

SOMERSET COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)

Minutes – March 24, 2021

In Attendance: Mark Avery, Michele Boronkas, Susan Bruder, Rajni Chopra, Mary Jane DiPaolo, Lucy Forgione, Mike Frost, Nancy Good, Joanne Kemp, Steve Nagel, Daniel Powell, Diann Robinson, Richard Schumann, Nicci Spinazzola, Jerry Starr, Andrea Strack, Tim Wolf, David Walker

Excused: LuAnn Dias, Paul Grzella & Jeff Kline (NJDCF)

Absent: Lauren Frary, Thomas O'Leary & Nelson Troche (DCA)

NJ State Representatives: Michelle Dufour (DCP&P), Rick Hager (NJDCF)

Guest: Heather Bielefeldt (Alternatives, INC.), Glori Bine-Callagy (Alternatives, INC.), Chris Blount (The Learning Gate), Mark Harris (The Somerset Community Action Program), Art Hernandez (Rutgers Community Christian Church), Francine Leddy (Educational Services of Hunterdon County), Christina Martinkovic (The Learning Gate), Nereida Mendez (Zufall), Molly Rennie (United Way), Genna Rutka (BBBSCNNJ), Marie Scannell (The Food Bank Network of Somerset County), Ashley Watson

Department of Human Services Staff: Katie Brach, Sandra Escobar, Jen Guyette, Meg Isbitski, Rheanah Johnson, Ivana Martins, Marla Matthews, Johanna Moore, Monica Mulligan, Antonietta Phelan, Alba Robles, Ellen Russo, Jennifer Sorensen, Kristy Soriano, Rob Woodward

Mission: To provide county-based planning, advisory and advocacy as an organization dedicated to meeting the human service needs of the local community.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome/Follow-Up
<u>Call the Meeting to Order and Introduction</u>	Mary Jane DiPaolo, HSAC Chair, called the meeting to order.	All participants know who attends meeting.
<u>Approval of 2-24-21 HSAC minutes</u>	Andrea Strack proposed a revision of being excused from the last meeting. Motion to approve revised minutes made by Steve Nagel and seconded by Rajni Chopra.	The HSAC minutes were approved.
<u>United Way of Northern NJ</u>	<p>Molly Rennie, Director Strategic Partnerships, The ALICE Project, United Way of Northern NJ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALICE-review of the website to accessing data indicators • Information can be sorted by State, County, and more • 3 trends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of ALICE households on the rise ○ Cost of living increasing ○ Worker vulnerability is growing while wages stagnate • Resource gaps • Community indicators • COVID-19 Tracker 	www.unitedforalice.org
<u>Alternatives, INC.</u>	<p>Heather Bielefeldt Director of Community Relations and Admissions & Glori Bine-Callagy Director of Marketing and Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Support Services (CSS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 18+ age ▪ Mental health diagnoses ▪ Residing in Somerset County ▪ Willingness to develop and work on goals ○ Person-centered approach ○ Referral & linkages to community resources ○ Consumer advocacy • Housing Opportunities • Franklin House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transitional Housing (6 months- 1 year) 	<p>Email: bielefeldth@alternativeinc.org Agency cell: 908-809-8034</p> <p>bineg@alternativesinc.org Agency cell: 908-304-2590</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Homeless mothers and children o Need to be deemed eligible by Board of Social Services o Apartment-based housing • Intake and Admissions Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Application, intake interview, intake assessment, document gathering, criminal background • Services for individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Residential Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group Homes- 6 in County (4 in development) o Bridges to Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supported Employment (SE) Services ▪ Pre-Employment Training Program (Pre-ETS) ▪ SE Services for Deaf/Hard of Hearing 																									
<p><u>Agency Highlights</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Scannell Executive Director- The Food Bank Network has been relocated to 7E Easy Street in Bridgewater. There are pre-made bags of food as well as a shopping area for clients. • Diann Robinson- Adult Day Center is having a free seminar on creating a living will entitled "Five Wishes" on April 14th at 6pm. • Steven Nagel, Kaizen Technologies-Healthcare apprenticeship programs for individuals 18+ HHAs and more. There are over 100 slots to fill. For more information contact steven.nagel@kaizentek.com 																									
<p><u>State Department Representatives Report</u></p>	<p>Rick Hager (DCF, Community Outreach Coordinator)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media kit for children's system of care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Children's mental health services <p>Michelle DuFour (DCP&P) gave her report. See below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="508 900 1107 1906"> <thead> <tr> <th>2021</th> <th>February</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Families</td> <td>321</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children</td> <td>577</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children in Out of Home Placement</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Referral Type</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child Protective Service Referrals</td> <td>99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child Welfare Referrals</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allegation Type</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neglect</td> <td>125</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Physical Abuse</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sexual Abuse</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Emotional Abuse</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2021	February	Families	321	Children	577	Children in Out of Home Placement	48	Referral Type		Child Protective Service Referrals	99	Child Welfare Referrals	17	Allegation Type		Neglect	125	Physical Abuse	31	Sexual Abuse	9	Emotional Abuse	1	<p>Report to be given at next HSAC meeting.</p>
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<p><u>Bylaws Committee Updates</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A goal of the Council is that membership should reflect the County's demographic makeup consistent with census data. • Nominating process is online now going directly to the Commissioners. • Intent to create ad hoc committees to address outcomes of DCF Needs Assessment. • Participation in committees will be strongly encouraged. • Revisions of the bylaws will be discussed at the next meeting. 	
<p><u>Human Services Director's Report</u></p>	<p>Michael Frost, Human Services Director, presented a report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County has limited supply of J&J vaccines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Targeting home bound individuals • Discussions of workforce returning to the office full time • 4-H fair has been cancelled for in person event. • County Government Month is in April. • Social Work Month is in March and a recognition page can be viewed on the Somerset County website. 	
<p><u>Agency Announcements</u></p>	<p>Johanna Moore, Human Services Planning Administrator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announced her last day is May 14, 2021 • Human Services Planning Administrator position open until April 14, 2021 	
<p><u>Meeting Adjournment</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. 	<p>The next HSAC meeting will be on April 28th, at 1:30pm</p>