



+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

Approved on May 4, 2022

YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 12:30 p.m.
Via Webex

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

S. Becker	S. Becker
F. Brown	L. Zellar
S. Carew	L. Zimmermann
M. LaRoche*	M. O'Reilly
B. Renkens	L. Gabel
A. Gatani*	C. Montelius
A. DeLuca	S. Rozycki*
S. Medina*	G. Kaufman
K. Haris	

EX-OFFICIO

K. Williams
C. Baxeveane

STAFF

D. Childers

GUESTS

J. Cassano

*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: After an amendment to add G. Kaufman to the attendee list for the March 2, 2022 meeting, G. Kaufman made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2022 meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed.

III. REPORTS:

A. Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC): B. Renkens sat in for L. Gudino and had nothing to report.

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

i. Tri-County Care Management Organization (CMO): L. Zimmermann reported as of yesterday, the agency’s total Hunterdon County enrollment is comprised of 127 youth.

Some of the key demographics: currently serving Hunterdon County youth between the ages of zero to four is one youth and then up to the age of 20. The primary age cluster is youth aged 14 to 17; 18 to 20; that translates to 74 of the 127 youth.

In terms of the community status, most youth remain home-schooled and in the community. 123 of those 127 youth; 97%. Currently, there are no out-of-home placement youth for substance use treatments.

Of the 127 youth, currently there are 16 youth who relative to scores from their strength and needs assessment tool, show 9 of the 16 displayed a score of one which indicates treatment may be needed. 6 scored a value of 2; obviously more acute suggesting treatment is needed as substance use impacts their life functioning and 1 youth scored a value of 3, which indicates action needed and treatment imminent and in turn, linkage with either intensive in-home community or LCADC licensure and/or out-patient.

Also, Hunterdon County youth who are concurrently have a substance use diagnoses, the QA director is reporting 5 of those 16 both being substance use diagnosis as well as the respective strength and needs assessment.

ii. Tri-County Family Support Organization (FSO): S. Medina reported for the month of February, the organization hosted The Tall Cop Says “Stop!” on February 23, which had a great turn-out.

The Special Needs and Trust for parents to understand what the specials needs, and trust were and how to manage it.

A potluck was held at the Family Success Center for Spanish-speaking families as well as the ADHD family.

The Youth Partnership discussed some people for Black History Month and talked about their opinions about racism and why these people made an impact. For the month of March, Tri-County FSO is looking to honor women and discussing nutrition. Shop Rite and Atlantic Health will present, as well as a leadership presentation.

C. Montelius inquired if there are any Nurtured Heart events scheduled. S. Medina replied she will check and will provide follow up.

iii. **Tri-County Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)**: L. Zellar reported for February 2022, Mobile Response had a total of 171 dispatches in the Tri-County area, which was a record high for the program. Hunterdon County had 32 dispatches; 18 were face-to-face and 16 were virtual. There is an increase of referrals from screening services and caregivers directly. MRSS had an increase in discharge referrals to outpatient therapy services and extended IIC services. Current trends are youth with symptoms of increased signs of grief, loss of family members in addition to the ongoing refusal to attend school, parental discord, anxiety and depression, and disruptive behavior in the home and school.

C. **N.J. Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P)**: C. Baxevane stated that for the month of February 2022, the Hunterdon County office served 225 children. 15 were in placement, 1 child welfare referral, 31 child protective service referrals (10 were physical abuse, 29 were neglect, 4 sexual abuse referrals) and zero removals.

D. **N.J. Juvenile Justice Commission (NJJC)**: K. Williams reported the JJC moving forward with their apprenticeship program. The commission is hiring youth back who had completed the programs. The governor had awarded the commission \$250,000.00 to hire the youth part-time. Currently, there are four youth in the apprenticeship program, and one was hired on as full-time staff in the female program.

The JJC partnered with Middlesex County Community College who had developed an associate degree program for the males; they are working on one for the females. 20 youth are invested in this program who already obtained their high school diploma and according to the census, there are a number of youths who do have their diploma ranging in the age bracket of 17-22. K. Williams noted the JJC has partnerships with Mercer County Community College and Essex County Community College which only offered what the youth were interested in taking. This partnership with Middlesex County Community College is a whole degree that had been developed working with the Juvenile Justice Commission.

The Grants Management Unit is going to begin their fiscal monitoring of the counties. She stressed the importance of ensuring that all inputting into Juvenile Automated Management System (JAMS) has been inputted because that is what is used to complete the fiscal monitoring.

Lastly, K. Williams conveyed there is one youth from Hunterdon County placed in the JJC.

