

YSC Emerging Needs Roundtable Minutes
August 9, 2018
2:00 p.m.

Present:

Jenn Hirsch, DCP+P
John Roy, CMO
Joe Faldetta, Cape Assist
Kathy Gibson, Cape Assist
Temerity Berry, Cape Assist
Nicole Parker, ACFSO
Rachel Himley, JFS
Vicki Smith, LCMR/SBYS
Noel Hiers, CMCTHS-CCS
Jamie Moscony, CMCSSD
Marianne White, MRSS/FCIU
Jonathan Price, CMCSSD
Connie Price, JJC Court Liaison
Maria Hadley, JJC Court Liaison
Anne Garrison, Jersey Cape
Joe Sittineri, Jersey Cape
Michael McKnight, NJ DOE
Jenn Hance, CMCPO
Pat Devaney, CMC HS
Kristen Raring - Youth Services Coordinator

After a roundtable introduction, K. Raring noted that the most recent Kids Count Report ranked Cape May County 17th in Economics, 12th in Education, 15th in Child Health, and 21st in Child Safety. Cape May County's rankings are a result of perennial factors that face the County such as high unemployment in the winter, the influx of tourists that negatively affects the child safety numbers, and the high rate of drug use in the County. According to the DOE, school enrollment fell from 12,982 in 2012-2013 to 12,454 in 2017-2018.

A review of the most recent UCR confirmed that juvenile arrests were down from 716 in 2011 to 510 arrests in 2016. Index Offenses decreased from 157 in 2014 to 84 in 2016. It was noted that the UCR includes arrests of out-of-county youth.

K. Raring reported on Station House Adjustment. The program served 39 youth in 2015, 50 in 2016, 61 in 2017 and 33 in the first two quarters of 2018. Utilization continues to trend upwards. In the first 6 months of 2018, 79% of the participants successfully completed the program and did not have formal charges brought against them. In addition, 81% of the participants reported an increase in decision making skills.

K. Raring reported on Probation Pathways. During the first 6 months of 2018, the program has provided services to 12 youth (75% of contracted LOS) and that 80% of the subsidized work has

been completed with 5 youth completing 10 plus weeks of work. J. Sittineri of Jersey Cape reported the need for youth mentors due to lack of family support.

K. Raring reported on ISP. 11 youths were monitored during the first 6 months of 2018 with 204 days of electronic monitoring. It was noted that during the first 6 months of 2016, 14 youths were monitored for a total of 854 days and during that same time period in 2017, 12 youths were monitored for 571 days. While there has been a significant decrease in total days monitored from 2016-18, the total number of youths served has only seen a slight decrease.

Current Trends:

V. Smith of SBYS reported on the increase of Cape May County youth being raised by Grandparents and Great-Grandparents due to parents that are battling addiction. V. Smith reported the need for grief counseling for youth who have lost one or both parents due to addiction.

J. Hirsch of DCP+P reported that Cape May County has one of the highest rates of removals in the State with the highest percentage due to alcohol/drug use.

Cape Assist reported that the youth they serve are reporting high stress primarily due to parents using drugs/alcohol compounded with economic barriers. In addition, Cape Assist is seeing an increase in the use of Marijuana and vaping, heroin use is not as prevalent however they reported an increase in the use of meth and cocaine. Increase of stimulants is believed to be due to youth fearful of heroin/opiates as seen within their household.

Needed Services:

Members agreed that youth are in need of substance abuse, mental health and supportive services within Cape May County Schools. School Based Services are the ideal location to build resiliency within Cape May County Youth. M. McKnight reported that almost all Cape May County Schools had a team attend the ACES/Resiliency training. The training is a positive step forward in creating a resiliency component within schools to assist youth that are at high risk for addiction and juvenile delinquency. It was noted that it only takes one positive role model/mentor to make a positive and permanent change in youth.

Members agreed on the 2019 Comprehensive County Plan supporting the continued funding of ISP, Probation Pathways and Station House Adjustment. Members further agreed that a future meeting should be held to continue discussion on the current trends noted during the meeting: youth being raised by grandparents, economic barriers, vaping, and stimulants, as well as, the need for School Based Services and youth access to grief counselors.

Attendees of the emerging needs roundtable were thanked for their time and participation.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

