

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YSAC)
This meeting was held at 1 Medical Drive
February 19, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Johnston at 9:15 am:

Members present:

Member	Agency	Present
Amy Archer	Dept. of Human Services	
Maria Augustowicz	Caring Partners CMO	X*
Elise Bryant	Morris County Continuum of Care	X*
Shari Castelli	Morris County Vocational School District	X
Jill Cerullo	Morris County Youth Shelter/JDC	X
Cindy Cuenca	Morris County Probation Services	
Samantha DeNegri	Morris County Prosecutor's Office	
Kasey Errico	Dept. of Human Services	X*
Kensie Fosko	Dept. of Human Services	X
Leena George	DCP&P County Services Specialist	X
Maddie Hahn	Jersey Battered Women's Service	
Patricia Houston	Family Support Organization	
Beth Jacobson	NewBridge Services, Inc.	X
David Johnston (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	X
Kim Johnson	Morris/Sussex/Warren ETS and the Workforce Development Board	X
Barbara Kauffman	Community Representative	X*
Jackie Looby	Cornerstone Family Programs	X
Nicole Maurer	Plaid House	X
Chris Mueller	Morris County Court – Family Division	
Christine Myers	County Commission Liaison	
Robert Peluso	Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills	
Margaret Pittaluga (Co-Chair)	Center For Evaluation and Counseling	
Natalie Prentice	Youth Justice Commission	X
Laura Siemonsma-Bertelli	Morris County Sheriff's Office	X*
Tracey Skop	Morris County Probation Services	
Ana Tent	Morris County Office of the Public Defender	
Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro	Center for Family Services	X*
Jeena Williams	DCP&P Team Leader	X
Diane Womer	Morris Child Placement Review Board	
Hon. Michael Paul Wright	Morris County Judiciary – Juvenile Judge	

Guests Present:

Guest	Agency	Present
Kristina Bloodgood	New Hope - Admissions	X*
Sam Dooley	Morris County Sexual Assault Center	X*
Dana Dresser	Center for Evaluation & Counseling	X*
Anahi Hernandez	Academy Street School - Dover	X*
Adelle Hickman	New Hope – Adolescent Unit	X*
Jenna Paparozzi	CarePlus NJ	X*
Jessica Raczuk	Big Brothers Big Sisters	X*
Katie Swanson	Visions and Pathways	X*
Warren Ververs	St. Clare’s Behavioral Health	X
Carly Wilk	Prevention is Key	X

*Attended virtually

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member David Johnston, seconded by member Jill Cerullo, the Committee approved the minutes of the January 15, 2026, meeting.

PRESENTATION

New Hope – Adolescent Residential Program

Adelle Hickman, Director of the Adolescent Unit at New Hope, presented information about New Hope’s Adolescent Residential Program. New Hope is a substance use facility with outpatient locations in Long Branch and Freehold. They also provide inpatient treatment for adolescents (ages 13-18) and adults at their Marlboro Township location.

At the Adolescent Residential Unit, youth are assigned a counselor for 1:1 sessions and participate in approximately four group sessions per day. Each individual meets with a psychiatrist within 72 hours of admission and receives an individualized treatment plan. The duration of the program is dependent on the individual but typically lasts 60-90 days, and the youth will participate in virtual schooling during that time to keep up to date on homework. Before discharge, New Hope connects clients with a CMO.

Kristina Bloodgood added that the individual does not have to be referred to New Hope by a school, court system, or CMO. Families and youth can call the agency themselves to receive a screening and determine the appropriate level of care. There are no costs associated with treatment for adolescents. The only requirement is that they must be residents of New Jersey.

Discussion ensued regarding harm reduction and full abstinence approaches to substance use treatment. Members also discussed the challenge of youth not consenting to, or refusing, services, and how youth mental health consent laws in New Jersey compare to those in neighboring states.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

No comment.

ACTION ITEMS

Chair Report

Mr. Johnston, Chair, stated that if members have ideas regarding future presentations, they should reach out to Kensie Fosko.

STATE AND COUNTY REPORTS

Youth Justice Commission (YJC)

Ms. Prentice announced that the YJC is conducting a webinar on Thursday, February 26th, titled “Developing Detention Alternatives for Youth with Serious Charges”. Discussion will focus on the implementation of Youth Empowerment Support (YES) teams.

Probation

Ms. Fosko reported on behalf of Tracey Skop:

There are 25 youth – 21 formal probation; 24 deferred disposition.

Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P)

Ms. George reported the following statistics for January 2026:

MORRIS EAST		BREAKDOWN	
Total	102	Spanish-Speaking	17
CWS	13	Unhoused	5
CSPS	89	Domestic Violence	16
		Substance Use	21
		Sexual Abuse	7
		Child on Child	2
		Unaccompanied Minor	0

MORRIS WEST		BREAKDOWN	
Total	91	Spanish-Speaking	7
CWS	16	Unhoused	0
CSPS	75	Domestic Violence	18
		Substance Use	16
		Sexual Abuse	1
		Child on Child	0
		Unaccompanied Minor	0

TOTAL: 193 CWS: 29 CPS: 164

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Ms. Williams shared the process behind reviewing cases with high recidivism rates, as was asked at the January meeting. She stated that case work supervisors review the cases of frequently encountered families to ensure all needs are met, and the internal review team assesses the quality of the information that was provided by the caseworker and team as well. DCF has also begun scheduling meetings with the family alongside clinical consultants of various specialties.

Caring Partners Care Management Organization (CMO)

Ms. Augustowicz shared that in January, there were 47 youth referrals, 42 youth transitioned, and 532 youth overall in Morris County. The overall census in Morris & Sussex was 765.

Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU)

Ms. Vaca-Bullaro reported 9 active families, 0 youth in placement, and 0 court petitions for January.

The next Cybersmart Diversionary Workshop groups will be held on March 4th and 11th. The Teaching Awareness and Sensitivity Diversionary Workshop group for February was canceled due to a lack of referrals, but will be held again in May.

FCIU presented at several school assemblies and is scheduled to present at Parsippany-Troy Hills High School and Frelinghuysen Middle School. They are also in discussion with the Dover school district.

Truancy continues to be a main area of concern in referrals, as well as anxiety and depression.

Mobile Response

Ms. Vaca-Bullaro reported 109 dispatches in January, and 84 were from Morris County. As of February 19th, there were 84 dispatches, and 64 were from Morris County. There are currently 258 active youth cases overall, and 218 are from Morris County.

Mobile Response has 2 bilingual positions open for employment.

Ms. Vaca-Bullaro added that the Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB) groups have been relocated to the Parsippany location.

Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

Ms. Johnson shared that there are 28 youth enrolled out of a possible 30 at the NewBridge program. Students have access to a math tutor twice a week, and there are 16 youth scheduled to test for the High School Equivalency (HSE) in February. Since July 2025, 10 students have obtained HSE credentials, and 9 have become employed or enrolled in advanced education.

In Philipsburg, there are 16 youth enrolled out of a potential 28. Since July 2025, 6 students have obtained credentials, and 7 have become employed or enrolled in advanced education.

The in-school program at CCM has 5 active youth. Ms. Johnson will be meeting with them next month to discuss post-program plans.

There are 9 youth enrolled in regular training programs and 7 active. Since July 2025, 10 total program participants have obtained credentials.

Ms. Johnson attended on-site visits of both the NewBridge and Philipsburg locations in February. In March, she will go to Sussex County Technical School's "Game of Life" and Morris Hills High School career fair. In May, she will attend the County College of Morris (CCM) Career Fair.

Youth Services Coordinator Report

Ms. Fosko announced that she expects to receive the FY2027 YJC Plan and Application documents at the beginning of March. Once materials are available, she will coordinate a Planning Subcommittee meeting to review the documents and discuss data collection.

Leadership Advisory

No report.

Juvenile Detention Center/Youth Shelter/Smartlink

Ms. Cerullo reported 32 males in the detention center – 3 Cumberland; 1 Essex; 1 Gloucester; 5 Hudson; 1 Morris; 2 Warren. She noted that the Morris County Juvenile Detention Center is in contract with Cumberland County, but Gloucester and Essex Counties made requests to have their youth sent to Morris.

In the Youth Shelter, there are 2 DCP&P placements from Morris County – 1 male; 1 female.

There is 1 male on the Smartlink App.

Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives (JDAI)

Ms. Fosko reported that 2025 JDAI Innovation grant site monitoring visits have been completed for both programs.

The 2026 JDAI Full Council meeting schedule is to be determined.

Morris County Court – Family Division

No report.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

NEW BUSINESS/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Ververs introduced himself and the St. Clare's Behavioral Health Services programs. The hospital has counseling services, family services, and a back-to-school evaluation program, which is currently in contract with 35 school districts for a total of 161 schools. Most schools are located in Morris County, but the hospital also has contracts with schools in Sussex, Bergen, Passaic, Essex, and Union Counties. St. Clare's provides youth and family services to 260 youth at their Denville location. Mr. Ververs also announced that St. Clare's has hired a manager to take over all children's services programs, which include the children and adolescents' partial program.

Ms. Wilk shared that Prevention is Key is having an agency breakfast on March 9th at 9:30 am at their new location at 322 Green Pond Road, Hibernia, NJ.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2026, at 9:15 am.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Lichtenberg
Administrative Professional, CBHS