

**Atlantic County Youth Services Commission
Full Council Meeting
January 22, 2024
Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jerry DelRosso called the meeting to order at 2:40pm. Curtis Still announced 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 was provided in the Press of Atlantic City and Hammonton Gazette. Notice of the Webex meeting was also provided in the Press of Atlantic City News Release and posted on the County Aclink webpage. Approved minutes from this meeting will be posted on the YSC County Aclink webpage.

Attendance

Member

Jerry DelRosso, *Co-Chairperson*
Hon. Michelle D. Perry-Thompson
Maria Hadley, *ex-officio*
Danita Pierce, *ex-officio*
Gina Blevins
Forrest Gilmore
Jeff Harvey
Rev. Milton Hendricks
Richard Jackson
Naomi Jones
Francis Kuhn
Kathy Quish
Scott Sherwood
Daniel Harvey
Veronica Ramos-Cruz
Claudia Ratzlaff
Dan Noto (Proxy)
Brian Wilson

Guests

Kathy McFadden
Lisa Castalano
Thanaia Riddick
Timmia Dreher
Carla Goldsboro
Adara Heilmann
Darryl Thomas

Agency

County Administrator
Family Division
Juvenile Justice Commission
Juvenile Justice Commission
Juvenile Justice Commission
Dept. of Family & Community
Ranch Hope
Faith Baptist Church
Atlantic Youth Center/Harborfields
Jewish Family Service
Atlantic County WDB
Mental Health Administrator
Deputy Public Defender
Probation
Center for Family Services
AVANZAR
Family Court
Substance Abuse

Atlantic Prevention Resources
Atlantic Prevention Resources

Atlantic County NJ4S
PathStone
Children's Advocacy (Arc of NJ)
PathStone

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Roll Call Vote to Approve YSC Funding for Four Community-Based Programs Utilizing 2023 SCPG Funding

Curtis Reported:

On September 12, 2023, the Juvenile Justice Commission provided an opportunity for counties to extend their 2023 SCPG funding until March 31, 2024. Based on the extension, our YSC Planning committee recommended we look at ways to fund community-based programs that exist within the communities our youth reside. The goal will be to link our court involved youth to services that can assist in decreasing the chances youth will become involved in criminal activities, and decrease the chances youth will return to the juvenile justice system.

The YSC Planning committee met on January 17, 2024, to review proposals submitted by four community-based/grassroots programs for potential funding by the YSC to provide community-based services for court involved youth. After review of all proposals, the YSC Planning Committee provided recommendations to the full YSC Council to fund the Young Parent Coalition, ThinkGroup TouchPoint, Mighty Writers, and One Neighborhood Evolution program.

YSC Full Council Roll Call Vote was held to receive approval from the YSC to fund the above-mentioned community-based programs at \$8,700 each.

The Full YSC Council approved funding the four community-based programs. (Each Mandated Member's Roll Call Vote will be kept in the YSC file and forwarded to the Juvenile Justice Commission)

Approval of November 2023 YSC Meeting Minutes:

-Jerry DelRosso made a motion to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes.

-Claudia Ratzlaff accepted the motion.

-Scott Sherwood second the motion.

-Dena Tartaro conducted a Roll Call Vote to approve the minutes.

Minutes approved.

YSC Update

Scott Sherwood reported:

The 2024 YSC Comprehensive Plan Summary of services Roll Call Vote was conducted via email on 11/21/23.

Scott Sherwood, YSC Planning Committee Chair, provided a program overview of the following programs:

Gun Violence Prevention Program to be funded at \$85,700 (Up for Competitive Bidding process this year)

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Atlantic County Community Engagement Committee to be funded at \$14,820

HEDS Step Down Program to be funded at \$102,000 (Up for competitive binding)

Family Crisis Intervention Unit to be funded at \$151,144 (Intergovernmental Contract)

Detention Diversion Coordinator to be funded at \$20,000 (Intergovernmental Contract)

HEDS Case Management to be funded for \$60,200 SCPG plus \$114,000 Innovations (Up for competitive binding);

HEDS Electronic Monitoring Program to be funded for \$65,220 (Intergovernmental Contract)

Gun Violence Prevention Program for Probation Youth to be funded at \$40,000 (Up for Competitive Bidding process);

Adolescent Sex Offenders Program to be funded at \$15,750;

Enhanced Outcome Supervision Support Program to be funded at \$5000

Unallocated funding in the amount of \$5,000 (Planning Committee will meet to discuss how funds will be allocated later.)

Total 2024 SCPG and Family Court Funding (\$564,836 SCPG Program Services) Plus (\$90,000 SCPG Program Management) Total \$654,836.

-YSC 2024 SCPG/Family Court Funding Comprehensive Plan approved via Roll Call Vote on 11/21/23. (A copy of each individual Mandated Member's vote will be kept in the YSC file and forwarded to the Juvenile Justice Commission)

Total 2024 Innovations Funding (\$114,000 HEDS Case Management Program plus \$6,000 Atlantic County Government)

-YSC 2024 Innovations Funds approved via Roll Call Vote on 6/27/23.
(A copy of each individual Mandated Member's vote will be kept in the YSC file and forwarded to the Juvenile Justice Commission)

Curtis Still Reported:

Atlantic County's One-Third Set-Aside Funding approved via Roll Call Vote on 12/7/23 via email. (A copy of each individual Mandated Member's vote will be kept in the YSC file and forwarded to the Juvenile Justice Commission)

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Atlantic County's YSC 2023 Budget Modification approved via Roll Call Vote on 11/21/23 via email. (A copy of each individual Mandated Member's vote will be kept in the YSC file and forwarded to the Juvenile Justice Commission)

