



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



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REFERENCE:
 Council
 Mental Health
 Youth
 Disabled
 Substance Abuse
 Transportation

To be approved on March 1, 2023.

YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 4, 2023 12:30 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>		<u>EX-OFFICIO</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
L. Gonski	J. Collevechio*	K. Williams	D. Childers	J. Raczyk
K. Conyers*	C. Douglass			J. Hunt
F. Brown	L. Lupo			M. LaRoche*
L. Ranieri	T. Roberts*			
A. Villano	A. DeLuca			
R. Rosarion	A. Gatani*			
L. Gudino	M. O'Reilly			
C. Baxevane				

*Designees

- I. "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting has been provided in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News. A public notice announcing this meeting has also been placed in the lobbies of the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, the first floor of the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street Building #1, Flemington, NJ; the first floor of the Route 12 County Complex, Building #3, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ and County Clerk's Office."

PURPOSE: The Commission shall serve as an advisory committee to the Human Services Advisory Council and to the Board of County Commissioners to maximize provision of assistance to youth and their families, and to promote prevention programs that enhance the building of competencies and positive development of children and youth and reduce the likelihood of juvenile delinquency and other socially unacceptable behaviors.

F. Brown opened the meeting and introductions were made among the participants.

- II. **MINUTES:** A motion was made by L. Ranieri to approve the meeting minutes from November 2, 2022. All were in favor. The motion passed. C. Baxevane advised the last set of meeting notes has her raising a lot of concerns and C. Baxevane advised it was not her.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Current Trends: D. Childers stated a good portion of the members of the YSC Committee were at the last meeting, November 2, 2022, and had decided to change up agenda. The committee will start off by discussing any trends any agencies are currently seeing. D. Childers conveyed any guests or new attendees to the YSC meetings will have an open floor to discuss their ideas and any questions they may have. D. Childers stated L. Zellar was unable to attend the meeting so she will be presenting L. Zellar's report for mobile response stabilization. D. Childers conveyed L. Zellar has observed trends including, increasing number of youths with autism spectrum disorder diagnoses, vague suicidal ideation, suspected substance abuse, oppositional behaviors, and physical aggression.

C. Douglas stated she is the outreach coordinator for the Hunterdon County Yes Program. She conveyed she has been busy assisting students choosing to withdraw from schools and putting students into the Yes Program. C. Douglas states it is a negative as well as a positive. C. Douglas stated she is seeing great results from students continuing to work on their High School Equivalency and Career Path Instruction.

J. Collevchio asked D. Childers if it was known what substances were being abused regarding L. Zellar's report. D. Childers advised it is suspected substance abuse and she will discuss with L. Zellar to see if there are any specifics. Any specifics will be included in the meeting minutes.

M. LaRoche, Tri-County CMO Chief Operating Officer advised the agency has seen a surge in referrals, at a time when referrals normally remain low during this time of the year. M. LaRoche stated Tri-County has been seeing more acute youth with suicidal ideations.

J. Collevchio stated she has been made aware of a large increase in marijuana use. J. Collevchio stated it was anticipated with the change in the NJ law and availability of marijuana in the State of New Jersey. J. Collevchio stated Marijuana Dispensaries are starting to open in the area. One dispensary is opening in Branchburg and one dispensary is opening in Flemington. J. Collevchio advised she is observing and following the upward trend that is occurring. J. Collevchio also stated vaping is still very prevalent among students.

B. Community Engagement: D. Childers advised the committee is looking for ways to increase engaging the community to attend YSC meetings. D. Childers asked if there are any presentations or workshops being offered by agencies scheduled for the beginning of 2023. D. Childers shared the potential idea of using a 5-question survey using a QR Code to engage participants and is open to other suggestions. D. Childers conveyed at the beginning of the school year, schools typically try to plan presentations and asked the group if anyone knows of any scheduled or of any that are in the planning stages.

L. Gonski advised a virtual presentation on January 30, 2023, in Tewksbury Township on Anxiety will be held. L. Gonski advised she could try to incorporate something to assist. D. Childers requested looking at opportunities on what type of presentations are starting to be offered. D. Childers requested to know if the schools are on board with in-person or keeping presentations virtual.

R. Rosarion, Tri County CMO Director of Training, advised Tri County is working with Dr. Nate Smith and is holding a presentation on January 12, 2023 at 10am at South Hunterdon Regional

High School. The presentation at this time is in person, R. Rosario will advise when that is confirmed. The presentation will be on how CMO's can support staff and students.

R. Rosario is currently working with Hunterdon Probation on a workshop for families and at this time it will be an in-person workshop on 1/19/23 or 1/26/23. Dates and times will be confirmed by D. Childers.

J. Collevchio reports Prevention Resources is doing a Marijuana and cannibals presentation at Clinton Township Middle School on February 21, 2023. The presentation is intended for parents. J. Collevchio advised Prevention Resources is planning on doing a survey with the link. If there are questions or specific items to be added to the survey to let J. Collevchio know so that they can be added to the survey.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

D. Childers advised there is no new business at this time. D. Childers reported the 4th quarter had ended on December 31, 2022. The end of the year statistics will be available in March 2023. D. Childers advised she will present a summary of the funded programs with JJC dollars in addition to any county contracts for youth programs.

V. AGENCY UPDATES/NEWS:

Hunterdon Healthcare System (School Based Initiative): L. Gonski, the Coordinator for the School Based program in Hunterdon, reported things are progressing. L. Gonski advised effective January 17, 2023, she will be stepping down from the coordinator position and returning to the school-based therapist position full time.

