

Gloucester County Human Services Advisory Board Meeting

May 15, 2025 at 115 Budd Blvd. West Deptford NJ

Present: Jennifer Rodriguez, Elmoria Thomas, Michelle Shirey, Ingres Simpson, Luanne Hughes, Calvin McFarland, Danielle Alia, Dawn Carruolo, Melodie Norton, Arlene Kreider, Fran Harwell, Khaleha Blackmore, Arianna Watts, Scarlett O'Dell, Chris Hemberger, Karen Taylor, Joan Dillon

Meeting is called to order at 4:03PM by Fran Harwell, Co-Chair

Reading of the Open Public Meeting Statement

Motion to approve the March 20, 2025 meeting minutes, Ingres Simpson motions, Calvin McFarland seconds, Michelle Shirey, Luanne Hughes and Fran Harwell abstain. Minutes are approved.

Motion to open the floor for public comment Calvin McFarland and motions, Jennifer Rodriguez seconds and floor is open for public comment.

Presentation

Rutgers Southern Regional Child Care Resource and Referral Agency – Khaleha Blackmore presenting, accompanied by Arianna Watts

- Childcare Resource and Referral Agency: there is one childcare and referral agency in every county, Rutgers has five counties in South Jersey being Gloucester County, Cape May County, Cumberland County, Salem County, and Atlantic County. Assist eligible families with subsidy to cover all or a portion of childcare expenses with a licensed provider. These childcare expenses can be anything from daycare, from birth to age 5, and older children that would need before and after care in the school system as well as summer camp. Eligible clients receive a contract between the client and provider and payments are automatically generated once client is approved. The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) program is for parents who work full time, working 30 more hours per week, if in school 20 plus credits, or in a training program 20 or more hours a week or a combination of all three qualifies as a full-time program. Clients can work from home if that is the situation, online school does not qualify as a full-time activity 6 credits are allowed online but must attend in-person for some credits, Program covers 80% of clients served, must be under income level, for example a family of 3 would need to be under \$53,300 to qualify. Also, for assistance program we pay out maximum rate which depends on age of child, and parents are responsible for a copay which is generated based on a percentage of their income as well as any excess fees the centers may charge.
- Kinship program which allows a relative to apply for their child, so if a person has their grandchild, niece, or nephew they can apply for the kinship program, clients are not required to be in a full-time activity. The income limit increases to 350% of federal poverty level for clients under 60 or up to 500% for age 60+.
- Homeless program allows clients who are experiencing homelessness to apply with limited information needed, homelessness is defined by not having own residence. Allow clients to do this for up to three months, after those three months the clients will have to submit the required documents for CCAP application, proof of address, paystubs, child's birth certificate and proof of full-time activity and can transfer to CCAP. Clients are in the program for one year,

as year is approaching, they will have to submit re-determination documents to make sure they still qualify for program, the homeless program lasts three and nine months on CCAP then re-determined.

- Other programs include supporting resource families under Child Protective Services (DCP&P), if a parent is a resource parent, they qualify for free childcare through DCP&P and receive referral from client. PAC is post adoption childcare, when a resource parent is going to adopt a child, they qualify for the post adoption childcare that they can stay in until the child is six years old, still under DCP&P
- Workforce New Jersey is transitional childcare for families who are on TANF and assistance programs, will receive referral from county Social Services for that as well.
- Statistics are as follows: serve 1,476 families and 2,208 children, 108 licensed centers in Gloucester County, 29 in home providers, four summer camps that accept subsidy. Most daycares accept subsidy, some family childcare providers do and some may not, but looking at daycares most likely accepting subsidy, and currently has no waiting list, just give the application 7-10 days to be processed. Receive around 700 applications per year and approve 400 clients, those found ineligible are often over income, not meeting required hours or not responding to incomplete paperwork, over income is number one though. Income limits are generated by the state. In home family child care providers licensed by the state can sometimes be a better fit for some families.
- Family friend and neighbor program - if a person knows someone, they know would like to watch their child they can qualify for CCAP and that person can also receive payment for that. Stipulations with that, have to go through a background check and some trainings. Subsidy program, have a quality side with agency, and they are those who assist families with resources and also screen children for developmental delays using ASQ3 (Ages and Stages Questionnaire), a tool for screening child development, have quality improvement specialist who go inside of daycare centers and help providers become rated through the Grow NJ Kids program (a New Jersey's Quality Rating and Improvement System), a state-sponsored initiative that helps child care and early learning programs improve the quality of care they provide to children. Encourage families looking for a daycare that is rated with Grow NJ Kids. Has infant toddler specialist on quality team who work with infant and toddler classrooms, also has trainers that train across five counties, train teachers directors with health and safety quality initiatives, behavioral issues they may be experiencing.
- If a child has a special need go through same process and those individuals can stay on CCAP until the age of 19.
- Program fact sheet distributed.

