

**SOMERSET COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)
Minutes –April 28, 2021**

In Attendance: Michele Boronkas, Susan Bruder, Rajni Chopra, LuAnn Dias, Mary Jane DiPaolo, Paul Drake, Michelle Dufour, Lauren Frary, Mike Frost, Nancy Good, , Paul Grzella ,Joanne Kemp, Steve Nagel, Daniel Powell, Diann Robinson, Richard Schumann, Nicci Spinazzola, Jerry Starr, Andrea Strack, Tim Wolf

Excused: Lucy Forgione

Absent: Thomas O'Leary, David Walker & Mark Avery

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

Guest: Chris Blount (The Learning Gate), Genna Rutka (BBBSCNNJ), Maria Marnell(HCESC)

Department of Human Services Staff: 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

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 3-24-21 HSAC minutes</u>	Steve Nagel moved to accept the minutes seconded by Tim Wolf. Luann Dias abstained.	The HSAC minutes were approved.
<u>Approval of Revised By-Laws</u>	Edits and updates to the 2021 By-Laws Committee were reviewed. The Chair noted that according to the By-Laws 51 percent of membership should represent consumers. Mike Frost provided background that the 51% expectation set by the State has been an ongoing difficult mandate for all counties to achieve. The Chair requested that members and guests keep the requirement in mind and potentially help by referring unaffiliated members for participation if deemed applicable and interested. LuaAnn Dias inquired about the terminology referencing "service provider" and Steve Nagel informed the Council that the term is used by the state guidelines and was written to be vague and nonspecific. Steve Nagel moved to have By Laws for adoption, seconded by Marla Matthews.	By Laws Adopted
<u>Executive committee: New Adhoc Committee</u>	Discussion about the formation of Adhoc committees to address the identified needs from the recent Needs Assessment would be most efficient by leveraging existing Councils and Committees, particularly related to housing and food. As a result members agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member will attend mass feeding meeting to have a presence there to ask what their needs are and how we could support them. Tim Wolf to represent HSAC. • Member will join housing meeting to leverage and collaborate to report back to HSAC • Creating an ADHOC committee to bring ideas on how to get the word out on services/resources available in the community. Learning what channels do people use to access their information and having a better understanding? LuAnn Dias, suggest having someone from SCOAD to be contacted as the group has many resources available that can be beneficial as a starting point.	Those interested in participating in ADHOC committee to contact Alba Robles or Mary Jane DiPaolo.
<u>Mental Health Board</u>	Meg Isbitski, Youth Mental Health presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth mental health was identified as the #1 specialized service need in Somerset County from recent HSAC Needs Assessment. • Trends related to school aged youth: Pre-existing system barriers, academic, social & reentry challenges. 	Alba Robles & Mary Jane DiPaolo will follow up with Susan Bruder in scheduling meeting with School districts in the county.

- What is Somerset County Mental Health Board doing?
 - Facilitating a youth subcommittee
 - Utilizing youth/family voice in ongoing planning
 - Listening to community providers to identify top need brainstorm ways to address these needs.
 - Identifying opportunity for collaboration, events, programming: Youth led, Educational.

Susan Bruder NJ has received Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds II (ESSER II) to be disseminated to all school districts. Part of the grant is for learning acceleration to create summer programming, tutoring programs, professional development for the staff and a portion of the grant is dedicated to mental health and that money the districts can use for professional development for staff, creating new or supporting existing mental health programming in the schools. Susan suggested a separate meeting for those in the HSAC group who would like to hear from the school districts in the county to discuss how they plan on using their ESSER II funds, what gaps they see and what kind of supports they would like to have if they had a wish list.

State Department Representatives Report

Rick Hager (DCF, Community Outreach Coordinator)

- Children system of care social media kit- resources for mental health services.
- Archive webinar- connecting children and families to mental health ID and DD services in NJ.

Michelle DuFour (DCP&P) gave her report. See below:

2021	April
Families	313
Children	581
Children in Out of Home Placement	48
Referral Type	
Child Protective Service Referrals	116
Child Welfare Referrals	11
Allegation Type	
Neglect	139
Physical Abuse	36
Sexual Abuse	28
Emotional Abuse	1

Report to be given at next HSAC meeting.

Human Services Director's Report

Michael Frost, Human Services Director reported:

- Somerset County Facebook- new video recording of Commissioner Drake & Mike frost discussing all things Human Services.
- County COVID Vaccine response: More pop-up clinics have been

	<p>completed in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J&J vaccines has been reinstated. • Hosting meeting on May 4th, about addressing mental health and special needs population and working with law enforcement in crisis situations. • More information related to the pilot program with the Bridgewater police department. • Second round interviews are being conducted for the Human Services Planning Administrator. Interviews should be completed by May 10th with the hopes of having someone committed by May 14th. 	
<u>Agency Announcements</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Agency Announcements 	
<u>Meeting Adjournment</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. 	<p>The next HSAC meeting will be on May 26th, at 1:30pm</p>