Prevention Resources: J. Collevchio reports an increase in substance abuse in the early intervention program. Criminal Mischief, Assault and Harassment has been a growing trend with the program as well.

VI. REPORTS:

A. Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC): No report at this time.

B. Department of Children and Families – Children's System of Care (CSOC):

- i. Tri-County Care Management Organization (CMO):** R. Rosario, taking over for L. Zimmerman, reported the agency's total enrollment is comprised of eight-hundred and twenty-seven (848) youth or families. Of those, one hundred and forty-three (143) are Hunterdon County youth.

Gender status is currently eighty-seven (87) males and fifty-six (56) females.

The primary age cluster of youth served are age eleven (11) through seventeen (17). There is currently zero (0) youth between the age of newborn and four (4).

One-hundred and forty (140) of the one-hundred and forty-three (143) youth remain home- and in the community. The remaining three (3) youth are at various out-of-home treatment

facilities (2) for Behavioral Health and (1) for DD.

Currently, out of the one-hundred and forty-three (143) youth, there are one-hundred and two (102) Caucasian, sixteen (16) bi-racial, fifteen (15) African American/Black, six (6) unknown, three (3) other, and one (1) Asian.

In terms of diagnoses, the top five are adjustment disorder, ADHD, depression, anxiety, and developmental.

Referral sources remain to be Children's Mobile Response Stabilization Services as the primary, community provider, families, hospitals or CMO transfers.

The top five areas youth and their families are accessing services are Flemington, Annandale, Hampton, High Bridge, and Frenchtown.

With regards to our Strength & Needs Assessments (SNA): Seventeen (17) youth had a greater than zero diagnoses for substance use A score of "1" suggests treatment may be needed, a score of "2" suggests treatment is needed as substance use impacts youth's life functioning and a score of "3" suggests treatment is imminent.

Substance Use Diagnosis: Hunterdon County accounts for six (6) youth with a Substance Use (SU) diagnosis. Five (5) of the five (6) youth had cannabis related diagnoses, one (1) alcohol diagnosis.

ii. **Tri-County Family Support Organization (FSO):** No Report.

iii. **Tri-County Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS):** L. Zellar reported that for December 2022, MRSS had twenty-five (25) dispatches in Hunterdon County out of the tri-county total of one-hundred and thirty-eight (138). The dispatches increased to twenty-one (21) in November for Hunterdon County. There has been an increase within the age group of six (6) to twelve (12) and thirteen (13) to eighteen (18). In December 2022, (1) undocumented family was provided MRSS services.

C. **N.J. Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P):** C. Baxevane reported she is unable to access her statistic files for this meeting. C. Baxevane advised she will email D. Childers when she regains access.

C. Baxevane stated she is looking for presenters for 2023 staff meetings. If members from other agencies would like to come to their office to do a presentation on what services, their agency could provide to families to message or call her at the DCP&P office to schedule the presentation. C. Baxevane stated presentation time would be 15-30 minutes on how each agency can utilize resources for support. C. Baxevane reported The United Way Holiday Hands program was very generous this year as well as Weichert Relators of Flemington for Toys for Tots program to provide to families. Children were given gift cards to local restaurants and stores.

December statistics per email: 211 active children, zero (0) removals, four (4) child welfare referrals and 37 child protective referrals – nine (9) physical abuse, 64 neglect, and four (4) sexual abuse.

D. **N.J. Juvenile Justice Commission (NJJC):** K. Williams advised nothing new to report at this time. K. Williams advised the 3-year plan and application will be coming out in April. K. Williams

reported that there will be changes to the plan this year. K. Williams requests additional participants for planning committees to bring ideas and services needed for Hunterdon County. K. Williams reported in 2022 there was only one (1) Juvenile committed to the Juvenile Justice Commission.

E. School-Based Youth Services: L. Gonski advised she has nothing new to report. The School-Based Youth Services Position is advertised, and interviews are being held.

F. Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU): K. Conyers advised that she was waiting for the rescheduling of the JOA meeting, which at the time was scheduled for 10/17/22. K. Conyers has spoken to a number of law enforcement agencies and those agencies conveyed that they thought FCIU services were no longer active or available. K. Conyers recommended that there is a need to clarify that FCIU is still active and available as a resource. K. Conyers reported further success in school meetings with parents. K. Conyers advised the meetings with parents are often to provide them with parenting tools and suggestions to help decrease conflict in the household. K. Conyers reported the need to get into the schools. K. Conyers advised the contact person has become difficult to obtain because the schools are now regionalized and not individual. K. Conyers conveyed that there is no central point of contact. K. Conyers advised that each school must be contacted individually. K. Conyers advised she has a project to go and see if FCIU can work to obtain contacts and get into the school system. K. Conyers advised the need to talk with staff and have meetings with parents is of importance.

G. Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI): D. Childers advised the meeting scheduled for December was rescheduled for January 9, 2023. D. Childers reported Hunterdon's JDAI County Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement (CJJSI) continues to work to be eligible to apply for Innovations funding – currently Hunterdon is not eligible. D. Childers commented that T. Roberts may have additional comments.

T. Roberts advised that the general County CJJSI council will be meeting on the 9th at 3pm. Currently, Hunterdon has one youth in detention that will probably be discussed. T. Roberts reported an MDT has been developed for Hunterdon County. The MDT will meet when there is a youth lodged at the detention center for system partners to discuss options and resources for that youth and family. Sheriff F. Brown advised he would like to be included in future MDT meetings.

VII. ADJOURN:

As there was no further new business the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 pm. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Microsoft Teams.

*As a reminder, if your organization would like to include any additional staff or email information has changed to please contact D. Childers with changes.