

County of Sussex Department of Human Services

1st Quarter Report 2013

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Division of Community and Youth Services

Youth Services Commission/Child Interagency Coordinating Council

- Education Partnership continued to present at local schools and providers. The presentations continue to provide education to the community about the Children's System of Care. Presentations are scheduled through the end of April 2013.
- JDAI pre-implementation meetings continue to be held but currently the process is awaiting sign-off by the presiding judge. However, very productive meetings have been held with current providers to begin data collection and tracking in preparation for JDAI implementation.
- The Division has taken on extra responsibilities at the NJACYSC, including reviewing the UCR and is the Northern Region chair. This is the statewide Association of County Youth Services Commissions, and is the forum that connects counties with the state's JJC staff to receive the most current information on allocations, awards, contracts, programs and rules/regulations governing JJC grants. The Northern Region chair serves on the Executive Committee, which helps to set policy and includes direct interface with JJC staff to provide guidance and direction on challenges and barriers faced by County YSC's.

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Board:

- IDRC March:
 - Clients –127 Revenue - \$ 29,215
- Three joint meetings were scheduled for the MHB and LACADA on March 18, June 17, and October 21.
 - The Chapter 51 contracts were approved on the March 27th BOCF meeting.
 - Chapter 51 planning for 2014 comprehensive plan has begun. It is a lengthy process that will have a deadline (not given as of yet, for spring 2014).

Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC):

- The new Chair of the HSAC is Suzanne Sarner and Vice Chair is Terri Henninger.
- The HSAC GIA contracts are approved. The breakdown is as follows: Advance Housing for supportive living for clients with mental illness \$23,942; Family Promise of Sussex County for case management and financial assistance program for homeless/at-risk \$12,300; Legal Services of Northwest Jersey for legal cases/assistance for low-income families & individuals \$7,123; NewBridge Services for outpatient psychiatric and counseling services \$65,000; NORWESCAP for child care vouchers for low-income families \$50,000; and Skylands Ride for Saturday & expanded transportation services \$34,885.

Municipal Alliances:

- 2013 Needs Assessment process continues to move forward. All of the Municipal Alliances attended the first of two mandatory Needs Assessment trainings held by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) in March 2013. The County has conducted two follow-up training sessions to assist the Municipal Alliances in understanding the process and

what is required of each Alliance. The 2013 Needs Assessment process has begun. All Alliances attended the mandatory training.

Home Detention Program:

- Juvenile court is now scheduled every other Thursdays for a full day of hearings. Beginning April, Judge Farber will no longer be hearing juvenile matters until further notice. The vicinage will be sending Morris County family judges to cover (Judge Wright, Judge DeMarzo, Judge Enwright).

Disaster Response Conference:

- Disaster Response Conference is scheduled for the 4th of June, planning is underway. We are working with Steve Crimando (NJ Department of Human Services, Disaster and Terrorism Branch), Mark Vogel from Sussex County Office of Emergency Management and Officer Robert Haffner from the Hopatcong Police Department and OEM in coordinating this program. Save the Date postcards were mailed at the end of March to community members including first responders, mayors, non-profit agencies, Disaster Response Crisis Counselors (DRCC), etc.

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Board:

- 2013 Mental Health Plan forum was conducted January 24, 2013.
- SSH contracts are pending BOCF approval on the 24th of April. The County is holding monthly Homeless System Review meetings with the three funded SSH agencies: Samaritan Inn, Family Promise of Sussex County and Sussex County Division of Social Services.

Division of Social Services

- Social Services began a Case Banking System on the 2nd of January. The new system creates a great opportunity to see more clients and process more cases; however, it is not without its challenges. Unfortunately, the volume of residents accessing the Social Services Agency is greater than the number of clients that can be seen.
- Social Services was unable to serve 81 clients on the day they visited during the month of January due to the increased volume that we have been experiencing.
- The NJ Department of Human Services is introducing an easier way to get connected for Child Support services. The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) phone system and call center will be live in Sussex County on March 11, 2013. This service will provide access to specific case information, a variety of forms and other related services through a personalized PIN (personal identification number) security system. Clients will have the ability to check balances and make payments through the IVR system and update their personal information. A fully staffed call center will be available to respond to questions and concerns with expanded evening hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Clients can call 1-877-NJKIDS1 or visit www.njchildsupport.org for more valuable Child Support information.
- The Hampton Rotary will be hosting a golf outing at the Farmstead Country Club on May 16, 2013 to benefit the Sussex County Social Services Food Pantry. Rotary Members are seeking support from local businesses in order to provide various collection sites in their effort to collect 10,000 pounds of food.

