



OCEAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

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HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

CHILDREN'S INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

COMMISSION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD



Gerry P. Little,
Freeholder Liaison
Human Services

MESSAGE FROM THE FREEHOLDER LIAISON

On behalf of the entire Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Department of Human Services, we thank you for your dedication, your tireless efforts and your commitment to Ocean County. We continue to be grateful that each and every one of you share without hesitation your knowledge and expertise. You serve as our foundation of strength in recognizing and responding to the complex human service needs and issues that exist in today's environment.

Our volunteer members of the many Boards and Committees under the Human Services Department have dedicated countless hours of service to our community in an effort to promote positive social change. And it is through the work of our committed volunteers, steadfast providers, and devoted public servants that we have persevered with vigilance to ensure human and social services for all residents of our County.

And as we look toward the future, we recognize there will be challenges to bear, barriers to overcome, and hard work to be accomplished. Nonetheless, I am confident that the New Year will bring progress as we continue our commitment to knowledge sharing, enhanced partnerships and overall systemic advancement. We will continue to work with our community to provide outstanding services, educational programming, and innovative new solutions to meet the diverse needs of Ocean County residents.

May God continue to bless each of our families and continue to bless Ocean County.

Regards,

Gerry P. Little

Gerry P. Little, Human Service Liaison

Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Ocean County Department of Human Services faced another challenging year in 2010, as the economic downturn continued to impact all populations. The climate of need has shifted over the past few years, presenting unique situations and populations not traditionally serviced by our systems of care. It is an inspiration to have witnessed the collaborative spirit of our service delivery and planning partners in these tough and changing times.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders and the County Administration have been especially supportive this past year as we continue to identify gaps and leverage resources to meet complex needs. Our Department Freeholder Liaison, Gerry P. Little deserves a special acknowledgement for his dedication in overseeing the Department and providing the support needed to ensure we meet the County's high standards we have all come to expect.

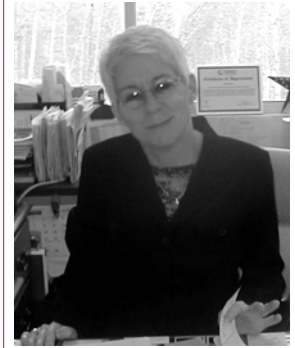
I'd like to send a special message to the Department of Human Services staff, who have dedicated their careers to public service. The current climate imposes great frustration for many. But know that what you do has a positive social impact. And while the situations we seek to navigate may continue to grow more demanding, your commitment to making a difference in the lives of those living in Ocean County is irreplaceable. This message is also true for the dedicated community providers I cross paths with everyday that are so caring about the people they work with. Without either group, achieving daily and long-term goals would seem impossible.

I look forward to working together again in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Jill S. Perez, Director



Jill S. Perez
Director
Human Services

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Ocean County Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) focused upon collaboration with the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Ocean County Board of Social Services and many other local community agencies to meet the growing and complex needs of our community. As economic trends continue to impact all populations, the HSAC continues to foster systems enhancements and partnerships that can innovatively serve Ocean County citizens who present with extraordinary needs during increasingly challenging times.

The HSAC continues to meet the 4th Thursday of each month at 2:30 PM to discuss relevant needs in Ocean County. The commitment agencies display through their representation at HSAC meetings should be commended, as it is recognized that with increasing demands and dwindling resources, it is difficult to sustain involvement in the many critical planning and oversight activities within the County.

The Continuum of Care Committee (CoC) continues to assist with the development of the County's Housing and Urban Development application for targeted housing projects. The CoC also remains focused on discussing the housing needs of the low income and at risk populations in an effort to address those needs through the providers serving Ocean County.

The CoC along with members of the Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Systems (CEAS) Committee and the HSAC participated in the annual Point in Time (PIT) count and Project Homeless Connect held on January 27, 2010. This event counted the number of unsheltered and sheltered homeless for that specific day in January. The Project Homeless Connect took place at Ocean County Hunger Relief, Toms River, Macedonia Baptist Church, Lakewood, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Seaside

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Heights, and St. Francis Community Center, Brant Beach. Through the Project Homeless Connect, hot meals, coats, packages of toiletries, and resource information were distributed while individuals were encouraged to participate in the PIT survey.

