



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

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



908-788-1253
908-788-1372
908-806-4204 FAX
humansvc@co.hunterdon.nj.us

P.O. Box 2900
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-2900
(Location: 8 Gauntt Place)

REFERENCE:

- Council
- Mental Health
- Youth
- Disabled
- Substance Abuse
- Transportation

Draft to be approved November 1, 2023

YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

DRAFT

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 12:30 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

K. Stoskus	L. Gudino
F. Brown	C. Douglass
L. Ranieri	K. Omoifo
L. Zellar	K. Conyers
J. Collevchio*	
N. Russo	
A. Gayle	
J. Kuhl	
W. Mennan Jr.	
C. Baxevane	

*Designees

EX-OFFICIO

STAFF

D. Childers

GUESTS

J. Keebler
E. Kesler
J. Cassano
J. Raczyk
K. Iwashko
G. Drugos

- 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.

- II. **MINUTES:** A motion was made by J. Collevchio to approve the meeting minutes of July 12, 2023, and L. Ranieri seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2024-2026 Comprehensive County Youth Services Commission Plan and Application Update:

D. Childers reported that the Comprehensive County Youth Services Commission Plan and Application generally the planning phase occurs over the summer. JJC did not release the documents to the YSC coordinators until August 18, 2023, so the planning phase has been delayed. The due date for the application has been extended from October 2023 to December 15, 2023. There is relevant information missing for the application. D. Childers reached out to some individuals looking for any statistics they could provide. Mobile Response and CMO were able to obtain information that can be incorporated into the planning process. To streamline the process, the planning committee focuses on the following categories including Delinquency Prevention, Diversion, Detention, Disposition and Re-Entry. While observing the statistics D. Childers stated that she can condense 3 of the 5 categories into one planning meeting. There will need to be a diversion meeting and a prevention meeting as well. D. Childers is looking for everyone to participate in those meetings, which will be held through Microsoft Teams. The meetings will be one and a half hours to be able to sort through and discuss the information, obtain feedback and recommendations to incorporate that into the planning process.

B. Subcommittees: D. Childers reported that there are 5 subcommittees. Out of the 5 subcommittees, 2 of them have positions that need to be filled, specifically for the Nominating Committee and the Bylaws Committee. For the Nominating Committee, G. Drugos has been serving and if she is interested in continuing to serve that would be greatly appreciated. For the Nominations Committee there are 3 open positions. For the Bylaws Committee there are 3 open positions. These committees are for YSC Members only.

Discussion Ensued.

C. Program Site Monitoring Update: D. Childers reported that annually a site monitoring is done for the programs that are funded with Youth Service Commission designated funding. So far out of the 4 programs, 3 of the monitoring's have taken place and as of right now those programs are meeting their contracted level of service and standards. The 4th program is the Morris County Youth Shelter, and that monitoring event will be taking place later this month. We did have one Juvenile in the shelter this year. In several of the YSC meetings, we discussed the needs of Juveniles and referrals have decreased for some of the programs. Three of the four programs that are funded with the YSC funds have had low referrals and staffing issues. We are reaching the 3-year cycle period. This fall we will start the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and come January 1, 2024, there will be new contracts for the 3-year cycle. D. Childers will be providing a summary of how the contracts have been performing by the end of December 2023.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Current Trends: D. Childers reported that she is working on locating a Human Trafficking Presentation for this committee and possibly open it up to others that would like to attend. September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in addition to National Recovery Month. If there are any events that are being planned that someone would like to share, or a topic that you would like to share from your own organization or agency, please contact D. Childers.

K. Conyers reported having attended an event that was held at Raritan Valley Community College entitled "If I Can Dream." The event focused on introducing individuals to the dangers of Fentanyl

and there was a display where individuals could go in and view the Black poster project where they could obtain information about individuals that have passed away from opioid overdose and the stories behind them. The event also provided free training on Narcan.

J. Collvechio reported that the Family Support Center is participating in the Hope Walk in Seaside Heights on September 9, 2023. The Family Support Open Door Recovery Center will be presenting on Leave Behind Kits. The kits include toiletries and personal items. For anyone who has received Narcan will receive these packages as we are working with Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). The Family Support Center will be at the New Jersey Peer Conference on September 27, 2023. Prevention Resources be presenting at the Somerset County Human Services Academy on September 19, 2023. Prevention Resources will also be presenting at the Panel at the New Jersey Opioid Conference on September 20, 2023. The Family Support Center will be hosting a Recovery Day service activity on September 30, 2023, that will benefit Safe in Hunterdon, Veterans Haven North and the Flemington Area Food Pantry. Participants will be assisting in assembling care kits for the individuals at those facilities as well as collecting food for the food pantry. The Open-Door Recovery Center is hosting a Game Night on September 16, 2023.

E. Kesler from Norwescap stated Norwescap is having their 27th Annual 5K Race. The purpose for this event is to end hunger. They are partnering with Shoprite and the date for the race is September 17, 2023. Norwescap has raised 500,000 dollars over the years through this event and it benefits the entire community. The cost is 20 dollars per participant.

