



COUNTY OF SOMERSET DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS & PLANNING

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Human Services Director
MICHAEL FROST

Planning Administrator
ZACHARY BERLINER

Addictions Services Director
LISA FEDERICO

Aging & Disability Services
JOANNE FETZKO

Community Development
KIMBERLY COWART

One Stop Career Center
Juvenile Institutional Services
MONICA MULLIGAN

Richard Hall Community HWC
NICCI SPINAZZOLA

Rutgers Cooperative Extension
LISA ROTHENBURGER

Veterans Services
PETER NIEMIEC

Volunteer Services
LAURIE ROOME

Youth Services
LINDA M. PORCARO

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, May 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes
Meeting via Zoom

Council Members Present:

- Vice-Chair Pastor Tim Wolf, Pioneer Family Success Center
- Secretary Diann Robinson, Adult Day Center
- David Walker, Visions and Pathways
- Herardine Lacrete, Board of Social Services
- LuAnn Dias, Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen (CCDOM)
- Mallory Dubuisson, Atlantic Adult Day Center
- Michele Boronkas, Safe + Sound Somerset
- Michelle DuFour, Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P)
- Mike Frost, Director of the Department of Human Services
- Nancy Good, Alternatives, Inc
- Nicci Spinazzola, Richard Hall Community Health and Wellness Center
- Paul Grzella, The Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB)
- Rajni Chopra, Martin Luther King Youth Center (MLKYC)
- Richard Schumann, Family and Community Services (FCS)
- Steven Nagel, HomeSharing

Council Members Excused:

- Dr. Mark Avery, Zarephath Christian Church

Council Members Absent:

Council Officials and Liaisons:

- Nelson Troche, New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS)

Somerset County Department of Human Services (SCDHS) Staff:

- Coordinator Rheanah Johnson, Office of Operations and Planning (OAP)
- Antonietta Phelan, Office of Youth Services
- Dameon Stackhouse, Office of Operations and Planning (OAP)
- Ellen Russo, Office on Aging and Disability Services
- Jan Goodman, Greater Raritan One Stop
- Jen Guyette, Office of Operations and Planning (OAP)
- Kristy Soriano, Office of Youth Services

Monica Mulligan, Juvenile Institution Services & Greater Raritan One Stop
Sandra Avellan, Office on Aging and Disability Services
Stephanie Billitz, Office of Operations and Planning (OAP)
Zachary Berliner, Office of Operations and Planning (OAP)

Guests:

Akeera Bryant, Community Food Bank of NJ
Andrea Rodriguez, Zufall Health Center
Andrea Strack, Legal Services of Northwest NJ
Angelica Guerrero, Norwescap
Asanti Nicholas, McKinney Vento
Brendan Ward, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal and Northern New Jersey
Christina Martinkovic, The Learning Gate
Cynthia Walker, RWJBH
Diahann DeRuggiero, McKinney Vento
Lashonda Dumas, Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P)
Lucia Rosario Bautista, Church World Services
Maria Marnell, Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission
Maria Strada, Middle Earth
Marlin Hernandez, Tri County CMO
Mary Perez, Church World Services
Melina Lora, Church World Services
Nikki Bryant, Community Child Care Solutions
Stacy Boxer, Somerset County Chest Clinic

I. Call Meeting to Order & Introductions

Tim Wolf called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM. A quorum was established.

II. Approval of the April 24, 2024, Minutes

Motion to approve the April 2024 meeting minutes was made by Zach Berliner and seconded by Diann Robinson. Steve Nagel and Luann Dias Abstain. Motion carried.

III. Presentation from Church World Service by Mary Perez, and Melina Lora

- Church World Service is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.
- The Jersey City office offers support services to Refugees, Special Immigrant Visa Holders, Unaccompanied Minors, and other eligible ORR Populations
- The United States Humanitarian Programs protect people in need who are not citizens. These programs allow people to live in the USA either permanently or temporarily. This includes refugee resettlement, asylum, parole, and other programs.
- For more information or to schedule a presentation for any CWS Jersey City Program contact: Lesely Pena Caseworker Assistant HSPRS at lpna@cwsglobal.org

IV. State and County Agency Reports

Department of Human Services - Nelson Troche

Luis Tamayo, Director of the Office of Recovery, is retiring. Nelson will be the only person covering the HSAC's for the 21 counties. They are looking to hire a new director who will step in to support. Additional

support is looking to create a newsletter to streamline information. The HSAC regulations are on the department's radar.

Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) – Michelle DuFour

| 2024 | April |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Families | 328 (70% intake cases) |
| Children | 610 |
| Children in Placement | 35 |
| Referral Type | |
| Child Protective Service Referrals | 110 |
| Child Welfare Referrals | 24 |
| Allegation Type | |
| Neglect | 137 |
| Physical Abuse | 34 |
| Sexual Abuse | 12 |
| Emotional Abuse | 1 |

V. Human Services Director's Report – Mike Frost

- The Mental Health Administrator position is still vacant.
- The County budget has officially passed. The Non-Profit Purchase of Service is going to resolution June 11th. Allocations can be shared, and contracts will be shared.

VI. Committee Reports - No committee reports

VII. New Business

- The council voted on a chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary. Tim Wolf was selected as chairperson, Diann Robinson was selected as vice chairperson, and Michele Boronkas was selected as secretary.
- Rheanah Johnson strongly encouraged all participants to get their agency listed on NJ211. If an agency is already listed, agencies can request login in credentials to keep their information updated. Zachary Berliner added that it is dependent upon us to make sure NJ211 has the correct information so they can improve and provide much needed information to residents. Additionally, NJ211 has data to share for planning purposes.

VIII. Agency Highlights/Announcements

- Paul Grzella- Greater Raritan Annual Job Fair is June 4th 10 am – 2 p.m. There are currently 82 businesses that will be in attendance. There are a few spots open for any business interested in participating. The deadline is tomorrow May 23, 2024. Contact Grzella@co.somerset.nj.us.
- Rheanah Johnson – The Somerset County Youth Council is accepting applications for the September 2024- August 2025 season from May 1 to May 31. The application is available on the website. Questions can be sent to youthcouncil@co.somerset.nj.us.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Nagel and seconded by Mike Frost. The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 PM.

The next meeting will be held on June 26, 2024, at 1:30 PM via Zoom. The link will be sent out a week prior via email.