The Legislative Advocacy Committee (LAC) continued its dialogue with legislators by personally meeting with the 9th, 10th and 30th Congressional Districts. The LAC has scheduled a Legislative Breakfast for 2011, with NAMI taking the lead.

The HSAC Child Care Committee met quarterly and is preparing for a new child care plan. Collaborating with the CIACC, the HSAC Child Care Committee has developed a survey to be distributed to Centers and Center Directors. This information will inform an upcoming needs assessment the HSAC and CIACC will collaboratively develop, through direction from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF).

The Ocean County Unsheltered Task Force continued outreaching the unsheltered homeless population in January, May and November of 2010. While this population remains difficult to engage, all systems partners should be commended for their outreach work and continued support of the Task Force initiative.

The HSAC, LAC, Child Care Committee and the CoC are dedicated to bettering the lives of vulnerable citizens in Ocean County. It is because of the volunteers who dedicate their time toward the HSAC's activities and the partners who continue to support the HSAC that the HSAC's mission continues with gratifying accomplishments and successes.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

The Mental Health Board focused their efforts in 2010 upon advocating for a number of funding issues surrounding the mental health system of care. Importantly, the Board vigilantly engaged in efforts to ensure that local input and considerations were heard as a part of collaborative decision making processes.

The Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) partnered with the Provider Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (PACADA) in July of 2010 to discuss key issues pertaining to the merger of the New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services and the Division of Addiction Services. The meeting solicited local input from mental health and drug and alcohol providers, consumers and advocates to inform the State merger based on local experience and expectations for positive change. In addition, the PAC and PACADA collaborated to present the 2010 PACADA Conference entitled “A Focus on Co-Occurring Disorders” to over 100 attendees.

The PAC Project Team, charged with addressing the planning priorities of education, awareness, collaboration and communication building successfully engaged system partners in a quarterly Cross Training series to enhance community agency collaboration, communication and awareness regarding system services. Of great importance through this effort was an opportunity for provider staff to network and build mutually beneficial partnerships. Moving into 2011, the Cross Training series will continue, though less frequently, as the PAC has incorporated joint PAC/PACADA meetings as a part of the regular meeting calendar.

The Emergency Response Committee (ERC) was pleased to host a number of Disaster Response Crisis Counseling training session in Ocean County to support volunteer efforts in providing

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

disaster response crisis counseling within our community. The ERC continued to work closely this year with the American Red Cross - Jersey Coast Chapter, DMHS DTB, the County Office of Emergency Management and the Mental Health Association in NJ strengthening partnerships in disaster response. Ocean County held an educational session entitled “Traumatic Loss from a Faith Perspective” in May of 2010 engaging certified Disaster Response Crisis Counselors, clergy, and planning partners in a successful day of training and collaboration.

The Jail Diversion Task Force, its Outreach Team and Ocean County’s Justice Involved Services program conducted awareness and educational presentations to Municipal Court Judges, Assistant Prosecutors, and the Police Departments throughout 2010, with intentions of engaging in additional presentations in 2011.

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, the Board partnered with the County Mental Health Awareness Committee to present a countywide calendar of events. The kick-off celebration, held annually in May, was another great success as participants gathered to honor individuals that impact stigma reduction and awareness. In addition, the Board partnered with the Advisory Commission on the Status of Women during Women’s Health Month in October to present a depression awareness session entitled “A Successful and Healthy Life Begins with You!”.

The Board will continue to advocate on behalf of the mental health needs for all individuals with mental illness and seeks to expand their knowledge of key issues.

For more information regarding the Mental Health Board activities, PAC Cross-Training Calendar, and publications visit the Department of Human Services website.

