to be a counselor assistant. Current 8th graders can fill out that application if selected they will get 40 hours of volunteer services hours, will also be CPR, first aid, and AEB trained and certified. April 3rd is when the registration opens for those interested. Will be first come first serve. Will share flyers and info as well. Camp will be open to kids 4th-8th grade
- Grasp coalition meeting coming up next Wednesday at 9am.
- Bringing back youth athlete conference, looking at collaborating with schools to sustain that.

Kim Gober

- Housing Authority of Gloucester County and Glassboro are both accepting applications on the housing choice voucher program. Recommend the online application or there is an application that can be downloaded and submitted via mail and postmarked 15th to 18th to be accepted.

Gina Ridge

- April is sexual assault awareness month CFFS Serv program is going to be doing events throughout the month and will share flyer once it is finalized.

Natalie Fortunato

- Have cases of fruit snacks from Welch's and if anyone would like to receive them to give out through their programs and agencies contact Natalie.

Luanne Hughes

- Faith and prevention network meeting is scheduled for March 28th

- Had 35 organizations attend last meeting. The primary focus for February and March meeting will be hunger and food access for the county, open invitation if anyone would like to attend the meeting at 10am in Clarksboro.

Kim gober asks for a motion to close public comment Michael Gower motions, Luanne Hughes seconds and floor is closed of public comment.

Old Business

Michael Gower

- United Way Food Drive food drive raised over 5,000 pounds of food.
- Food was distributed to 10 local pantries and those in need.
- Collected 500lbs of food after drop off date so between the actual drive and what has been donated after there was a total of over 5,500 lbs. of food collected.

Kim Gober asks for a motion to adjourn Michael Gower motions, Fran Harwell seconds and meeting is adjourned.

Next meeting is April 20th via zoom