

**MINUTES**  
**MORRIS COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YSAC)**  
**This meeting was held at 1 Medical Drive**  
September 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order by David Johnston at 2:40pm.

**Members present:**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Present</b>
Holly Dinney	Family Promise of Morris County	X
Maria Augustowicz	Caring Partners CMO	X
Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro	Center for Family Services	X
Diane Womer	Morris Child Placement Review Board	
Beth Jacobson	NewBridge Services, Inc.	X
Diana Cirillo		
Maddie Hahn	Jersey Battered Women's Service	
Patricia Houston	Family Support Organization	
Jackie Looby	Morristown Neighborhood House	X
Neville Newton	Plaid House	X
Barbara Kauffman	Morris County Prevention Is Key	X
Robert Peluso	Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills	X
Margaret Pittaluga (Co-Chair)	Center For Evaluation and Counseling	X
David Johnston (Chair)	Deirdre's House	
Natalie Roca	Juvenile Justice Commission	X
Amy Archer	Dept. of Human Services	X
Cindy Cuenca	Morris County Probation Services	X
Jill Cerullo	Morris County Youth Shelter/JDC	
Sandra Gogerty	Morris County Dept. of Education	
Mackensie Fosko	Dept. of Human Services	X
Kim Johnson	Morris County WIB	
Leena George	DCP&P County Services Specialist	
Nichole Balestrino	Morris County Probation Services - Intake	
Christine Myers	County Commission Liaison	
Kasey Errico	Dept. of Human Services	X
Laura Siemonsma-Bertelli	Morris County Sheriff's Office	X
Jeena Williams	DCP&P Team Leader	X*
Samantha DeNegri	Morris County Prosecutors Office	X*
Hon. Michael Paul Wright	Morris County Judiciary – Juvenile Judge	
Ana Tent	Morris County Office of the Public Defender	

**Guests Present:**

<b>Guest</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Present</b>
Preeti Patel	Center for Evaluation and Counseling	X
Theresa Alonzo	Head Start	X
Tracey Skop	Morris County Probation Services	X*
Jessica Raczyk	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal and Northern NJ	X*
Carly Sinnott	PIK	X
Cherish Robinson	Dept. of Human Services	X

\*Attended virtually

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Revised minutes from the May, June, and July YSAC meetings were approved by Cindy Cuenca and seconded by Beth Jacobson.

**PRESENTATIONS**

No presentation.

**ACTION ITEMS**

No action items.

**STATE AND COUNTY REPORTS****Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC)**

Natalie Roca encouraged YSAC members to attend the 2024 Youth Justice Conference in October. She shared a few of the presentation titles and presenters that would be at the conference.

Discussion ensued regarding the role restorative justice could play in the future of juvenile justice. The group also discussed how to incorporate and partner with the schools when it comes to juvenile justice.

**Probation**

Tracey Skop reported 54 youth for Probation – 27 on formal probation and 27 on deferred disposition. One youth is in a residential program in Camden County that is closing. Therefore, CMO is currently working to transition the youth to a new residential program.

**Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P)**

Jeena Williams reported the following statistics for August 2024:

Morris East: CWS 9 CPS 77 Total 86

Breakdown: 8 Spanish Speaking; 6 Unhoused; 23 Domestic Violence; 25 Substance Use; 5 Sexual Assault; 0 Child on Child

Morris West: CWS 17 CPS 73 Total 90

Breakdown: 16 Spanish Speaking; 0 Unhoused; 23 Domestic Violence; 28 Substance Use; 3 Sexual Assault; 0 Child on Child

County Total - 26 CWS Total 150 CPS Total 176

Mr. Johnston asked Ms. Williams if the substance use statistics was referring to the adult or youth. Ms. Williams stated that she was unsure but would get clarification and report it to the YSAC.

### **Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

No report

### **Youth Services Coordinator Report**

Amy Archer announced that Cherish Robinson is the new Municipal Alliance Coordinator for Morris County, and she will be working closely with Mackensie Fosko regarding Stigma Free and addiction work.

