

Cape May County Youth Services Commission (YSC)  
January 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes  
3 p.m. Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

This meeting is held in compliance with N.J.A.C. Title 13. Law and Public Safety Chapter 90 New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission 13:90-2.8 (b) and is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10: 4-6 *et seq.*

Call to Order – P. Devaney

Present:

Jennifer Valentine, CASA	Nancy Hudanich, County Technical Schools
Steve Schuck, Acenda	Maria Hadley, JJC
Donna Groom, CMC DHS	Gary Hrynoveski, Light House Church
Ruth Kaluski, MHANJ	Nichole Channel, Family Support Organization
Joe Landis, Prosecutor Office	Anna Cannella, Coastal Prep
John Roy, Cape Atlantic INK (CMO)	Peter Belasco, County A/D Director
Shirley Robinson, Family Court	Jennifer Hirsch, DCPD
Joann Thompson, Probation	Adrienne Breitinger, CMC Super. Schools Office
Joe Faldetta, Cape Assist	Pat Devaney, CMC DHS
Jim Hetherington, Jersey Cape	Miguel Williams, JJC
Ozzie Smith-Bey, JJC	Richard Jackson, JJC
Gloria Rivera, Latino Family Connections	Sharon Modzelewski, YSC Coordinator

A moment of silence was observed for Connie Price in gratitude of her years of service and support to the YSC. Connie was a member of the YSC as the Southern Regional Supervisor for the JJC's Court Liaison Unit. She was just shy of 40 years of State service and had been with the JJC for more than two decades.

Additions and Corrections to Minutes – P. Devaney

Minutes from the November 9, 2021 YSC meeting were provided with the meeting notice via email. Joe Landis motioned to accept the minutes. Steve Schuck seconded. Motion carried.

Coordinator Report

\*The county received the 2022 award letter for the Comprehensive County Funding and is in the process of completing the award documents. The award funds the Intensive Supervision Program, Station House Adjustment, and Pathways to Employment.

\*Harborfields Update: Harborfields has one bed filled for Cape May County; and temporarily, the bed will not be available after it is vacated. Harborfields will not accept any new admissions from Cape May County until certain issues are resolved (such as staffing level, etc.). Youth referred to detention will now be sent to Ocean County Detention Center located in the Toms River area. The daily rate is targeted at \$225 per day.

Note: Every 30 days, JJC will assess the detention situation at Harborfields.

\*YSC Membership: YSC is seeking two members: a representative of the business sector (mandated member) and one non-mandated member of which we are looking to increase membership diversity. Suggestions may be sent to the YSC Office.

\*Revised Calendar Year 2022 YSC Meetings schedule was distributed.

JJC Representative Report – M.Hadley

- The JJC Monitoring Subcommittee Working Group will be coming together to discuss feedback from the implementation of the new Monitoring Tool.
- The 4 counties involved with the Restorative and Transformative Justice Initiative have received the Application for submission to the JJC. The Application is due by 5/9/22. Targeting 4 Municipalities: Camden, Trenton, Paterson and Newark.

- Client Specific Funds was re-emphasized by the YSC Grants Management Unit that these funds can be used to transport youth to appointments, including placements within the three approved points of the continuum: Detention, Disposition, Reentry.
- The Court Liaison Unit is still in the process of backfilling two positions covering Sussex and Warren and Middlesex and Somerset.

#### JDAI Update – S. Robinson

Last year, the 2021 Innovation program monitors were completed, 2022 JDAI Innovation Funding Proposals were approved, and the RFP process was completed. The next meeting of the full council will be held on 1/19 @ 3pm which will include a data review. Miguel Williams noted that program Mini System Assessments will be developed this year.

#### Program Updates

**Intensive Supervision (ISP):** Steve Schuck reported on 2021 program year:

10 youth served: 4 white youth/6 youth of color; age range was 11-19. Major reason for ISP was sexual offense. Due to policy reforms, the youth referred to ISP are involved with serious offenses. Five youth are currently under supervision. The program uses Language Line when needed for interpreter services.

**Station House Adjustment:** Joe Faldetta reported that 50 youth completed the program in 2021 which is less than 2020. The decrease may be a result of the legislation regarding underage use of alcohol/marijuana and less referrals from law enforcement. Provider has reached out to schools regarding the program as an alternative to suspensions. Provider indicated a program, PreVenture, is an intervention program that could be further discussed if a 2<sup>nd</sup> level of SHA is considered.

**Family Advocate:** Nichole Channel reported 2021 was slow but promising and had some positive aspects, such as two trainings and outreach meetings with LCMR school. Due to covid, it was challenging to connect with families and the provider will continue to address the issue in the coming year.

**Probation Enrichment, Incentive, and Orientation (POPs):** Joann Thompson reported the initial core group of POPs youth completed probation successfully. A fourth quarter healthy activity will be continued into 2022 due to implementation issues. Program is looking forward to partnering with Cape Assist in 2022 to offer enrichment trips, etc. It was noted that youth with sexual offenses are less likely to participate in group activities.

**Probation Pathways:** Jim Hetherington reported the program had 8 referrals in 2021. Four youth enrolled in the program. Three youth were involved in a work experience and 2 were successful. Jim outlined the various aspects of the program.

#### Old Business

**Request For Proposals:** Proposal Review Committee recommended to the County Commissioners that Cape Assist receive the award for the 2022 Innovations Grant of \$40,000 for the Probation Enrichment, Incentive, and Orientation program. The Proposal Review Committee consisted of five individuals who are members of the Cape May County Youth Services Commission. Two JJC representatives attended the review but did not participate in the discussion/scoring. One RFP response was received and reviewed. The Commission previously empowered the Proposal Review committee to approve the award for funding of POPs to the agency with the highest score.

#### New Business

**Hope and Healing: Mental Health Association of NJ:** Ruth Kaluski presented information about programs available for mental health support: Hope and Healing; Question/Persuade/Refer Training; and Mental Health First Aid training.

Public Response:

- \* Anna Cannella reported that thirteen youth are enrolled at Coastal Prep (Recovery High School) and there is a wait list. Most of the youth enrolled are county residents. Currently there is a funding issue to resolve. The program is free and does not charge the home schools for any of the costs.
- \* Gloria Rivera reported that services of the Latino Family Connections are available in the county [i.e. Intensive In Community services (IIC), parenting classes, youth group, domestic violence services, etc.].

Adjournment: 4:12 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 8, @ 3:00pm