

Cape May County Youth Services Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting – 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.*

1. Call to Order and Round Table Introductions – P. Devaney

Present:

Robert Schober, ACFSO

Kathy Bright, ACFSO

Marianne White, CMRSS/FCIU

Joe Faldetta, Cape Assist

Pat Devaney, CMC DHS

Mike McKnight, NJ DOE

Anna Cannella, Cape Assist/Coastal Prep

John Roy, CMO

Anne Garrison, Jersey Cape

Jennifer Valentine, CASA

John Thomas, Family Court

Chris Desantis, Probation

Shirley Robinson, Family Court

Patty Ackley, Family Court

Marylou McAdams Corson, Assistant Prosecutor

Justin Caruso, Acenda

Steve Schuck - Acenda

Jim Hetherington – Jersey Cape

Jonathan Price, CMC Special Services School

Gary Hrynoveski, Light House Church

Joanna Little, Families Matter

Troy Alexander, JJC

Gina Blevins, JJC

Maria Hadley, JJC

Connie Price, JCC

Jeff Sutherland, Prosecutor

Joann Thompson, Juvenile Probation

Rebecca Super, Juvenile Probation

Sharon Modzelewski, YSC Coordinator

2. Additions and Corrections to Minutes – P. Devaney

Minutes from the December 8, 2020 YSC meeting were provided with the meeting notice via email.

J. Roy motioned to accept the minutes as presented. S. Robinson seconded. Motion carried.

3. Administrator's Report – S. Modzelewski

- YSC Membership: Per JJC guidelines, membership includes a list for both mandated and non-mandated membership. Both categories are voting members. CMC YSC has openings for non-mandated members. Pat and Sharon will review the list of individuals who participated in past YSC meetings to give them the right of first refusal. Contact Sharon if you can participate in the review.
- 2021 Innovations Funding: The county received the 2021 award letter for \$117,000. This money funds the Family Advocate program and the Probation Enrichment, Incentive, and Orientation program.
- 2021 Comprehensive County Funding, RFPs, Planning Committee: The County is taking steps to address a compliance matter with the 2021 Comprehensive County Funding. The County submitted an RFP waiver request for 3 programs in the current grant year and to then follow-up with a two-year RFP for the 2022 and 2023 grant years for the 3 programs: Intensive Supervision, Station House Adjustment, Probation Pathways. The tentative RFP release date will be July. A Planning Subcommittee will be set-up to discuss the parameters of the RFPs; and volunteers are requested. Shirley Robinson volunteered; and other potential participants will be contacted.

4. JJC Representative Report – C. Price

- Next Statewide CJJSI meeting is 3/31 and will be virtual. Data will be available and will be shared with the counties.

- Members are encouraged to read the many NJ juvenile justice (and adult) reforms, initiatives, and policy changes. Highlights include comprehensive overhaul of policies regarding law enforcement and use of force; aligning responsibilities of juvenile parole with the JJC; mechanism available to police officers and prosecutors to divert youth from the juvenile justice system and limit the likelihood of unnecessary detention (i.e. curbside adjustment, station house adjustment, etc.).
- Monitoring Tool for contracted programs will be updated and should be available in the next few weeks.
- Statewide JAMS Provider Training will be held on 2/17.
- Planning takes place all year long to review trends and listen to the needs of youth/families. Comparing 2019 to 2020, the following 2020 percentage decrease information was recently received: youth commitments to training schools down 37.4%; youth waived to adult court down 35.19%; probation residential placements down 63.3%; probation referrals down 53.5%; the combined total of all categories down 45.8%
- Troy Alexander, JJC, offered JJC services to assist with local planning process and extended the Court Liaison's support to share strategies and ideas for the statewide expenditure of funds. In calendar year 2019, \$1.3 million was returned to the state which included funds from Partnership, Family Court, and Innovation.

5. JDAI update – S. Robinson

- In the Fall, JDAI agreed to discontinue the Education Subcommittee and instead focus on the Community Engagement Subcommittee to be in line with the Innovation goals. Chris DeSantis is the chair of the subcommittee. Membership is limited at this time while the committee develops focus areas.
- JDAI will be working on the focus for the next Innovation application.
- Case Processing
 - Juvenile complaints are filed electronically starting the first of the year using the ECDR system. Training for the remaining probation officers is forthcoming.
 - Working with Counsel to update Risk Screening Tool Manual to reflect changes that took place in the past year.
- Vicinage-Wide Service provider webinar will be held in March.
- Next Full Council JDAI meeting will be held 2/17.