E. **School-Based Youth Services**: D. Childers reported on L. Gonski's behalf that the referrals to school-based are booming and they are very busy. They are also working on spending the one-time funding they received from the state. In addition, they are gearing up to start the summer recreational program which will be the first time in two years.

F. **Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU)**: C. Montelius reported as of to date, there are 6 open cases with two pending referrals. Some intakes had to be re-scheduled for this current week. In regard to gender, 3 cases are females, and 3 are males, with one is a truancy case, 2 are family conflict and 3 are referred for stationhouse adjustment. The two pending cases are stationhouse adjustments as well. C. Montelius noted the total of current stationhouse adjustments is the most she has seen during her employment with FCIU.

She conveyed she is down a staff member and is actively looking for a part-time replacement for Melissa Torey who left for another position. If anyone is interested or knows of anyone, please

contact her or Al Bassetti. Thank you!

C. Montelius noted that to her knowledge, there is no Hunterdon County youth in detention.

L. Zimmermann inquired what C. Montelius may feel are the factors involved in the increase of stationhouse adjustment cases. C. Montelius offered her opinions that the new Assistant Juvenile Prosecutor has investigated the utilization of stationhouse adjustment investigations particularly in cases where youth seem to have a mental health component as well as a heavy family conflict component. When the new Assistant Juvenile Prosecutor arrived, she took interest in how other counties have utilized the FCIUs and there has been a push from her with the SROs to start utilizing them in cases. She continued that this along with her meeting with her helped contribute to the uptick in the stationhouse adjustments. Additionally, from what C. Montelius heard from the SROs and from the last Juvenile Officer's Association (JOA) meeting she attended, they are seeing an influx of problematic behaviors with students at the schools. A lot of students are coming in and are functioning on an almost two-year emotional delay possibly because they lost that social piece from COVID. So, a lot of the freshman are functioning as if they are in middle school. She had heard there have been big fights involving a lot of students. She gets the sense from at least from the SRO at Hunterdon Central there is an overwhelming issue regarding some of the conduct issues that they are now seeing and haven't historically seen. C. Montelius stated she is guessing it may be a little bit of everything playing a role in why an uptick is being seen.

M. LaRoche from the Tri-County CMO questioned C. Montelius related to stationhouse adjustment, their relationships of working together and the goals of FCIU is to stabilize, ensure the youth is doing well and making sure they are connected to ongoing services to help them stay stabilize. Discussion ensued. S. Carew added her insight and experiences supporting the youth, their family and partnering all agencies involved.

- G. **Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)**: D. Childers reported that the sub-committees are meeting again. The detention specialist is changing. She believes the focus for this year is to go through the required steps to be eligible to apply for funding in 2024. D. Childers further explained the sub-committees are required to meet certain steps to be eligible to apply for either \$60,000.00 or \$120,000.00, therefore, the JDAI will be in the process for the next year to meet those benchmarks to be eligible.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. **Nominating Committee Report**: G. Kaufman reported that C. Montelius, S. Carew, K. Williams and herself met as the nominating committee to review the list of eligible candidates. She is happy to announce that Sheriff Brown has accepted the nomination to be Co-Chair for the commission for 2022. Thank you, Sheriff Brown! The other nominee will be the new juvenile judge that has yet to be appointed.

Gayle Kaufman asked if any committee member was opposed to the nomination of Sheriff Brown as the Co-Chair for the 2022 year, none were. C. Montelius made a Motion and S. Carew seconded the Motion to nominate Sheriff Brown as Co-Chair of the Youth Services Commission. No oppositions. The Motion carried.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **2021 Program Summary Report**: D. Childers shared a general summary of 2021 – State/Community Partnership (SCP) & Family Court (FC) Grant Summary of Contracted Services

to help explain how the previous grant cycle went. For this contract period from 2021 through 2023, the county contracting process and methodology had changed, therefore she will have to alter the summary to better explain how the programs are managing.

D. Childers continued to convey that all the programs did a very good job providing services. She's aware that each program had either been fully virtual or tried to conduct a few office sessions. Unfortunately, with the increase in COVID cases, any in-person sessions had to revert to virtual.

D. Childers went on to cover each program or service in greater detail found on the summary report she shared. The first program is Shelter Placements for Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) through the Morris County Youth Shelter, grant covers \$49,415. This contract runs from July 1 to June 30 and for the next three years, the rate per bed will be increasing through the five-year contract. Currently, the rate is \$225.00 but come June 1, the rate will increase to \$245.00 per bed. Historically, the goal was to utilize funding to cover an entire year for one bed. Unfortunately, with the increase in costs over the years, this will not be possible. The county will need to earmark additional funding to provide shelter placement for 365 days. For the 2021 outcome achieved; one juvenile stayed for 13 days in December. Additionally, a site monitoring needs to be scheduled.