CHILDREN'S INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Overseen by the Mental Health Board, CIACC provides a multidisciplinary forum to review and discuss behavioral health care for children in our community. With 29 members and nine committees, it oversees the system of children's behavioral health care, is a conduit of information between state and local stakeholders, and mobilizes collaborative efforts to address needs of high priority populations.

The CIACC welcomed the new Commissioner of the NJ Department of Children and Families, Dr. Allison Blake, at its October meeting and celebrated the 5th anniversary of the local System of Care with an open house at Ocean Partnership for Children.

The CIACC conducts an annual County Service Needs Assessment. Five top service needs for FY2011 include: Services for youth dually diagnosed with mental health and developmental disabilities, recreational activities for youth with behavioral challenges, independent/ supervised transitional living services for older youth, specialized therapies, and services for very young children under 5 years old. The comprehensive report provides a framework for the CIACC's activities and advocacy.

Ocean was awarded funding from the NJ Division of Child Behavioral Health Services to develop Clinical Evidence-Based Programs. The CIACC sponsored training on Motivational Interviewing, Structural Family Therapy/Brief Strategic Family Therapy, and the Strengthening Families Program for 10 to 14 year olds. The trainings were open to all partners in the county's system of care.

The CIACC is a proud partner in the Mental Health Awareness Committee. The Committee organized a 3rd annual calendar art contest for 5th grade students and a Community

CHILDREN'S INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Advocate Award ceremony, in addition to participating in various community events to raise awareness around mental health and eliminate the stigma associated with mental health treatment.

The CIACC diligently promotes a strong partnership between the child protective services, children's behavioral health programs and the education system through cross-training so that children may see the full benefit of these systems working together. Replication of the model and expansions to incorporate additional social/human service systems have been sponsored by US and NJ Departments of Education and endorsed by statewide initiatives. This project facilitated a bulletin board art contest in honor of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, with first place awarded to New Road School of Lakewood.

The Systems Review Committees of CIACC and Mental Health Board formed a joint Aging Out/ Aging In team in 2007 to facilitate seamless service delivery for young adults who are transitioning from the children's to the adult system. The team serves as a pilot for "Transition Planning Conferencing" initiative between DCBHS and DMHS. In 2010, the team hosted a second annual Transitional Living Resource Fair.

The Committee for Children who are Dually Diagnosed connects providers from the developmental disability and children's behavioral health service systems. In 2010, the committee has focused on improving partnerships between the acute mental health care and behavioral crisis service systems.

The breadth of the CIACC directly reflects the ardor and enthusiasm of its membership. All CIACC members share their time, insights, and remain solution-focused, which has culminated in a strong Council with clear directives and a positive impact in the community.

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Ocean County Advisory Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to identifying the needs, concerns and interests as well as services and resources for women in Ocean County. As part of this mission, the Commission has provided a number of education and awareness programs throughout the year.

In March of 2010, the Commission successfully coordinated with the Ocean County Library and the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore to celebrate Women's History Month. The Commission outreached Ocean County students, grades 1 through 12, to participate in a "Creative Stamp" Contest celebrating "Writing Women Back Into History." The Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Commission honored the 375 contest participants at an awards ceremony at the Ocean County Library.

The Commission participated locally in National Women's Health Week, May 9th through the 15th, 2010 by cosponsoring the second annual Food: Mind & Body Connection program with the Ocean County Library. Bookmarks with healthy tips were also distributed through florist throughout the County to be delivered with Mothers Day flowers.

This year marked the Commission's sixth annual Women's Advocate of the Year celebration. This award is the Commission's tribute to those who go above and beyond to meet the growing needs of our women residents and their families. This year the Commission honored the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. Marcia Fishkin & Judy Martis on behalf of the 2009 Advocate, Providence House, presented Girl Scout Karen Fitzgerald with the 2010 award for the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. The Commission will hold their seventh annual Advocate of the Year Celebration in September 2011.

