



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 November 2, 2022

YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 12:30 p.m.
Via Webex

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

L. Gonski	S. Becker
F. Brown	L. Zimmermann
L. Gudino	M. O'Reilly
K. Conyers	L. Zielinski*
L. Ranieri	L. Zellar
J. Kuhl	C. Douglas
J. Collevecchio*	G. Kaufman*
L. Francis	A. DeLuca
A. Villano	A. Gatanis*

EX-OFFICIO

K. Williams
C. Baxeane
L. Lupo

STAFF

D. Childers

GUESTS

M. LaRoche
C. Devon
C. Baresic

*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:** L. Zimmermann made a motion and M. O'Reilly seconded to approve the minutes from July 6, 2022. All were in favor. The motion passed.

III. REPORTS:

- A. **Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC):** L. Gudino recapped that the proposal to purchase the three-part film had been approved. More information will follow as the films start to rollout.

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

- i. **Tri-County Care Management Organization (CMO):** L. Zimmermann reported the agency's total enrollment for Hunterdon, Somerset, and Warren, is comprised of 796 youth.

For Hunterdon, out of the 142 youth (18%), 16 youth have achieved developmental disability eligibility status. Gender status is currently at 86 males and 56 females.

The primary age cluster of youth served are age 5 through 20.

In terms of the community status, most youth remain home-schooled and in the community; 139 of those 142 youth. The remaining 3 youth are at various out-of-home treatment facilities. There are no Hunterdon County youth are out of home for substance use treatment.

Currently, out of the 142 youth, there are 105 Caucasians, 12 African Americans, 16 bi-racial, 5 Hispanic and 1 Asian. 3 youth account for unknown ethnicity or have declined to disclose.

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

Referral sources remain to be Children's Mobile Response Stabilization Services as the primary, families, community providers, Children's Crisis Intervention Services, care management organizations, CMO transfers, self-referrals, Department of Child Protection and Permanency and the courts.

From the Strength & Needs Assessments (SNA): As of September 7, 2022, 16 youth were scored as follows: Scored "1" = 11 youth (suggests treatment may be needed); Scored "2" = 5 youth (suggests treatment is needed as substance use impacts youth's life functioning). Scored "3" = 0 youth (suggests treatment is imminent).

Substance Use Diagnosis: As of September 7, 2022, Hunterdon County accounts for 4 youth with a SU diagnosis and SNA score. All three (3) youth had cannabis related diagnoses with (1) one overlapping alcohol diagnosis.

- ii. **Tri-County Family Support Organization (FSO):** L. Francis introduced the Youth Liaison, Christopher Devon. She reported the male mentoring program concluded two weeks prior. All of the participants successfully completed the program and were rewarded with a trip to Dorney Park. L. Francis was happy to report the Youth Partnership Program will start up again on Friday, September 9, 2022, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm for ages 13 to 21. She extended an invitation to all who may be interested. Additionally, the support group will discuss a back-to-school routine for all caregivers at their Washington location; 315 West

Washington on September 14th. In addition, the Spanish support group will cover a Spanish version of Nurtured Heart on September 15th (Part 1) and September 29th (Part 2). At the conclusion, participants will receive a certification of completion if both parts are completed. L. Francis conveyed the warm line is always open for resources and if there are any questions, please call 908-223-1191 between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

iii. **Tri-County Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS):** L. Zellar reported that for July 2022, MRSS had 7 dispatches in Hunterdon County out of the tri-county total of 75. The dispatches increased to 18 in August for Hunterdon County out of the total for tri-county which was 93. The highest referral sources are DCP&P and community providers. There has been an increase within the age group of 6 to 12; 2 in July and 9 in August. It is expected that there will be reporting from the zero to 5 range, as well as school-related anxiety and school refusal to with the new year beginning.

C. **N.J. Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P):** C. Baxeavane reported the previous month had 280 open children who were receiving services. There were 39 CPS (Child Neglect/Abuse) referrals; 11 were physical abuse and 51 were neglect, and 6 child welfare referrals. There are 14 children in placement and zero removals last month. Alyssa Guarino has been named the new Office Manager in the Hunterdon County office. She was promoted from a Case Work Supervisor. C. Baxeavane announced she is starting to put together a calendar for 2023 presenters at staff meetings. If anyone is interested in presenting to the staff members to please advised via the Chat Box or call her at 908-782-8784 x125.

D. **N.J. Juvenile Justice Commission (NJJC):** K. Williams advised that a few years ago, the Governor assembled a taskforce for looking at the Juvenile Justice System. One area of focus was on the Youth Services Commission and how the commission interacts with the community, as well as providers, their report was released. K. Williams will forward to D. Childers for further distribution. The Governor's Office provided more monies for the JJC's budget to give to the YSC. All administrative monies were raised; Hunterdon County went from \$55,550 to \$70,000 and monies were added to their state community partnership line item which Hunterdon County received about \$5,000 more for 2023. Family Court monies remained the same. She highly encouraged reading through the report as it has a lot of good information.

E. **School-Based Youth Services:** L. Gonski reported School-Based has been doing well and the recreational program came to an end. The last two weeks had been generally quiet, and all are back in their schools now. Referrals continue and they are excited to be back with the youth.

F. **Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU):** K. Conyers introduced herself as being fairly new to the FCIU. The FCIU is currently working on making a concentrated effort to work with various police departments about station house adjustment options: letters will go out, and hopefully in-person meetings will be scheduled. K. Conyers continued FCIU will present to police departments at the next JOA to discuss the program.

With school resuming, the intention is to re-unite with the schools, guidance counselors and the administrative staff so they can explore expanding FCIU services to them, as well as plan some parent educational meetings.