Next, the contract with the Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU), the grant covers \$75,000. The total program capacity is based on 1239 service hours and the county contracted level of service (LOS) is for 884 hours. D. Childers revisited and conveyed her earlier comments that the county's contract methodology changed. The entire program is now looked at and the county will fund a portion of the total program. The reported LOS for year 2021 is 876 direct service hours. This number is slightly under the contracted LOS of 884 hours, however, is in compliance with the terms of their contract. 32 unduplicated juveniles were served, and services were provided virtually for most of the year with office sessions offered in October and November but virtual in December. A site monitoring had been conducted on September 17, 2021, and everything had been achieved per their contract.

C. Montelius added the FCIU opened up to in-office about two weeks ago. As it stands right now, families have the choice between coming into the office or being virtual. A lot of families have chosen to go into the office. She feels service hours took a hit in 2021 because FCIU wasn't providing in-home services due to the pandemic. The hospital is allowing in-person again coupled with what the families want. The FCIU is really working hard to meet those needs.

L. Zimmermann asked if the JJC monitoring visits will be conducted virtually or in-person. D. Childers replied she believes most likely in-person and won't be conducted until two quarters of reports has been submitted. Therefore, site monitorings will be scheduled either in August or September.

The Law Enforcement Adolescent Program (LEAP), grant covers \$15,000. The total program capacity is based on 1239 service hours and the county contracted level of service (LOS) is for 462 hours. There were 548 direct service hours reported as of 3rd quarter 2021 and 14 unduplicated juveniles were serviced. A site monitoring was conducted on September 10, 2021. D. Childers noted that because of the change in law with marijuana, the program had definitely seen a reduction in referrals and the provider has been looking into potential ways to expand the program. Unfortunately, because this is seen as a stationhouse adjustment program, there have been some barriers to expand, and the county is still in discussion with Prevention Resources about any other potential ways that the program could adapt to the current environment.

L. Gabel added that in addition to the new law around marijuana, alcohol is also affected, which dramatically decreased the law enforcement referrals. Unfortunately, the numbers are up so far in February; there are 19 law enforcement adjustment cases. That number surpasses the total they had in 2021 for LEAP. L. Gabel echoed C. Montelius' reporting about the expansions of issues going on in the schools especially with the younger grades and behaviors. Prevention Resources has a tremendous number of referrals for simple assaults. This has significantly shifted the program. Since sometimes law enforcement does not want to get involved because of the new laws, they are still accepting youth into their program to help the schools, as well as helping the youth and their families. She continued that Prevention Resources is still working with the county on trying to figure out the funding and unfortunately, the numbers keep rising significantly.

D. Childers explained the contract with the Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment has two funding sources, the grant covers \$75,000 as well as county funding. The total program capacity is based on 5075 service hours and the county contracted level of service (LOS) is for 2075 hours. During the acclimation of the two agencies to the transition, there has been a very low number of referrals. Conversations with Acenda to help increase referrals has taken place and looking at what the concerns may be in servicing this population. D. Childers added referrals to substance abuse treatment alone has decreased significantly; there has been more discussion around the need for co-occurring services.

S. Carew echoed the agency is not getting the referrals and the referrals they do get, sometimes the families do not want to engage after they received the recommendation, even if they are placed at the lowest restricted level of care. She continued that maybe regular substance use testing is something a lot of people do not want to address at this time and in the state of the way New Jersey is and their families feel other concerns are taking more precedence. Especially with the rise of substance use in general among the entire population not just adolescents and, there is an increase in mental health issues. One major note is with eating disorder behaviors, seeing a huge uptick in numbers. S. Carew stated she is welcoming to continuing to case coordinate with the Hunterdon County stakeholders. She asked for referrals, and she will conduct the assessment to help the families with what they need. C. Montelius had some questions about medical marijuana for S. Carew. Discussion ensued.

The last program, Client Specific Services which are for youth that are on probation. A budget modification had been conducted in November 2021 because funds were not being utilized. The monies were moved to shelter placements. D. Childers explained the budget modification is a one time move based on utilization, it isn't permanent. For 2022, client specific funds are still available at the \$4,744.00.

The total amount for this grant is \$219,159.00. One more report is required to finalize the numbers. Currently, the estimated cumulative expenditure is \$126,814.00 with an estimated balance of \$92,345.00. She explained for Hunterdon County, this estimate is very high. The county is looking at potential reasons why this happened. COVID does play a part as well as the changes to the law with marijuana. She does not expect this to be a trend. One of her roles is to assist programs to resolve any concerns. Once she has final numbers a revised summary report will be presented, most likely in May 2022.

