

Atlantic County Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council

December/January 2023-2024

Volume 1 Issue 4

For information contact:

Atlantic County

CIACC Coordinator

Kathryn Saxton-Granato

granato_kathryn@aclink.org

609 645-7700 ext. 4507



Caregivers, Parents and Youth
You are Invited!
You are Welcome!

I hope you have enjoyed the newsletters from the Atlantic County-based Children's Interagency-Coordinating Council, sometimes known as the CIACC. This group meets regularly to talk and learn about the many mental/behavioral health, and developmental disability and substance misuse services available for children, youth, adolescents and young adults.

The group is open to providers or services, program representatives and also to caregivers, parents and youth who have experienced the range of children's services. Throughout 2022, 54 individuals participated in the Atlantic County Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council meetings. Many of those attendees were parents, who are also program or services representatives. However, only a few participants have recent experience trying to navigate services for their own child..

As a group that gathers to understand children's services and to make recommendations if things aren't working well, we need to know about the experiences of adults and youth who use the services. It is very important to have parents, caregivers and youth come together to share or to participate virtually. We have equipment for hybrid, in person and virtual, meetings so both options to participate can be used. Some meetings are during the morning hours and some in late afternoon-your choice!

Please consider sharing your experiences so we can understand areas that need improvement. I am happy to answer any questions about our meetings. Also, if anyone in the community needs information on children's services or has questions, feel free to call me. I hope you will reach out and join a meeting.

Thank you!

Kathi, Coordinator for the Atlantic County Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council

December 12, 2023(second Tuesday) 3:30-5:00

January 5th (first Friday) 9:00-10:30

March 12th (second Tuesday) 3:30-5:00

April 5th (first Friday) 9:00-10:30



Small things you can do every day to improve your mood

- ◆ Set your alarm to go off 15 minutes before you normally get up. This extra time will enable you to have a more organized and productive day.
- ◆ Make a friend smile. Making a friend smile is a great way to improve your day. Why not send them a funny video online or send them a text to see how they are doing.
- ◆ Smile at the first stranger you see. Never underestimate the power of a smile! It costs you nothing, but can make someone's day and will also leave you feeling warm inside.
- ◆ Take a walk. If you are feeling stressed or worried, taking a short walk outside will raise your mood and can also calm you down.
- ◆ Scroll through your phone's photo gallery. Looking at photographs can be a mood- booster! They will bring back memories, remind you of important people and special places.
- ◆ Excerpts from <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/news/2020/apr/15-small-things-you-can-do-every-day-improve-your-mood>

Atlantic County Executive
Dennis Levinson



Atlantic County Board of Commissioners
John W. Risley, Jr., Chairman

For 2024, the Children's System of Care (CSOC) will be providing Summer Camp Services to **eligible** children, youth, and young adults under 21 years of age. These services include Financial Support toward Summer Camp Tuition and One-to-One Aide Services for Summer Camp. **Your child must be determined eligible for Developmental Disability Services by CSOC** and registered for a Qualified Camp prior to submitting the application for CSOC Summer Camp Services. News...New Jersey's Children's System of Care (CSOC) is pleased to announce the expansion of the summer camp application timeframe to allow more families access to CSOC Summer Camp Services funding for 2024.

CSOC has received feedback from many families that camp providers typically begin registration in early fall for the upcoming summer season. To ensure equitable access for families receiving CSOC Summer Camp funding, families may begin applying now through June 30, 2024.

Also, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and CSOC are offering Alternative Recreational Sessions (ARS) as an additional component of Summer Camp. ARS provides youth an opportunity to engage in a recreational activity with peers within the community, on a per session basis, rather than a full day of camp. This shorter time frame will increase camp access for youth who may benefit from a brief structured period compared to a longer traditional camp day.

Families can obtain more information and access the CSOC Summer Camp Services 2024 application by visiting: <https://www.performcarenj.org/families/disability/summer-camp.aspx>.

NJ Children's System of Care

Contracted System Administrator — PerformCare®

Helping Families Across New Jersey

1-877-652-7624

Call PerformCare New Jersey regarding your child if you are concerned about an emotional or behavioral problem, or if a trusted person, such as a friend, family member, teacher or counselor, your doctor, or your clergyman, thinks your child, youth, or young adult needs help.

There is no charge for calling PerformCare. The services we recommend are authorized without regard to income, private health insurance, or eligibility for Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare or other health benefits programs. When your child is registered for services at PerformCare, you will be asked to provide details about your insurance coverage.

Behavioral Health
Intellectual/Developmental Disability Services
Substance Use Treatment

What topics do YOU think should be part of next year's Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council meetings?

Programs frequently reach out to present so participants know services are available and what is new.

Save the Dates

The next CIACC meeting is December 12th 3:30-5:00 and the special topic is the Stigma Free Initiative

The CIACC's January 5th 9:00-10:30 meeting will have a speaker on a new problematic sexual behaviors treatment program

**Contact Kathi to subscribe to the CIACC
newsletter
granato_kathryn@aclink.org**