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Commission celebrated the 19th anniversary of Women's Health Month, with a Freeholder Proclamation Presentation declaring October as "Women's Health Month" in Ocean County at a Kick Off Celebration focusing on Women's Mental Health & Its Impact on the Family. The Commission's Health Month Committee partnered with local health care providers, educators and advocates for a countywide calendar of events for the month of October. This year's Health Month theme, "Top Ten in 2010", was to encourage, guide and support women everywhere to take healthy steps towards a healthy lifestyle. Women's Health Month activities and resources targeted both social and health concerns with a variety of educational, interactive and informative programs. The Women's Health Month Committee is looking to broaden the Committee's relationship with other community organizations in order to focus on women's health issues throughout the year rather than just one month.

The Commission sponsored a Clothing Drive to assist the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office – Special Victims' Unit. New clothing was collected at 13 locations for emergency rooms throughout Ocean County to help women who have been the victims of sexual assault. The Clothing Drive will be held again in April 2011.

The Commission has actively been collaborating with several organizations to be the voice for the women and their families of Ocean County through such organizations as The Children's Home Society of NJ – Ocean County Early Learning Council & CUNA, the Regional Perinatal Consortium of Monmouth & Ocean Counties, the Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County, Providence House Domestic Violence Services, the Ocean County Violence Prevention Project, and HealthEASE Wellness Coalition.

COMMISSION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The Ocean County Office for Individuals with Disabilities is committed to providing awareness and education to help improve the quality of life for residents living with disabilities in Ocean County. The advisory board to the Office, the Commission for Individuals with Disabilities, was established to address issues of inclusion and awareness in the community. As part of that mission, the Office collaborates with organizations and participates in information sharing activities in an effort to enhance program planning and to provide a voice for individuals, families and communities concerned with disability related issues.

In honor of the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act the Office engaged in activities necessary to update the County's ADA Plan. Through a network of key Ocean County Departments including Buildings and Grounds, Parks and Recreation, Risk Management, and Planning along with community stakeholders a Committee was developed to conduct walkthroughs of all Ocean County buildings and facilities to ensure compliance with ADA Federal regulations. The ADA Plan Update process will continue into 2011.

There has been a continued concentrated effort in 2010 by the Office and the Commission to increase public awareness regarding disability issues. Through participation at a number of public events, community meetings, and by engaging in outreaches to community providers, the Office and Commission enhanced partnerships, gained critical knowledge of systems issues and resources, and build competencies in addressing residents needs.

The Office also continues to send out weekly e-notifications to share information regarding resources, issues and events

COMMISSION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

specific to disabilities. The e-notification initiative has been met with positive feedback with a growing number of individuals interested in receiving the information.

The DATE Team, Disability Awareness Through Education, continues to provide disability awareness services in Ocean County. The DATE program engages over 6,000 school-aged children each year in promoting a sensitive, accurate understanding of a variety of disabilities through personal accounts of these impacts on everyday life.

The Office and the Commission celebrated Disability Awareness Month in October, which was initiated by an Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders Proclamation Presentation declaring the month of October Disability Awareness Month in Ocean County.

The Office continues to publish the Housing Resource Guide with the assistance of the Ocean County Office of Senior Services and the Board of Social Services. This universal resource is distributed and updated annually. The Office also makes available a Resource Guide intended to provide information to help individuals navigate the resources that best meet their needs. Both resource documents are regularly updated and available on the Department of Human Services website. The Office provided over 3,000 Resource Guides and over 4,500 Housing Resource Guides in 2010 to the many individuals who contact the Office for Information and Referral Services.

Information and Referral services were provided to approximately 700 individuals, a significant increase from prior years.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

The Ocean County Workforce Investment Board (OCWIB) provides strategic support for workforce initiatives within the County. The OCWIB and its standing committees; Youth Investment Council, One-Stop Collaborative, Economic Development Committee, Literacy Committee, and Marketing Committee address diverse and emerging workforce issues effecting Ocean County.