L. Zimmermann had a question regarding the grants funding amounts. D. Childers explained each provider is provided with a funded amount that they are expected to spend within 12 months. If there is a balance left, those monies will be "returned" to the state. K. Williams added her insight.

Discussion ensued.

B. Planning Process for 2023 – Subcommittee Grouping: D. Childers noted the discussion that took place in reference to planning - starting sooner, having more information and more current data to review. She stated the level of data available is not as it was 10 – 15 years ago. She is trying to identify information that would be interesting as well as show a current picture as to what is going on in the county. When it comes to planning, meeting will begin at the end of this month through July. The grant for 2023 is due in October. This will allow enough time to not only complete the application for the JJC but also look at planning in general to see what has changed in the county. Right now, the meetings will be held virtually. D. Childers believes this year will be condensed into one big meeting, including any additional topics. C. Montelius explained the Safe Schools, that works with the local high schools, focuses on youth and violence- she invited all to take part. D. Childers hopes to attend this meeting to see what services schools need and potentially incorporate that into future planning meetings.

L. Gabel stated she has a lot of data for youth that she can share with D. Childers. Prevention Resources, Inc. conducted a Risk and Protective Factor Survey in 2020 and will be conducting another one in the Spring. This year's survey will include middle schools as well which they had never included in the past. Additionally, the agency has program data coming from the high schools which is outside of LEAP. She believes this data would be important as well as the Community Health Plan that Kim Blanda is completing for the county, should be ready in June. This plan has a lot of focus group data specific to the schools and should be helpful. D. Childers thanked L. Gabel. L. Zimmermann inquired if it would be helpful to discuss the acquisition of data across all of the agencies. D. Childers conveyed she will draft a template that could help the agencies to know what type of information and data would be helpful to track and share. More to follow.

VI. AGENCY NEWS:

Tri-County CMO – L. Zimmermann shared emails were distributed earlier today. As part of their contract with the New Jersey Children's System of Care (CSOC), Tri County Care Management Organization (TCCMO) has access to limited funds designated for one time use by community organizations to develop and promote new, additional, and/or unique resources addressing an unmet or underserved need in Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties (tri-county youth service area).

A maximum total of \$68,678.46 is available to fund one or more projects. Funding is to be used for expansion or creation of resources available to tri-county youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs, and their families. All types of projects that result in the creation or expansion of community-based resources that meet cited multi-source needs data will be considered.

She would appreciate your circulating notice of FY2022-2023 CRD Funds availability to Hunterdon County YSC member agencies for consideration in applying. The Community Resource Development RFP Application Packet can be accessed via our website (<https://www.tricountycmo.org/news-events/community-resource-development-funds/>).

L. Zimmermann conveyed there is going to be two bidder meeting sessions. One to be conducted on Friday, March 4 at 10:00 am and the second meeting session will be Thursday, March 10 at 10:00 am. Please see the website for details.

Youth Employment Services – S. Rozycki conveyed the agency is still looking for referrals for those out of school youth 16-24 who need any help with any barriers and for those who do not have a plan. She put her information in the Chat Box.

Prevention Resources, Inc. - L. Gabel conveyed the agency has two events coming up which she will share the flyers. They will be conducting a town hall meeting entirely in Spanish. The agency is partnering with One Voice, which is faith-based, that encompasses both parents and youth that will be held in-person on Friday, April 1, 2022 at the Hunterdon Central High School. Additionally, they will be hosting a virtual parenting conference through the Family Success Center on Thursday, April 28, 2022 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. She will forward the flyers to D. Childers for distribution.

L. Gabel continued with youth and the increase of usage around vaping. Most recently, 4th graders had been found with vapes that had been obtained from their parents. Prevention Resources, Inc. has a new partnership going out and will have a public service announcement. The agency is very happy that over eleven schools are included. There is a help App that is geared towards youth for local resources, state and federal. Posters are back of the school's bathroom doors and clings will be placed on the school's mirrors. L. Gabel continued to convey efforts to educate parents via a series of videos on purchasing marijuana.

Acenda, Inc. – S. Carew stated that youth that use nicotine at an early age does prime for addiction and not just addiction on nicotine and the like but on the level of other substances as brain research has been identifying. She also explained the effects on adults.

L. Zimmermann added to both L. Gabel and S. Carew's reports about the effects of tobacco and nicotine.

VII. ADJOURN:

The meeting of March 2, 2022 was adjourned. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 12:30 pm via Webex.