A flyer was circulated for Atlantic Health's "Understanding Suicide in the South Asian Population". It will be held on Saturday, September 8, 2024 and a hybrid option will be available.

The Point-In-Time count will occur in January. More information will follow in October. Anyone interested can ask to be added to the distribution list.

JAMS registration forms have been sent to the State and are pending approval. In addition, JAMS trainings can be found in the JAMS portal and TA can be provided from the County.

Planning meetings and the GIA application review meeting will be scheduled soon. All are encouraged to participate in these meetings.

### **Leadership Advisory**

Mr. Johnston reported the next Leadership Advisory meeting will be held tomorrow, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. He will report back at the next YSAC meeting.

### **Stigma Free**

Mackensie Fosko reported the next Stigma Free meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm via WebEx.

### **Juvenile Detention Center/Youth Shelter/Smartlink**

Jill Cerullo was not present but provided the following statistics prior to the meeting:

- Juvenile Detention Center – 6 males and 0 are from Morris. 1 from Atlantic, 2 from Cumberland, 1 from Gloucester, and 2 from Hudson.
- Youth Shelter – 5 youth, 2 males and 3 females with 1 of the females being from Morris. 1 from Passaic, 2 from Sussex, and 1 from Warren.
- Smartlink App – 2 males.

Kasey Errico shared the continuous trend of other counties sending youth to Morris County because there are not enough beds in the Juvenile Detention Centers.

The group discussed the difficulty with case processing throughout the state regarding placements and how some detention centers are over capacity with limited bed space. There was also conversation regarding psychiatric treatment for youth currently placed in detention centers and the coverage Medicaid provides.

## **JDAI**

Amy Archer reported the JDAI subcommittee discussed the following proposals for 2025 JDAI funding:

- Renewal for Probation Incentive Program (PIP) – A program that rewards growth of positive behaviors and skills and deters risky, high-risk behaviors. The PIP program will be offered to youth on deferred disposition and regular probation supervision using 3 approaches: 1) Individual incentives to encourage and sustain positive behavior and individual growth 2) Family engagement and education which will focus on increasing communication and seek to improve family dynamics between families of youth on probation to ultimately increase youth success 3) Community component to teach youth how to be leaders and build stronger communities.
- Family Advocate/Navigator – A program that will serve as a conduit between the families of court-involved youth and local resources/services. The Family Advocate/Navigator will be in court on designated juvenile court day to serve as an advocate to families. In a secondary capacity, they will develop surveys, plan focus groups and conduct informational trainings for families and other juvenile justice stakeholders. Lastly, the Family Advocate/Navigator will work with local schools to provide diversion services in lieu of an impending suspension or to avoid an additional suspension from occurring.

Once the JDAI subcommittee endorses the programs above the full YSAC will need to vote on the full proposal before the County can submit. Since we will be unable to get a quorum for a special meeting, an email vote will be conducted.

The next meeting for JDAI was cancelled and will be rescheduled for a future date.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

No report

## **NEW BUSINESS/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – review recording**

Maria Augustowicz shared a flyer that Caring Partners of Morris & Sussex will be hosting a Nurtured Heart Community Training on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm – 3:30pm in their training room in Rockaway. This training is open to the community. Holly Dinney stated that she is a Nurtured Heart certified coach and the program is life changing. She encourages all to attend the training being provided.

Ms. Dinney shared a flyer for Family Promise's 5K walk on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at Central Park of Morris County.

Jackie Looby stated that Cornerstone/Morristown Neighborhood House have many free youth programs beginning in October. Flyers were distributed for Youth Night beginning every Friday from October

11<sup>th</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup>, Boyz 2 Men beginning every Thursday from October 10<sup>th</sup> – December 19<sup>th</sup>, and Open Gym from October 7<sup>th</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Johnston shared that Deirdre's House 2024 Golf Event will be held on September 23, 2024 at Spring Brook Country Club in Morristown. In addition, Deirdre's House Annual Gala will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> at Spring Brook Country Club in Morristown.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024 at 2:30pm.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At approximately 3:35pm, Margaret Pittaluga moved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Lichtenberg  
Administrative Professional, CBHS