Atlantic Prevention Resources Budget Modification Request approved via Roll Call Vote on 11/21/23. (A copy of each individual Mandated Member's vote will be kept in the YSC file and forwarded to the Juvenile Justice Commission)

Family Crisis Intervention Unit Budget Modification Request Roll Call Vote was held on 10/16/23. (A copy of each individual Mandated Member's vote will be kept in the YSC file and forwarded to the Juvenile Justice Commission)

Atlantic County HEDS Step Down Program

In February of 2023, the YSC Planning committee created a wish list of services for Atlantic County. A service to provide a HEDS Step Down Program was included in the YSC Planning Committee's wish list. On 11/14/2023, Atlantic County advertised for the HEDS Step Down Program for a second time. As a result of the Atlantic County YSC Planning committee wish list and the Atlantic County Competitive Bidding Process for services, Jewish Family Services (JFS) was awarded the Atlantic County HEDS Step Down Program Contract to provide the service for a HEDS Step Down Detention Alternative program on, 1/16/24. The HEDS Step Down program was implemented based on an opportunity provided by the Juvenile Justice Commission to extend Atlantic County's SCPG 2023 funding until 3/31/24. Factors that went into the decision to select JFS were; JFS demonstrated an understanding of the Juvenile Justice System (policies and procedures), the agency worked with local stakeholders and court involved youth in the past.

YSC 2023 Program Monitoring

Curtis Still reported:

-Atlantic County's YSC Monitoring Committee has two program monitorings that require completion per JJC guidelines (Detention Diversion Coordinator and Client Specific Funding). Volunteers are needed for both monitorings. Curtis Still will be reaching out to YSC committee members for volunteers to participate in the final program monitorings.

YSC Membership

Curtis Still reported:

Four Atlantic County YSC members are due for renewal of their YSC council membership. Each committee members will be contacted via email or letter prior to their YSC membership expiration date.

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The Atlantic County Board of Commissioners Office is preparing to update information for the 2024 Atlantic County Manual. Mr. Still requested all YSC Mandated members review the Atlantic County YSC Mandated Membership list for all edits, updated information and corrections. The updated/corrected YSC Membership list is required to be submitted back to the YSC Commissioner's Office by, January 24, 2024.

Juvenile Justice Commission Report:

Maria Hadley reported total population for In House/Diverted.

Bergen County:

1 male

Essex County:

24 males **2** female

Atlantic County:

19 males **0** females

In House Race:

42 African Americans, **2** Hispanics, **2** White

Total: **46** youth

Diversion

7 youth diverted on HEDs:

7 males **0** females

7 African Americans, **0** Hispanics, **0** White

Youth 14 and younger in house:

9

Youth 14 and younger on diversion:

10

Youth detained 60 days or more:

30

Youth detained 90 days or more:

23

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Weapon and robbery offense:

23 in house
2 on diversion
25 out of **53** in Total

Carjacking and Murders:

8 in house

Awaiting Wavier:

0 youth

Danita Pierce reported:

-JJC is conducting their final Grant Writing Seminar, which will be held on, January 25, 2024.

-Atlantic County received its JJC 2024 SCPG Comprehensive Plan Award letter.

-JJC held a meeting on January 19, 2024, to discuss JJC Regulations.

-The Atlantic County JDAI Community Engagement Subcommittee is in the process of finalizing a recognition ceremony in honor of Connie Price. Ms. Price was the Southern Regional Supervisor for the JCC Court liaison unit, and a member of Atlantic County's YSC and Community Engagement Committee.

YSC Outreach Update

Dena Tartaro reported:

Atlantic County's YSC administers contracts with three local Family Success Centers: Galloway, Egg Harbor Township and Hammonton. The three Family Success Centers provided referrals and recommendations to YSC staff, to assist youth and families who have actively participated in services offered through the FSCs. All referred families were identified as families in need of support during the holiday season. The YSC adopt a Family program delivered over 500 gifts to 16 families including 40 children. Donations and gifts were provided by 12 different Atlantic County agencies, departments and individuals.

Jurnee Ward reported:

On January 13, 2024, the One Neighborhood Evaluation program held a "Walk for PEACE" in Atlantic City. The purpose for the PEACE Walk was to protest against community violence and the killing of a local youth. The Walk for PEACE started at O'Donnell Park, near Stockton University (AC Campus), and concluded at the Atlantic City, City Hall.

During the event, YSC staff passed out information in regards to the different services available to youth and families in the community. The event also provided an opportunity for YSC staff to

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meet with other service providers and grassroots organizations. Over 200 people showed up to support this event.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

New Business:

Workforce Development/Francis Kuhn reported:

A grant opportunity from the summer Youth Employment Program was received. The informational session will be held on January 24, 2024. Youth will be paid at \$16.00 an hour for the 8 weeks. If selected for the grant the Workforce Development Board will be notified by the second week of March. Information will be sent out on a large scale in the county to make sure that all youth can connect with the employment opportunities in the county.

Darryl Thomas reported:

The PathStone program is a re-entry program for court involved youth and adults. PathStone currently operates out of Atlantic City, and Atlantic Cape Community College. The PathStone program services young individuals between ages 18 and 24. Program will consider accepting 17-year-olds that are three months shy of turning 18. PathStone provides the following services: workforce development training, employment and supportive services. PathStone also assists individuals in obtaining their driver's license, CDL's, and offers HSC training for individuals who want to obtain their GED. PathStone will be hosting a career fair on 01/26/24.

Old Business

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Jerry Delrosso called a motion to adjourn.

Motion made to adjourn.

Motion seconded.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

February 26th, 2024 @ 2:30 PM