- B. Community Engagement:** D. Childers reported that membership has been added to the Youth Services Website. If anyone has any suggestions, information, or resources that the group feels would be beneficial to put on the website to contact her.

Discussion Ensued

AGENCY UPDATES/NEWS: J. Collevechio reporting having a Farm to Fork event coming up. At this event Prevention Resources will be honoring Commissioner John Lanza and Sergeant Timothy Nemeth. Sergeant Timothy Nemeth was the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Resource Officer and will be retiring.

G. Allen reported that the Somerset County Juvenile Institutional Services in which Hunterdon County contracts, to provide Detention Alternatives currently has the first youth on electronic monitoring, he is serving his 30 days post dispositional term.

VI. REPORTS: (13:00)

- A. Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC):** L. Gudino reported CIACC will be meeting this Monday at 1:00pm at Hunterdon Central Regional High School. The CIACC is partnering with HARVEST for their back-to-school event in Frenchtown and Flemington. There was a survey and questionnaire recently sent out to those two towns. The items on the questionnaire were geared towards how families obtained their needs, what would they like to see more of in the community for their children and capture some household demographics. Through this survey they found in Frenchtown, families were more reserved with what they were comfortable sharing and in Flemington, families were more forthcoming.

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

- i. Tri-County Care Management Organization (CMO):** N. Russo, the Community Engagement Coordinator reported their agency total was 934 Youth. 145 Youth are in Hunterdon County which is 16 Percent of the total. 59 percent are male, 41 percent are female, the primary age range is 14-17 years old. 96 percent of the 145 Youth remain in the community

or at home, 4 percent are in out of home treatment programs, 5 Youth are in Behavioral Health Programs while 1 Youth is in a DD Program. Out of the 145 Youth, 55 percent are Caucasian, 18 percent are African American or Black, 9 Percent are Bi-Racial, 4 percent were listed as Other, 2 Percent are Asian, 1 Percent are Unknown. 81 Percent are not Hispanic while 17 Percent were. 51 percent of the Youth are enrolled in Medicaid and the top 5 Diagnostic Prevalence's were 76 percent adjustment disorder, 46 percent Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), 28 percent Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD), 26 percent Anxiety disorder and 25 percent Depression. 39 percent of our referrals come from Mobile Response, 28 percent come from Community Providers, 19 percent from Families, 4 percent from Childrens Crisis Intervention Services (CCIS) or Hospitals and 3 percent from Schools. The top 5 residences of the parents or guardians was, 26 percent from Flemington, 7 percent Whitehouse Station, 6 percent Clinton or Clinton Township, 6 percent Glen Gardner and 6 percent in High Bridge.

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

iii. **Tri-County Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)**: L. Gudino reported there were 8 dispatches in Hunterdon County out of the Tri-County total of 63. In August 2023 there were 13 dispatches of our Tri-County total of 57. Our highest age ranges continue to be 6-12 and 13-18. The referrals are between parents and community providers. We are continuing to roll out our version of Handle with Care which stands for Could Use Extra Support Notification and it is a one sheet form that notifies the school of any Mobile Response involvement to offer an overall wrap around care from Tri-County Mobile Response to the Schools. This program is being offered in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties.

C. **N.J. Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P)**: C. Baxevane reported for August there are 189 Active cases. 9 Children are currently in Placement. There were 35 Child Protective Services (CPS) referrals, 9 were Physical Abuse, 63 were Neglect, 2 were Sexual Abuse Cases and 3 were Child Welfare Cases. There were no removals in the month of August . There has been an influx of homelessness in Hunterdon County and many of them are Homeless Families. These families do not have many resources and they are struggling to get out of motels. There have been a handful that have been displaced out of motels with no place to go. With School starting we are expecting the referrals to increase.

D. **N.J. Juvenile Justice Commission (NJJC)**: No Report

E. **School-Based Youth Services (SBYS)**: K. Stoskus reported that the school year has begun. SBYS is currently fully staffed and remains in several schools throughout Hunterdon County. They are currently accepting referrals for students.

D. Childers asked if K. Stoskus could discuss about how the summer school programs went?

K. Stoskus reported that the North Hunterdon, Hunterdon Central Regional and Vorhees High School program was specific to incoming Freshmen. The program was successful in terms of getting the students acclimated to moving onto High School and having group discussions about what it would be like entering High School.

At the Hampton Public School, the summer event was ending in August. There was a large turnout this year for the program. The program offered several activities and presenters.

F. **Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU)**: K. Conyers reported a decrease in activity for the summer

months. Referrals have been increasing within the last week. She reported that there has been a need to create a Resource Manual that could be used to refer individuals to the FCIU, and it would be helpful for families that are experiencing a crisis or are experiencing extenuating circumstances. The manual would have a comprehensive resource directory for families having difficulties with their rent, mortgages, utilities and more. If anyone has any information they could provide, please contact K. Conyers.

On September 22, 2023, goHunterdon will host their Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony where 17 Schools will be honored.

- G. Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI):** D. Childers reported that there is a new specialist, Erica Hein and she will be covering Hunterdon County moving forward.

VII. ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the meeting of September 6, 2023, was adjourned. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 12:30 pm via Microsoft Teams.