Gina Blevins, JJC transition Specialist, indicated she will continue in the position through 2021. The unit hired a new Specialist, Miguel Williams, who will begin working in Cape May and Atlantic Counties in April.

6. Program Updates

Intensive Supervision: Steve Schuck reported that Covid impacted face-to-face encounters with youth. Agency-wide, staff cannot go into home due to Covid; but staff is still in the field, meeting clients in outside settings with social distance and PPE to ensure youth are abiding by court orders. There was a decrease in the number of referrals and one youth is currently in the program.

Probation Pathways: Jim Hetherington reported that Covid negatively impacted the program. Agency was closed for a period of time and restaurant businesses, who employ most of youth, were also closed or at reduced capacity. Subsidized employment is a big selling point to employers and the agency is encouraged for 2021 since 2 referrals were already received.

Station House Adjustment: Joe Faldetta reported there was a delay in the program in March due to COVID while the agency transitioned from in-person to virtual classes. Referrals were about the same

as 2019; there was no decrease. The experience of virtual classes is not the same as in-person, but the agency was able to maintain fidelity with the virtual delivery. Also, virtual classes took away some barriers, such as transportation and coordinating schedules.

Probation Enrichment, Incentive, and Orientation: Chris Desantis reported that POP is in its 3rd year and pre-covid there was a good system in place with orientations and engagements activities at the court, such as game night and employment event. Due to Covid, Probation shifted to virtual, individual orientation for youth and their family. There have been some in-person meetings in the office and in the field to see what the youth need and to distribute incentive gift cards to both youth and family. There are plans to improve the one vendor situation by utilizing FSO as a purchaser in 2022. Caseload in 2017 averaged 60 youth and now averages 20 youth. The 20 youth include inpatient and out of state. Clients who are age 18 or older are less likely to be involved with POP.

Family Advocate: Rob Schober reported that Covid was challenging and initially it was difficult to make contact with clients; but overall, the program maintained its integrity. Focus groups and *Parenting Wisely* program continue and FSO coordinated with POPS for a holiday event. Kathy Bright is the Family Court Advocate and she is building a partnership with a school district to offer services.

Coastal Prep/Sober High School: Anna Cannella reported five students are enrolled with a recent referral from JISP. School is 4 days in-person and 1 day virtual. School is trying to get students connected to outside services, but they need the parents to help with the intake process.

Mike McKnight reported that he and Dr. Lori Desautels continue resiliency training. A school leadership academy was started which addresses resiliency, brain, adversity, and creating a resiliency environment for teachers who are also struggling at this time. There will be a summer training schedule for school resiliency teams and a pilot community resiliency team will take place in Lower Township.

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business

- Youth Executive Functioning System (YES): Joanna Little, of Families Matter, gave a presentation about an 8-session program to assist middle school and high school students who are diagnosed with ADD/ADHD or struggling with adjustment to remote schooling. Sessions focus on several topics including organizing, planning, managing frustration, motivation, etc. Program accepts Medicaid and private insurance and has scholarships available. Participants from the first cohort continue to meet in a group called Uplift, which is focused on improving self-esteem through self-exploration and CBT intervention.
- Connie Price reported a Vicinage System Partner webinar will be held on March 10th from 9am to 12 noon. Webinar will have a law enforcement and education focus. Another webinar will be held in June with a parent/community focus. Prosecutor Sutherland will be one of the speakers at the March event.
- Prosecutor Jeff Sutherland indicated 1) Handle with Care program will be on the March webinar agenda which is a collaboration between law enforcement and schools. Cape May County was the first county in the state to use the program which is now operating statewide. 2) Prosecutor Office is integrating a Special Needs registry for anyone with a physical or mental impairment who wants to share information with law enforcement in the event of an incident. Decals will be utilized. 3) By the end of the year, the Prosecutor Office will integrate a mental health response team which will consist of a mental health provider working with law enforcement on the scene. Eventually, a behavioral health response team will be developed which will also provide referrals for follow-up services.
- Sharon reported 1) County Resource Booklet, *Guide to Behavioral Health and Court Services*

for Children, Youth, and Families, is in the process of being updated. 2) YSC is welcome to suggest ideas for meeting presentations about community programs or topics of interest.

9. Public Response: None

10. Adjournment: 4:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: 4/13/2021