Motion to close the floor of public comment, Elmoria Thomas motions, Luanne Hughes seconds and floor is closed of public comment.

Subcommittees

Allocations - Elmoria Thomas

- No activity for allocations since last meeting.

CEAS -Michelle Pandolfo Reports on behalf of Kim Gober

- CEAS meeting was canceled this past Tuesday, no new report at this time.

COMA – Jennifer Rodriguez

- Working on speaker's bureau right now, survey went out to school received several responses from school members in term of trainings, workshops and speakers they would like to see. Reaching out to them to set those up with the schools and also awaiting on online resource page to go up on the Children's Advocacy Center's webpage.

MART – Ingres Simpson

- Ingres Simpson Monitoring Report has been completed Ingres makes a motion to approve the monitoring reports, Michelle Shirey seconds and reports are approved.

Childcare - Elmoria Thomas

- Some CCRR are disturbed because they have been instructed that they can no longer participate on subcommittee work as leaders and cannot be in decision making roles in any organization.

American Job Center – Michelle Shirey

- Community needs assessment and literacy meeting this morning, was very well attended spoke about disabilities employment job fair, partner with the County and RCSJ, that will be July 17th, Flyer to be shared as well as being posted in the workforce development board monthly newsletter.
- Had customer surveys at the one stop career center, utilize QR code and survey individuals who were coming in for services, those results came back and were extremely good.
- Business survey from job fair last mega job fair that had over 100 employers in March, survey was completed by over 50% of businesses.
- Competitive bidding opportunities, WDB is required to competitively bid on some of the service contracts, GCIA is procurement agent everything is on GCIA website have five procurements out now, one stop operator procurement, career services title one dislocated adult procurement, in school we owe a youth, out of school we owe a youth, and a workforce New Jersey snap development, Community Work Experience Program (CWEP) procurement opportunity. All of them are due June 10th
- First Senior job fair, went well had over 250 individuals attend, along with resources and volunteer opportunities.

Michelle Pandolfo – DHS Staff Persons Report

- State HSAC meeting in early May had two presenters, one was Family Connects New Jersey which is an early childhood/post-partum program, they are bringing a free in-home visit from nurses, program was implemented in 2024 along with a few other counties and is expected to be statewide by 2027 "The Cooperative" is the service provider here in Gloucester County.
- Second presentation was from the Office of New Americans, New Jersey is third behind California and New York for immigrants. Making up about 24% of our population, predominantly concentrated in the North Eastern and central counties as well as Camden County. Office of New Americans has public funds for legal services for immigrants, some case management, English language training, and employment.

Dawn Carruollo – Gloucester West DCP&P

- Currently serving 1,133 children in the state with 132 children in placement and 347 investigatory also have 111 in home families. Focusing on currently families who are having frequent referrals or high-risk cases and what kind of services will help stabilize that.

Chairperson's Report - none

Motion to open floor for public comment, Elmoria Thomas motions, Ingres Simpson seconds and floor is open for public comment.

- Chris Hemberger Southwest Council – Southwest Council's focus is substance use prevention, education, and treatment. Chris is the Gloucester Regional Addictive Substance Prevention Coalition Coordinator. They hold a monthly meeting about planning on how to engage with youth and keep them substance free. Created a community youth needs substance use assessment and welcomes participation in these meetings and is really looking to get feedback from the needs assessment to best spread prevention awareness and information. Scarlett is the youth coordinator for Southwest Council in Gloucester County, youth program Incorruptible Us, statewide youth program if you work with any youth ages 13-18 there is a monthly youth group, along with monthly events and can also receive community service.
- Melodie Norton Connecting NJ and Family Connects NJ – programs lead through Acenda, Melodie is community liaison, family connects - free in-home nurse they are trying post-partum and lactation support, they are fully RN's can-do incision inspections, have had over 240 visits in Gloucester County so far, currently in eleven counties and by 2027 will be in every County in New Jersey, it is state funded. South Jersey counties kick off next January, it is not where you birth it is where you reside in order to receive services. In addition, Melodie hosts monthly education sessions, hosting a large annual event in August 9th at Total Turf a "Baby Rave" with a DJ, music, bubbles. Connecting New Jersey program is a hub in every county as long as child under the age of 3 you can call and they will help connect that child to resources, everything from child development, a support person in home, help connect them with food banks, diapers, transportation whatever it maybe they will help connect to those resources.
- Joan Dillon, Glassboro Child Development Center - Inaugural infant toddler center is slated to open June 2nd. Hard Hat Tour is Monday, Glassboro Child development Center

Motion to close public comment, Michele Shirey motions, Ingres Simpson seconds and floor is closed of public comment.

Motion to adjourn, Michelle Shirey motions to adjourn meeting, Luanne Hughes seconds and meeting is adjourned.

Next meeting September 18th at 4pm location 115 Budd Blvd. West Deptford NJ 08096