



Atlantic County

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Dennis Levinson
County Executive

ATLANTIC COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION FULL COUNCIL MEETING VIA WEBEX May 16, 2022

Attendance

Agency

County Administrator
Juvenile Justice Commission
Dorsey Construction
Faith Baptist Church
Jewish Family Service
Atlantic County WDB
Avanzar- Dream Free
Family Crisis Intervention Unit
Atlantic County Substance Abuse Services
Mental Health Administrator
Avanzar
Deputy Public Defender
Family Division

Agency

Presiding Judge, Family Division
Center for Family Services
Atlantic Youth Center/Harborfields
ONE Program
Exec. Co. Superintendent of Schools

Agency

Atlantic Youth Center/Harborfields
Exec. Co. Superintendent of Schools
WDB
Atlantic Prevention Resources
CASA
Youth Advocate Program
Jevs
Acenda

Agency

YSC Administrator

Member

Jerry DelRosso, *Co-Chairperson*
Maria Hadley, *ex-officio*
Geoff Dorsey
Rev. Milton Hendricks
Naomi Jones
Francis Kuhn
Dawne Lomangino-DiMauro
Heather Oldis
Jennifer Pielhau
Kathy Quish
Claudia Ratzlaff
Scott Sherwood
John Thomas

Excused

Honorable Rodney Cunningham, *Co-Chairperson*
Cindy Herdman Ivins
Richard Jackson
Arrod Moore
Leslie White-Coursey

Guests

Wesley Parker (proxy for Richard Jackson)
Melissa Jackson (proxy for L. White-Coursey)
Cynthia Torres
Kathy McFadden
Shannon Casula
Fred Crawley
Betsy Powell
Steve Schuck

Staff

Leesa Seymour

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Call to Order:

Monitoring Committee Chairperson Claudia Ratzlaff called the meeting to order at 2:35PM. Leesa Seymour announced that this meeting was 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 was provided in the Press of Atlantic City and Hammonton Gazette. Notice of the Webex meeting was also provided through Atlantic County News Release and posted on the County amlink webpage. Approved minutes from this meeting will be posted on the YSC County Amlink webpage. Attendance was taken from the Webex participant list. Additional attendees introduced themselves or listed their name in the chat box on Webex.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the April 18, 2022 were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes made by Claudia Ratzlaff and seconded by Kathy McFadden. Motion passed with 5 abstentions. There were no corrections or additions noted.

Juvenile Justice Commission Report:

JJC Updates: Leesa Seymour reported the following: Miguel Williams, JJC Research and Reform Specialist, resigned effective May 6th. Gina Blevins will be assuming the role until the vacancy is filled. Gina was unable to attend today to review the 2021 Influence and Leverage Report. The report was emailed to all members with today's meeting notice. The report has a different format. Atlantic was highlighted for the HEDS Case Management program because the Case Managers received Nurtured Heart training, and they also now participate in court hearing for HEDS Case Management youth in addition to sending an update letter. Maria Hadley reported the following: The 2022 Summer Expansion Programs funded by OJJDP were emailed on May 5th. There are 4 programs in the southern region: 2 in Camden, 1 in Gloucester, and 1 in Cape May. The award to Mighty Writers in Camden also provides services in Atlantic. The Camden YSC Administrator provided a contact to Ms. Seymour for the Mighty Writers. All the applications for the Restorative Justice Hubs in the 4 pilot municipalities were submitted. They are scheduled for review today. JJC's family webpage, which will provide both public and private access, will allow families to see their youth's progress while in JJC placement. Youth Entrepreneurship Program applications are being reviewed for a start date of July 1st.

Maria Hadley reported the following:

Harborfields population for today:

Total Population for Atlantic County (In House, Out of House Hold & Diversion): 34

In house Atlantic: 17

Out of house hold in Essex: 0 Out of house hold in Ocean: 4 Out of house hold in Camden: 4

There are youth diverted in the following programs:

IHD: 0 HEDS: 8 Shelter: 1

Males: 31 Females: 3 (Atlantic In House, Out of House Hold & Diversion)

There are **17** African American, **0** Caucasian, **1** Hispanic and **1** Other youth in detention: **7** African Americans, **0** Caucasian, **1** Hispanic and **1** Other youth in a diversion program. There is **3** youth age 14 or younger in detention and **5** youth age 14 or younger on diversion. There are **10** youth in house and **4** on diversion with weapons or robbery offenses. There is **1** youth in house and **2** on diversion with sexual offenses. The number of youth in detention have not been this high in a long time. Floor opened for questions. Ms. Seymour asked if there has been any movement with the 4 youth in detention that have been waived to adult court. Ms. Hadley reported that she monitors these cases regularly but their movement is slow due to codefendants, and postponements. Mr. DelRosso asked if there is a possibility of meeting with the JJC and decision makers to discuss the impact of waiver reform with these youth now sitting in detention for years waiting for their cases to be resolved. John Thomas reported that this is a standing agenda item for the JDAI Case Processing Subcommittee. He reported there is constant communication between Family Court and Criminal Court, and the Assignment Judge and Presiding Judges are aware. Criminal Court is about 3 years behind on trials due to the pandemic. Family Court is working with the Prosecutor and Public Defender on moving cases forward, but there is due process, and they are not going to move cases forward if they are not ready to proceed. Mr. DelRosso asked if there was other things that could be done or anything that could be done differently while maintaining due process to change the system. Mr. Thomas reported the biggest issue is when a youth has an adult codefendant, and these cases are a priority locally. The Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Family and Criminal Divisions are aware and reviewing the issues.