Services:

Service	June 2012	January 2013	February 2013
TANF	30	31	32
General Assistance	71	54	60
Food Stamps	448	299	403
On-Line	58	65	87
Utility Payments	6	30	27
TOTALS	613	479	609

Active Cases:

Active Cases	December 31, 2012	January 31, 2013	February 28, 2013
Medicaid	3,270	3,330	3,233
TANF	212	207	189
Food Stamps	2,877	2,787	2,809
General Assistance	269	284	280
Emergency Assistance	287	287	277

Champions for Charity:

- Students at Wallkill Valley Regional High School collected 7,350 pounds of food during March through the Champions for Charity initiative to benefit the Social Services food pantry. Newton High School students also participated with Champions for Charity during March by stuffing a Skylands Ride bus with 3,750 pounds of donations.
- Pope John XXIII Regional High School students are scheduled to participate on April 11th and Kittatinny Regional High School students on the 16th of April. Hopatcong High School and Vernon Township High School students are scheduled to participate during May. Students have raised over 230,000 pounds of food to date through the Champions for Charity initiative.

Division of Social Services / Skylands Ride

- Sussex County Skylands Ride is currently providing transportation services on Saturdays, between the hours of 8:20 a.m. and 3:40 p.m. Transportation is also available to Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services and New Bridge. Transportation services are not available on County Holidays. Residents can obtain further information pertaining to the hours and times of services, including a listing of County

holidays, by calling Skylands Ride, Monday through Saturday, at 973-579-0480 or visiting the County website at www.sussex.nj.us.

- NJ TRANSIT performed 14 bus inspections at Skylands Ride on March 21 and 22, 2013. All vehicles passed inspection and were determined to be in safe and satisfactory condition.
- As of 3/25/13, Skylands Ride provided 23,916 rides to County residents to date through our 10 established programs and public transportation. Please see statistical spreadsheet.
- Sussex County Skylands Ride continued offering Saturday service through January. Ridership averages 40 to 50 passengers per Saturday. The majority of riders are transported to Newton Memorial Hospital and Walmart.

Division of Senior Services

- Completed the planning for Older Americans Day to be held on May 17, 2013. There will be five workshops including Chair Tai Chi, Senior Kaboodle, Move Today, Dance for Your Health with Dave, and Fragrant Spring-Flowering Garden Favorites Throughout the Ages. We anticipate, approximately, 200 seniors to attend the event.
- Completed planning for Volunteer Appreciation Day lunch on April 12, 2013. Approximately, 65 volunteers are scheduled to attend.
- Coordinated two AARP Safe Driver Courses to be held in April. Both classes are full resulting in 50 seniors receiving the course. Due to the overwhelming response, a third class is being coordinated.

Transitional Care Program

- Data for 1st Quarter is attached. When compared to the region overall readmission rate, the Programs rate is lower.
- We are currently in process of establishing a procedure to bill Medicare for some of the services offered. A recent change in regulations will allow for reimbursement for certain services.
- Staff is now in Newton Medical Center, Premier Health Associates and patient's home daily.
- The Program will be teaching a course at Sussex County Community College on "Personal Health Records" as part of a grant the College was awarded.
- Sussex County Vo-Tech and the Department are currently creating an educational/marketing video presentation on the Program.
- The Program will be presenting at the NJ Hospital Association, in June 2013.
- A partnership with NORWESCAP is currently in development to provide volunteers to assist seniors with caregiving and other programs when discharged from the acute care facilities.
- A presentation was provided to our Risk Manager about the Chronic Disease Self Management Program.
- We will be providing a community education to the SC Chamber of Commerce about the Program in May.