

**SOMERSET COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)
Minutes –November 24, 2021**

In Attendance: Paul Grzella, Mary Jane DiPaolo, Joanne Kemp

Excused: Michael Frost, Andrea Strack, Diann Robinson, LuAnn Dias, Susan Bruder, Tim Wolf, Michele Boronkas, Nancy Good, Lucy Forgione Rajni Chopra

Absent: Daniel Powell, Lauren Frary, Nicci Spinazzola, Shanel Robinson, Paul Drake, Thomas O’leary, Steven Nagel, Richard Schumann, Mark Avery, Jerry Starr, David Walker

NJ State Representatives: Michelle Dufour (DCPP), Rich Hager(NJDCF)

Guest: Alberto Billini (*Hope & Healing*), Mary Jane Canose (Mayor Bernardsville), Jeffrey C. Phillips (Freedom Trail CSPNJ),

Department of Human Services Staff: Antonietta Phelan, Alba Robles, Henry Young, Maria Marnell, Marla Matthews, Rheanah Johnson, Katie Brach, Dameon Stackhouse, Linda Porcaro, Meg Isbitski.

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 the meeting.
<u>Approval of 10-27-21 HSAC minutes</u>	A quorum was not met, minutes will be presented during the next HSAC meeting on 12/15/21	The HSAC minutes were unable to be approved.
<u>Covid-19 & HIV: 1 Moment 2 Epidemics</u>	<p>COVID-19 and HIV: 1 Moment – 2 Epidemics <i>Alberto Bellini, MS, LCADC, Hope & Healing Crisis Counselor</i></p> <p>Alberto Bellini presented a PowerPoint presentation providing a history of HIV and like Covid-19 it was seen as an epidemic. Alberto informed that ending the HIV epidemic in the USA by 2030 is the goal. Reducing down the number of new HIV infections by 75% by 2025 and 90% by 2030.</p> <p>The Impact COVID-19 has had on Ending HIV by 2030, is that it has had Interruptions in deliverable Services. Disruptive System services such as early detection, Counseling, and Testing, linkage to care, treatment follow-ups, medication adherence, STDs testing, and preventive measures such as the use of condoms and Prep interrupted clients' healthy and routine maintenance and adherence to a healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>COVID-19 is threatening gains against the HIV epidemic, including the U.S. Ending the HIV Epidemic goals. The ongoing collision of these two global pandemics will continue to need both study and interventions</p>	Alba Robles will provide the PowerPoint presentation via e-mail.

to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on HIV efforts worldwide.

In conclusion, the engagement of people in HIV care in primary care clinics through HIV testing and treatment initiation was severely impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown, with a gradual recovery towards pre-lockdown levels as restrictions eased.

DCF Rick Hager

- The New Jersey Department of Children and Families had an article published in the November issues of New Jersey's municipality's magazine. The articles are called Meeting the needs of children and families is possible, together. Another article was also published in NJEA Review in November called educators are essential to healing ACES. (both articles will be provided via e-mail.)

DCP&P-. See below:

2021	October
Families	341
Children	640
Children in Out of Home Placement	50
Referral Type	
Child Protective Service Referrals	137
Child Welfare Referrals	14
Allegation Type	
Neglect	125
Physical Abuse	56
Sexual Abuse	18
Emotional Abuse	1

- DCP&P workers are back in the office full time.

Report to be given at next HSAC meeting.

State Department
Representatives
Report

<u>Human Services Director's Report</u>	Michael Frost was excused from the meeting.	
<u>Agency Announcements</u>	Mary Jane DiPaolo informed the council the next meeting is supposed to be held on Dec. 22, 2021, due to the holidays it was asked if everyone would prefer to have the meeting held on Dec. 15, 2021. All attendees agreed to move the meeting to the 15 th .	
<u>Meeting Adjournment</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. 	The next HSAC meeting will be held on Wed, December 15, 2021