OCWIB also provides policy guidance and oversight for the One-Stop Career System established in 1998 when Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The Ocean County One-Stop Career System provides a diverse mix of employment and career related services that include career planning and job search workshops, workplace literacy education and business related training sessions all of which are designed to assist our customers compete in the 21st century economy.

This year was a challenging one for the One-Stop Career system, as economic recovery has been slow and the effects of the recession continued to impact thousands of Ocean County residents who have lost their jobs or closed their businesses and have been unable to secure employment. Through the end of November over twenty thousand (20,000) residents sought some level of workforce related services through the One-Stop Career Centers as the unemployment rate for the County hovered around ten percent (10%). The system continued to provide services through its formula allocations and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

OCWIB has continued its involvement in diverse workforce initiatives including the consolidated “To Work” activities of the WorkFirst New Jersey program and the WIA Title II Literacy programs, which have both experienced an influx of individuals

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

seeking services due to the recession.

The GED Test Center at Ocean County College continues to thrive, seeing steady increases in test takers for a total of over twenty three hundred since 2006. With over fifteen hundred individuals receiving their high school diploma during the past four years, the Center ranks third among GED Test Centers at Community Colleges in the State. The satellite GED Test Center, established in 2008 at the MATES facility in Manahawkin, continues to provide access to residents in Southern Ocean County.

OCWIB continues to collaborate on the Fort Monmouth Reemployment Committee to ensure that dislocated workers have access to needed re-employment services. The Economic Development Committee of OCWIB is invested in the re-development of Fort Monmouth facilities advocating for the continued development of Joint Base NJ.

Finally, OCWIB continues its partnership in the Regional Employment Development Initiative (REDI) to develop a “green jobs” Talent Network for the State.

The New Year presents the continued challenge of serving the needs of the thousands of Ocean County dislocated workers who are still seeking re-employment with rapidly dwindling resources. It is through the continued support and contributions of our members, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Freeholder Liaison Joseph H. Vicari, and the OCWIB committee members, Ocean County’s One-Stop Career Centers, and One-Stop Partners; as well as the staff of OCWIB and the Ocean County Department of Human Services, that OCWIB is successful in its mission and will continue to be successful in the future.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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Sarah Gelbwachs -2nd Vice Chair
Roberto Flecha - Secretary
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 Vivian Bartkus
 Jon Baum
 Connie Becraft
 Camille Biamonte
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 Gwen Forte
 Rabbi Sruli Fried
 Capt. William Garrett
 Theodore Gooding
 Susan Kelly
 Paul Kozak
 Maria LaFace
 Carol Latif
 Maureen Lawrence
 Jarrett Lynn
 Dominick Magliaro
 Mary Fran McFadden
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 Stan Evanowski
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 Marge Nikodem
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 Nina Rettino
 Lori Tomaro
 Patti Trustan
 Rabbi Moshe Weisberg
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Gina Suriano
Nancy Chiorazzi
Janet Lickley
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Gina Polese-Grosso
Violet LaGrotteria
Pamela Ulrich
Nancy Weber- Loeffert
Marilyn Williamson

Workforce Investment Board



Robert Landolfi & Dolores Ziegler



Jill Perez



Jessica Davis & Terri Battaglio



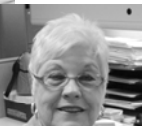
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Sue Semevolos



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Commission for Individuals with Disabilities

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Workforce Investment Board

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DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Ocean County Department of Human Services (OCDHS) was established to initiate and support program development addressing human services needs in Ocean County. The Department aims to develop and sustain productive partnerships with State, County and local organizations - and to coordinate service delivery ensuring a comprehensive approach in meeting community needs.

The Department is comprised of several specialized units, Boards and Committees that work as a team for collaborative planning, implementation and oversight of programs and initiatives of community impact.

The overall goal of the Department is to coordinate planning efforts, and facilitate joint program development and implementation for Federal, State and County funded initiatives meeting the diverse needs of individuals, families and businesses in Ocean County.

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OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS



John C. Bartlett, Jr.

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Advisory Commission on the Status of Women

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