



+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 July 6, 2022

YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 12:30 p.m.
Via Webex

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

L. Gonski	S. Becker
F. Brown	C. Bergeson*
S. Carew	L. Zimmermann
T. Roberts*	M. O'Reilly
B. Renkens	L. Gabel
L. Ranieri	L. Zielinski*
A. DeLuca	S. Rozycki*
S. Medina*	G. Kaufman
K. Haris	

EX-OFFICIO

L. Lupo
 K. Hofmann*

STAFF

D. Childers

GUESTS

J. Cassano
 E. Santiago
 B. Mastrianni
 L. Mickley
 D. Schappert
 M. LaRoche

*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:** G. Kaufman made a motion to approve the minutes from March 2, 2022. All were in favor. The motion passed.

III. **REPORTS:**

- A. **Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC):** It had been reported that CIACC is currently in the process of refining the referral process and criteria for the Hunterdon County youth ambassadors. They have an initiative underway to recruit more youth and family voices within the CIACC audience. After all of this is available, it will be brought back to this group.

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

- i. **Tri-County Care Management Organization (CMO):** L. Zimmermann reported out of the three counties: Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren, as of May 3, 2022, the agency's total enrollment is comprised of 755 youth. The QA directors reported this is the highest enrollment since 2006.

For Hunterdon, out of the 133 youth, 15 youth have achieved developmental disability eligibility. The primary age cluster of youth aged 11 to 17; that translates to 81 of the 133 youth. Currently, there are 99 Caucasians, 11 African Americans, 13 bi-racial, 4 Hispanic and 1 Asian.

Medicaid status for Hunterdon: Currently, 59 youth are eligible for Medicaid and 68 are eligible for given the 3560 CSOC designation status.

In terms of the community status, most youth remain home-schooled and in the community. 129 of those 133 youth. The remaining 4 youth are at various out-of-home treatments. Currently, there are no out-of-home placement youth for substance use treatments.

The top diagnoses continue to be adjustment disorder, ADHC, anxiety, depression and ODD conduct disorder.

Referral sources remain to be Children's Mobile Response as the primary, families, community providers, transfers, Children's Crisis Intervention Services, Child Protection and Permanency and the courts.

The youth and their family's primary reside in Flemington, Glen Gardner, Hampton, Annadale and Clinton.

Of the 133 youth, currently there are 14 youth who relative to scores from their strength and needs assessment tool, show 1 of the 7 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.

- ii. **Tri-County Family Support Organization (FSO):** S. Medina reported for the month of April, the organization hosted a Big Brothers experience by assembling Easter baskets, as well as playing in some sporting events with the youth and talked about how music impacts the brain. The youth really like the music.

FSO is now accepting applications for the upcoming Girl Empowerment Motivation & Mentoring (GEMMS) and Gentlemen Elevating through Noble Teachable Strategies (GENTS) program. If there are any youth interested, please advise as soon as possible since the program is first come first serve. Resume skills and different techniques using the seven habits of a highly effected teen will be covered.

For Mother's Day, the FSO will be holding a plant sale.

S. Medina covered the ACEs training and a NHA training had been covered as well.

iii. **Tri-County Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)**: C. Bergeson reported on L. Zellar's behalf. For April 2022, Mobile Response had a total of 133 dispatches in the Tri-County area. Hunterdon County had 25 dispatches; 17 were face-to-face and 8 were virtual which is a drastic drop since March that had 210 dispatches. Primary referrals come from the schools with parent only referrals followed by community partners and providers. IIC services and therapists are still utilized as primary sources for the families. There had been a small decrease in the number of re-admissions within the previous 90-days. Every month there had been an increase in the face-to-face options. They are slight just above 50% in total and are still utilizing the hybrid model with some families requesting the virtual services.

C. **N.J. Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P)**: The referrals for Hunterdon County had returned to pre-pandemic levels. There had been turnover in leadership within the tri-county area. In Hunterdon County, an Acting Local Office Manager had been named, Alyssa Guarino. The prior office manager is still working within the agency.

D. **N.J. Juvenile Justice Commission (NJJC)**: K. Hofmann report for K. Williams. No updates at this time.

E. **School-Based Youth Services**: L. Gonski reported School-Based has been very busy. There was a waitlist for a time at Hunterdon Central High School and worked it down to about two youth. There had been a lot of referrals, as well as for the county program; numbers are really high. The summer recreational program will resume for Hunterdon Central High School and the county youth. The state program had been very busy spending monies that the School-Based Youth Services had been given by initiating scholarships, ventured to the Camden Aquarium, have families coming to dinner, a super speaker will be coming in the fall, Jeff Yalden based out of Florida, and they were also able to buy some gift cards for people who need assistance.

F. **Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU)**: No report at this time.

G. **Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)**: D. Childers reported that the Access to Treatment sub-committee met the prior week. They were focused on identifying core values for the sub-committee and were discussing a mission statement.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. **Planning Sub-committee Report**: D. Childers reported the sub-committee met on March 31, 2022 and the focus for this meeting was on data. What is available? What has been used in the past for the planning process and what areas need improvement? She conveyed there was a really good discussion and two areas that the sub-committee identified to address. First, to really look at the Hunterdon agencies and programs and get statistics for youth specific to zip code, reason for the

initial referral and more discussion on how to capture this information, but the primary problem addressed while the youth was in the program. Secondly, looking at pre-COVID and post-COVID, how were the agencies functioning, any barriers/issues, and/or staffing concerns. A number of agencies had seen high level of staff turnover, and how the agency addressed the situation. Discussion occurred to have a follow-up and continue to look at data. This is an update year, therefore, a full comprehensive planning process is not required, but will be for next year.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. 2023 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan Update and Grant Application:** D. Childers shared the plan update and application will be due by October 3, 2022. The programs are in their second year of their three-year contract. Some information and statistics will be reviewed but not as involved and detailed as a full three-year process. The first year of the contract looks at how the program performed. The second year for 2022 looks at any barriers or concerns/issues with the program and try to address them within that second year, so within the third year, 2023, if there were issues and were they able to be addressed and if not, what are some of the reasons why to be corrected in the third year. Additionally, review the program how it is functioning. Are there any new trends or are the same trends continue to re-occur?

VI. AGENCY NEWS:

Prevention Resources, Inc. – L. Gabel conveyed the agency has a total of 15 youth in the Diversion Program. 13 youth are in the Law Enforcement Adolescence Program (LEAP) and two youth are in the Early Intervention Program (school referral). Consistency continues with simple assault being the number one reason why juveniles are being diverted into the LEAP.

A Narcan Watch Event will occur on Thursday, May 12, 2022. The goal is to raise awareness across the county about ensuring people know that Narcan is available to everyone, and it is not just for people with substance use disorder. It is for anyone that gets prescribes an opioid and the importance that Narcan is accessible around the county.

Youth Employment Services – S. Rozycki conveyed the agency is still looking for referrals for those graduating out of school youth.

Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board – J. Cassano reported the GRWDB is doing their summer youth employment program. Five employers are looking for students in Hunterdon County. She has a few applicants and is looking for a few more youth to apply. Employed students (age 16-24 years old) will earn \$15.00 tax-free/hour for 25 hours a week for a stipend of \$3,500.00; total of 8 weeks. There are 20 employers located in Somerset. A total of 60 positions are available within the two counties. J. Cassano will put her information in the Chat Box if anyone is interested. Detailed information maybe located at the GRWDB website.

VII. ADJOURN:

The meeting of May 4, 2022 was adjourned. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at 12:30 pm via Webex.