Committee Reports:

Monitoring- Claudia Ratzlaff, Monitoring Committee Chairperson, reported the following: Monitorings have begun. HEDS, Enhanced Outcome Based Supervision Support Program, HEDS Case Management and the Resilient Youth Program have been monitored. The reports are not complete as we still have youth interviews to do. We expect monitoring results to be reviewed at the June and July meetings. Leesa and Dena have done a fabulous job coordinating the monitorings and having all the pertinent forms and reports ready to go. Floor opened for questions. None reported.

JDAI- 2023 Innovations Application- Leesa Seymour reported the following on behalf of Judge Cunningham, Chairperson: The 2023 application was received and YSC staff is working with Shana Drake and the subcommittee to complete Part I. Part I is due June 4th, and it determines our eligibility. Floor opened for questions. None reported.

Planning- 2023 Plan Update and Application- Scott Sherwood, Planning Committee Chairperson, reported the following: The JJC approved our budget modification from March, so YSC staff can move forward with scheduling focus groups. The 2023 Plan Update and Application was received and the Planning Committee will meet in August once monitoring and the focus groups are completed. Floor opened for questions. None reported.

Old/New Business:

Cynthia Torres, Workforce Development Board (WDB), reported the first cohort for the Summer Youth Employment Program has started. 17 youth are actively participating. These youth are working in IT, the Superintendent of Elections Office, and at the City of Pleasantville. Five youth from ACIT will be working for Absecon EMS. The 2nd cohort will start July 1st. There was 57 applicants for 60 slots for both cohorts.

Fran Kuhn, WDB, reported the WDB got permission to use their funding for TANF for the Summer Youth Employment Program. The WDB is identifying interested candidates and establishing work sites for these youth. 16 youth are already identified and can work 3 months, 30 hours per week at \$15 per hour. These youth will be able to add this work experience to their resumes so that they can be gainfully employed by the end of the summer season. The WDB is collaborating with the 5 Family Success Centers (FSCs) to bring WDB and Department of Labor (DOL) services into the community, as the One Stop is only open via appointment. WDB and DOL staff will have a periodic presence in all the FSCs to enable easy access to these services for community members. The WDB and DOL will host an orientation for FSC staff in June, followed by an orientation for each FSC's advisory board. The plan is for WDB and DOL staff to be on the FSC calendars beginning in July two half days each month. This will be adjusted depending on the response from the community. Job matching, resume development, interviewing skills, training opportunities, and literacy services including high school equivalency opportunities will be offered. The WDB is also working Atlantic Cape Community College's Title II unit to provide literacy services in Hammonton. The FSCs are using a survey to gauge community members' needs prior to these services being offered.

Mr. DelRosso asked if the youth recently released from detention to a detention alternative program are considered for work programs through the WDB. Ms. Seymour reported that two of the youth released already have summer jobs, and HEDS Case Management assists youth in connecting with Cynthia Torres and Connie Lane at the WDB for employment.

Leesa Seymour, YSC, reported the Taskforce Report related to Executive Order 42 and the continued Transformation of the Juvenile Justice System was released with recommendations to the Governor. It was emailed with this meeting notice. The Report reviews residential placements and facilities calling for the close of Jamesburg, Hayes and Bordentown to be replaced with regional, community based campus like centers for secure care in the North, Central and Southern parts of the state. There were recommendations regarding Sentencing and Parole and Stationhouse Adjustments. Lastly, recommendations were made for the Youth Services Commission to move from a 3 year to 5 year Plan & Application, for the funding formula to be reviewed and for more funding to be allocated to the YSCs. It was also recommended that YSCs work more closely with grassroots organizations by providing avenues for these organizations to apply for funding and collaborate with more established 501c3 organizations to improve chances of receiving funding.

Dawne Lomangino-DiMauro, Avanzar Dream Free, reported that Avanzar received funding from Caesar's Foundation to add a staff member to support Atlantic County and the YES program in working with youth identified at risk for human trafficking. The new staff started working last week.

Public Comment: None reported.

Adjournment: Jerry DelRosso requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Dawne Lomangino-DiMauro, seconded by Claudia Ratzlaff and approved from the floor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm. The next meeting is scheduled for **June 20, 2022 @ 2:30 PM via Webex.**