She conveyed she is looking for information from someone may have on housing because some of the clients do have a need for housing. Thank you.

- G. **Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI):** D. Childers reported that a meeting has been scheduled for this month to continue gathering necessary data and statistics in order to apply for funding in 2024.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. **Agenda Layout Discussion:** D. Childers asked for feedback from the group to possibly change the layout of the agenda going forward by moving “UNFINISHED BUSINESS” and “NEW BUSINESS” to the beginning of the meeting and then moving “REPORTS” to the end followed by “AGENCY NEWS”.

L. Zimmermann suggested to lead off the meeting with “UNFINISHED BUSINESS” as a carryover from the prior meeting or two would be helpful. Further, she suggested to unfold “NEW BUSINESS” followed by “AGENCY NEWS” (or updates) sections and “REPORTS”. This may help ensure participants present at the beginning would have the opportunity to partake earlier in the meeting in the event they need to excuse themselves later in the meeting. Sheriff Brown suggested the importance of maintaining the meetings to stay within an hour’s length of time. K. Williams offered that it may be a good idea to have current trends incorporated within “UNFINISHED BUSINESS” or “NEW BUSINESS”. L. Gonski offered her input on current trends. Discussion ensued. D. Childers stated she would like to have a follow-up after the meeting with handouts, flyers, newsletters, etc. that may be helpful for the group. She continued if any information needs to get out to the group, to please forward it to her for distribution.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. ***2023 Comprehensive Plan Update/Application Review and Approval:** D. Childers began by sharing the Comprehensive County Youth Services Plan Update and the document was emailed to the commission. She asked the group to review and provide any feedback by the end of the week. She conveyed this is an annual process and before this planning cycle, it has been an interesting process each year with the changing of the environment, the services and living through the pandemic. After discussion with local agencies, organizations and the court, the goal and focus for 2023 is stabilization. There have been a number of staffing changes impacting services in Hunterdon County, legislative changes, as well as school related incidences. The planning committee discussed there has been a shift in needs within the community and looking at what is currently happening, what has changed and seeing if they can be tracked with available statistics.

D. Childers provided a quick synopsis of each question and highlighted what had been modified. This is all about stabilizing the services that are offered right now and provide any kind of support that is needed to ensure the services that are currently available have all of the support that is required.

She continued as most already know, the County has a 3-year contract cycle, and we are currently in the second year. 2023 will be the final year, and then an RFP process will start for 2024.

The planning sub-committee did meet, and the real focus was looking at data and what statistics are available. Historically, for Hunterdon County it has been difficult to obtain statistics. If they were obtainable the numbers were low.

. Childers also noted she interviewed court staff to gather specific information to the recommendations that were listed relevant to Family Court, Probation and Prosecutor's Office; there was some good information that she was able to incorporate.

She continued to cover and discuss in greater detail the 2021-2023 Plan recommendations found on page 5 through page 7 of the plan and its five categories. She noted there were some modifications to this section. D. Childers welcomed any questions and/or comments.

D. Childers stated that when an opportunity arises for any additional supplemental funding these options are reviewed. Unfortunately, most of the opportunities are not made available to the YSC.

In referencing the JDAI process, youth involved in the court system are historically very small numbers, so statistical information can be challenging to obtain. This is also true for the Youth Services Commission, therefore, new ways of gathering information are being looked at for future planning.

Community engagement has been an ongoing topic for several years. There have been ongoing struggles and barriers with getting community participation on many committees – non-county or county. Some reasons have been inconvenient meeting times, level of time commitment and expectations or no interest in subject matter. How to engage the community in an effective manner and maximize how information is gathered will be imperative for future planning; either by focus groups, surveys, utilizing social media or even social clubs. This will be an ongoing topic for the YSC for the next couple of meetings. C. Douglas stated she attended a meeting amongst parents of students attending North Hunterdon High School and they will be continuing to meet and engage to help the school and community. L. Gonski added her insight, ideas, and opinions. Discussion ensued. J. Collevchio offered her insight as well. Further discussion on this subject matter will continue at the November YSC meeting.

D. Childers stated one site monitoring has been done and the rest are scheduled. Once they have them done, she will include that information at the November meeting.

The last item, Continuum of Care (CoC) for the county. These are the services currently available to youth in Hunterdon County, and the funding source. D. Childers continued to discuss the additional funding as K. Williams announced earlier. The two possibilities to allocate the additional funding would be the Morris County Shelter Agreement or the client specific funds. She is recommending allocating the funding into shelter beds because the client specific funds have not been utilized so far this year. Therefore, she may be returning in November requesting a budget modification to move the funds to the shelter contract, unless client specific funds are used. D. Childers is seeking a recommendation and approval to support the 2023 plan update and CY223 grant application as presented today.

F. Brown made a Motion and M. O'Reilly seconded to approve the plan update and application as presented by D. Childers. G. Kaufman, J Collevchio, K. Conyers, A. Villano, L. Zielinski, and A. Gatanis abstained. All were in agreement. The Motion carried.

- B. Subcommittee Appoints:** D. Childers shared that there have been staff changes, out of the three individuals, only one remains. She is looking for two YSC members to participate on the Nominating Committee. She will be forwarding out a follow-up email, as well as the Planning Committee is open to anyone interested. Please advise if interested.

- C. **Community Engagement:** D. Childers noted this topic had already been discussed and it will be carried over to the November meeting.

VI. AGENCY NEWS:

Prevention Resources, Inc. – J. Collvechio announced a 5K will be held this coming Sunday. There will be table with resource information and the agency will be partnering with the Hope One Van. This is the third year this event is taking place. She will forward all details to D. Childers for further distribution.

VII. ADJOURN:

The meeting of September 7, 2022 was adjourned. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 12:30 pm via Webex.