



Human Services Director  
MICHAEL FROST

Community Development Director  
KIMBERLY COWART

# COUNTY OF SOMERSET DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

27 Warren Street • P.O. Box 3000  
Somerville, New Jersey 08876-1262  
(908) 541-5756 • Fax (908) 575-3935  
CommDev@co.somerset.nj.us  
www.co.somerset.nj.us



Aging & Disability Services  
JOANNE FETZKO

One Stop Career Center  
Juvenile Institutional Services  
MONICA MULLIGAN

Richard Hall Community MHC  
NICCI SPINAZZOLA

Rutgers Cooperative Extension  
DARYL MINCH

Veterans Services  
PETER NIEMIEC

Volunteer Services  
WILLIAM F. CROSBY

Youth Services  
LINDA M. PORCARO

## January 9, 2020 Continuum of Care meeting minutes

The January 2020 meeting, which took place in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room of the Human Services building (27 Warren Street) in Somerville, was called to order and began at 10:01 am. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and the minutes from the November meeting were unanimously approved.

Kimberly Cowart began the meeting by thanking Steven Nagel (who was not in attendance) for his service as Chair of the Committee for the previous two years.

Committee members were asked who had interest in being the new Chair and Heather Bielefeldt from Alternatives expressed her interest. A vote was taken and she was unanimously approved as the new Chair.

The Committee discussed revising the by-laws to allow a member of a non-profit to serve as Vice-Chair of the Committee. There had been a requirement that a representative of County government serve as Vice-Chair. However, with the regular involvement of County staff, it was seen as unnecessary to also have a County employee serve as Vice-Chair. A vote was taken to revise the by-laws and passed unanimously.

The Committee was reminded that the annual Point In Time Count is Wednesday, January 29, 2020, and that there was a training session for the survey at 11:30am, following the Committee meeting.

The Community Development Office is working with the County Planning Board and Census 2020 to hold a series of events to promote the upcoming census. The Planning Board received a grant from the State Complete Count to pay for these events. The first event – WinterFest – will be held on January 18 from 11am-2pm at the Franklin Middle School. The plan is to focus on the low-response areas in the County in order to promote participation. Future events will be held in North Plainfield, Somerville, and Bound Brook. The events will be family friendly, with games and activities for kids, free food, and information on the census and how to apply for a job with Census 2020.

The results of the Strategic Plan Survey were positive and show that things are going in the right direction. Among the suggestions and/or requests were: a need for more technical support for grant applications; information about what the various CoC agencies do and what clients they see; a desire for more diverse partners from other professional areas (such as media, education, private business); an interest in more networking opportunities for CoC members.

- Mission Statement -

The County of Somerset is committed to excellence and innovation in public service, promoting the well-being of all residents and communities by providing effective, efficient and responsive leadership.

*Somerset County Is An Equal Opportunity Employer*

At the end of the meeting, Soldier On presented a request for a Letter of Support, which was needed by January 27<sup>th</sup>. (This topic had been inadvertently left off the agenda.) A brief presentation was made and a motion to provide the Letter of Support passed unanimously.

Announcements:

- Please be sure to let your clients know that beginning January 1, New Jersey residents experiencing homelessness should call 2-1-1 for help. Under this new framework, NJ 2-1-1 will serve as New Jersey's Homeless Hotline to connect residents in need with shelter.
- United Way's free tax preparation program will begin to offer services on January 31, 2020. For questions about the program email Monica Conover, call 973.993.1160, x529.
- Somerset County, Census 2020 and Franklin Middle School will host Winterfest 2020 on January 18. This event will offer an interactive mix of fun, and information about valuable county programs, services and initiatives including Census 2020. There will be games and activities for children, prize drawings, giveaways, and free pizza.
- The Central Jersey Housing Resource Center will offer a Financial Literacy Workshop on February 11 from 5:30-8:30pm.
- A Veterans Mental Health First Aid course, which is targeted for veterans and agencies serving veterans, is scheduled for February 20th and 27th. There will be a total of 8 hours of training.
- The Salvation Army has a music program available for children ages 6 and up. It begins January 28<sup>th</sup> and runs through May. The cost is \$40.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21am.