

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YSAC)
This meeting was held at 1 Medical Drive
January 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Fosko at 9:15 am:

Members present:

Member	Agency	Present
Amy Archer	Dept. of Human Services	X
Maria Augustowicz	Caring Partners CMO	
Elise Bryant	Morris County Continuum of Care	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	
Maddie Hahn	Jersey Battered Women's Service	
Patricia Houston	Family Support Organization	
Beth Jacobson	NewBridge Services, Inc.	X
David Johnston	Community Representative	
Kim Johnson	Morris/Sussex/Warren ETS and the Workforce Development Board	X
Barbara Kauffman	Community Representative	X*
Jackie Looby	Cornerstone Family Programs	
Nicole Maurer	Plaid House	
Christopher Mueller	Morris County Court – Family Division	
Christine Myers	County Commission Liaison	
Robert Peluso	Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills	
Margaret Pittaluga	Center For Evaluation and Counseling	X
Natalie Roca	Youth Justice Commission	X
Laura Siemonsma-Bertelli	Morris County Sheriff's Office	
Ana Tent	Morris County Office of the Public Defender	
Sadia Ullah	Morris County Housing Authority	
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	
Shari Castelli	Morris County Vocational School District	

Guests Present:

Guest	Agency	Present
Gloria Correa	Creating Change	X*
Sam Dooley	Morris County Sexual Assault Center	X*
Dana Dresser	Center for Evaluation & Counseling	X*
Rachel Helt	Family Support Organization	X*
Jodi McCarthy	Bloom and Grow Coaching	X
Jessica Raczyk	Big Brothers Big Sisters	X*
Tracey Skop	Morris County Probation Services	X*
Katie Swanson	Visions and Pathways	X*

*Attended virtually

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Beth Jacobsen, seconded by member Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro, the Committee approved the minutes of the November 20, 2025, meeting.

2026 CO-CHAIR NOMINATIONS

Members Dave Johnston and Margaret Pittaluga were put forth as Co-Chair nominations. On motion of member Jill Cerullo, seconded by member Beth Jacobson, the Committee approved both nominations for 2026 YSAC Co-Chair. Ms. Pittaluga conducted the rest of the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Jodi McCarthy, Executive Director of Bloom and Grow Coaching, presented to the YSAC information about the organization’s services. Bloom and Grow Coaching is a non-clinical life coaching and mentoring agency providing services to at-risk youth (8+), young adults, and adults. The agency serves Sussex, Morris, Warren, Somerset, Hunterdon, Bergen, and Passaic Counties. Support is often coordinated with clinical providers, case workers, and probation officers, and appointments are scheduled 24-48 hours after receiving a referral. There are 20 life coaches/mentors on staff, with Spanish-speaking support available. Common goals the agency provides support for include employment navigation, independence building, money management, community engagement, and volunteer involvement. Services include both 1:1 mentoring and support groups and are offered on a sliding scale.

Ms. Pittaluga asked how to access the provided programs. Ms. McCarthy stated that referrals can be made over the phone.

Ms. Roca asked where the agency sources its funding. Ms. McCarthy stated that they receive funding through the Sussex and Morris CMO, as well as through grants.

Ms. Correa asked if transportation is only provided for appointments or if they provide transportation services in general. Ms. McCarthy stated that the agency provides transportation services in general, especially if it assists with supporting the client’s plan.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

No comment.

ACTION ITEMS

Chair Report

No report.

STATE AND COUNTY REPORTS

Youth Justice Commission (YJC)

Ms. Roca shared that the YJC is noticing a significant increase in referrals from detention centers and shelters.

Ms. Errico asked for information about the report released by the Office of the Attorney General on Secure Care facilities. Ms. Roca stated that the new Secure Care facilities in North, Central, and South Jersey will replace the current training schools. The new approach for restorative justice is less restricted, and Juvenile Detention Officers (JDOs) will receive new training. Construction has begun on two of the facilities, and all three will likely be finished by 2027.

Discussion ensued on how the new facilities will differ from the current facilities, as well as the risks and benefits of the new approach.

Probation

Ms. Skop reported 39 youth - 17 formal probation; 22 deferred dispositions.

As of January 1, 2026, there is 1 Juvenile Probation Officer for Morris County.

Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P)

Ms. Williams reported the following statistics for December 2025 on behalf of Ms. George:

Morris East: 17 CWS 67 CPS 84 Total

Breakdown: 12 Spanish Speaking; 3 Unhoused; 22 Domestic Violence; 21 Substance Use; 5 Sexual Abuse; 4 Child on Child; 0 Unaccompanied Minor

Morris West: 20 CWS 82 CPS 102 Total

Breakdown: 7 Spanish Speaking; 0 Unhoused; 13 Domestic Violence; 18 Substance Use; 3 Sexual Abuse; 1 Child on Child; 0 Unaccompanied Minor

37 CWS 149 CPS 190 Total

Ms. Errico asked if it would be possible to view historical trends. Ms. Williams stated that she would look into how far back the data has been counted.

Ms. Pittaluga asked about the causes behind cases that are reopened within 90 days. Ms. Williams stated that DCP&P has a review committee that conducts both large-scale and small-scale reviews. While she is not a member of the committee, she can check for the next meeting if the information is available to her.

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

No report.

Caring Partners Care Management Organization (CMO)

No report.

Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU)

Ms. Vaca-Bullaro reported that in December 2025, the level of service was six families, and there were no children currently in placement. The FCIU had 1 court petition in 2025.

The Cyber Smart groups are scheduled for March 4 and 11, and the Teaching Awareness and Sensitivity groups are scheduled for February 4 and 11. The agency is working on planning school assembly presentations for the year.

Truancy continues to be a primary presenting concern in most referrals, and the second is mental health, specifically anxiety and depression.

Ms. Vaca-Bullaro commented on the success of working with the ARRIVE program and DCP&P to receive referrals.

Mobile Response

Ms. Vaca-Bullaro shared that Mobile Response received 139 dispatches in December 2025, and 103 were from Morris County. She noted that Mobile Response is receiving a higher increase in calls from families who have been impacted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Workforce Development Board (WDB)

Ms. Johnson reported 24 youth enrolled in the NewBridge program out of a possible 30. She added that a math tutor will soon begin work in that location. In Philipsburg, there are 10 youth enrolled out of a possible 32.

There are 5 Morristown seniors enrolled at the County College of Morris (CCM) in the Advanced Manufacturing Program. All of the seniors obtained OSHA certification in October of last year and are now working on additional credentials.

There are 8 individuals (ages 18-24) in training. Ms. Johnson noted that Medical Assistant and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) programs continue to be the most popular.

Ms. Johnson anticipates requiring life skills assessments in the future.

Youth Services Coordinator Report

Ms. Fosko announced that the 2026 County Plan and 2026 Application have been reviewed and approved by the YJC with no revisions noted. Once she receives the award documentation, she will begin the process of sending out subgrant agreements.

Moving forward, meeting invitations for the YSAC will be sent out by Louise Lichtenberg, Administrative Professional for the division.

Ms. Fosko reminded all providers that Q4 reports are due by the end of the day on January 15, 2026.

Leadership Advisory

No report.

Juvenile Detention Center/Youth Shelter/Smartlink

Ms. Cerullo reported 7 males in Juvenile Detention – 2 Cumberland; 2 Hudson; 1 Mercer; 1 Morris; 1 Warren.

In the Youth Shelter, there are 4 males – 1 Morris DCP&P; 1 Morris Probation; 1 Sussex DCP&P; 1 Warren Probation.

There is 1 Morris County youth on the Smartlink App.

Ms. Cerullo noted that the length of stay continues to be an issue, but some individuals are starting to be discharged to different facilities from Juvenile Detention.

Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives (JDAI)

Ms. Fosko shared that the 2026 JDAI Plan and Application were reviewed and approved. She is awaiting award documentation.

The JDAI meeting dates are to be determined.

Morris County Court – Family Division

No report.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Monitoring

Ms. Fosko sent out via email the sign-up information to the Monitoring Subcommittee regarding monitoring for the Family Advocate Program and Probation Incentives Program in February.

NEW BUSINESS/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dana Dresser, Center for Evaluation & Counseling, announced that the agency was awarded funding for its Youth Psychiatric and Counseling Initiative (YPCI). The program provides youth with individualized case plans, a case manager, and medication monitoring. Youth will also have access to psychoeducation services through the agency's other programs as well.

Margaret Pittaluga shared that the Center for Evaluation & Counseling will also be holding an open house in Wayne on Thursday, January 22, 2026.

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of member Jill Cerullo, seconded by member Beth Jacobson, the meeting adjourned at 10:19 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Lichtenberg
Administrative Professional, CBHS