

**MINUTES**  
**MORRIS COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YSAC)**  
**This meeting was held at 1 Medical Drive**  
**March 20, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by David Johnston at 9:16 am.

**Members present:**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Present</b>
Amy Archer	Dept. of Human Services	X
Maria Augustowicz	Caring Partners CMO	X*
Elise Bryant	Morris County Continuum of Care	X*
Nichole Balestrino	Morris County Juvenile Intake Unit	
Jill Cerullo	Morris County Youth Shelter/JDC	
Cindy Cuenca	Morris County Probation Services	X
Samantha DeNegri	Morris County Prosecutor's Office	
Kasey Errico	Dept. of Human Services	
Kensie Fosko	Dept. of Human Services	X
Leena George	DCP&P	X
Maddie Hahn	Jersey Battered Women's Service	
Patricia Houston	Family Support Organization	
Beth Jacobson	NewBridge Services, Inc.	X
David Johnston (Chair)	Deirdre's House	X
Kim Johnson	Morris/Sussex/Warren ETS and the Workforce Development Board	X
Barbara Kauffman	Morris County Prevention is Key	
Jackie Looby	Cornerstone Family Programs	X*
Nicole Maurer	Plaid House	X
Christine Myers	County Commission Liaison	
Robert Peluso	Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills	X*
Margaret Pittaluga (Co-Chair)	Center For Evaluation and Counseling	X*
Natalie Roca	Youth Justice Commission	X
Laura Siemonsma-Bertelli	Morris County Sheriff's Office	X*
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	

**Guests Present:**

<b>Guest</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Present</b>
Carly Sinnott	Prevention is Key	X
Jessic Raczuk	Big Brothers Big Sisters	X
Lawanda Lewis	RPS - CSOC	X
Allison Spranger	Center for Evaluation and Counseling	X
Cherish Robinson	Dept. of Human Services	X
Tisha Mender	Roots and Wings	X*

\*Attended virtually

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of member David Johnston, seconded by member Beth Jacobson the committee approved the minutes of the January 16, 2025 and February 20, 2025 meetings.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Carly Sinnott, Prevention is Key (PIK), presented to the YSAC – Core Measures Survey Data.

Every two years, PIK conducts a Core Measures Survey with the school district in Jefferson Township. The survey began in 2020 and 2025 was the third round. It was distributed to grades 7-12 and provided data on youth’s perception of the harm of different types of substances, as well as peer perception, parental perception, and their activities in school. Since the survey responses are self-reported and answered in school, this may affect reliability. Out of over 1,200 students, they received a little over 500 surveys and approximately 400 were usable. One notable finding included alcohol as the most commonly used and easily accessible substance.

Ms. Sinnott presented a summary of findings but stated that the full report is available for those who may be interested.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

No comment

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Chair Report**

The Planning Subcommittee will be assessing how to gather data from agencies in the next few months.

**STATE AND COUNTY REPORTS**

**Youth Justice Commission (YJC)**

The Juvenile Justice Commission will now be titled the Youth Justice Commission. This change was signed into law on March 17, 2025 by Governor Murphy.

The New Jersey Attorney General made public 76 pages of data on March 19, 2025, regarding the Youth Justice Commission. Natalie Roca reported the following statistics for Morris County:

- Length of stay has more than doubled from 50.1 days to 105.4 days since JDAI implementation
- Average length of stay has increased 51.1% from 2022 to 2023
- There were 17 youths total admitted to detention in 2023
- Failure to Appear (FTA) was 0% for both 2022 and 2023
- GPS violation increased by 5.9% in 2023
- Other violation/Non-delinquency charges increased by 5% in 2023

Elise Bryant asked if the youth are being tested for any type of neuropsychological disorder. Ms. Roca replied that probation does not participate in medical testing or diagnosis. It is common, however, for individuals to already have a diagnosis before coming into the detention facility.

Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty in making evaluations accessible to youth who may have a neurological disorder or may be from a low-income family. Jeena Williams stated that it would have to be a collaborative effort between schools, parents, psychologists, and social workers.

### **Probation**

Cindy Cuenca reported 57 youths on probation – 23 on formal probation, 34 on deferred dispositions.

She stated that they are seeing an increase in individuals with neurodivergence being put on probation.

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

Leena George reported the following for February 2025:

Morris East: 9 CWS 73 CPS 82 Total

Breakdown: 12 Spanish Speaking; 5 Unhoused; 13 Domestic Violence; 18 Substance Use; 7 Sexual Abuse; 0 Child on Child; 0 Unaccompanied Minor

Morris West: 17 CWS 102 CPS 119 Total

Breakdown: 17 Spanish Speaking; 0 Unhoused; 24 Domestic Violence; 30 Substance Use; 3 Sexual Abuse; 0 Child on Child; 0 Unaccompanied Minor

Total: 26 CWS 175 CPS 201 Total

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

Ms. Williams announced the following funding opportunities:

Youth Villages/Intercept - RFP

Applications Due: May 13, 2025

Non-mandatory bidders conference: March 24, 2025

Positive Parenting Program – RFP

Applications Due: April 30, 2025

Non-mandatory bidders conference: March 25, 2025

Brief Strategic Family Therapy – RFP

Applications Due: April 17, 2025

Non-mandatory bidders conference: March 24, 2025

The full proposal requests are available on the DCF website.

Ms. George added that DCF is holding a career fair at Montclair State University on March 31, 2025 from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

### **Care Management Organization (CMO)**

Maria Augustowicz reported that a current challenge is finding resources and providers for youth who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Two training opportunities on the Nurtured Heart Approach will be active in April and May. Ms. Augustowicz is able to circulate flyers for the programs. They are in-person, free, and open to the public.

CMO is conducting a Youth Art Contest for mental health awareness.

Discussion ensued on the need for data related to child-on-child sexual abuse, and Ms. Augustowicz stated that she would see what type of information could be made public from Performed Care. Ms. Vaca-Bullaro updated the committee that Center for Family Services (CFS) did not meet fidelity due to a lack of referrals. Therefore, they will no longer be able to accept adolescent referrals for Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB) for group, but they will finish treatment for the youth currently in their program.

Mr. Johnston asked how fidelity is defined. Ms. Vaca-Bullaro responded that the University of Oklahoma provides the staff for Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB) training, and they require videos to be sent to the University for review. Once they review the videos, they will then indicate whether the staff of the submitting agency have met the fidelity of the model. Ms. Pittaluga added that the New Jersey Children's Alliance (NJCA) will consider fidelity when determining how to allocate funding to agencies.

Discussion circled back to the need for collaboration with the parents and the schools for children to receive treatment for PSB.

### **FCIU and Mobile Response**

There are 118 dispatches so far for mobile response. FCIU has about 17 families currently active, with no petitions, and there are no current placements through FCIU.

Ms. Vaca-Bullaro stated that the e-mail she sent Ms. Fosko contains all of the data from FCIU and mobile response. Ms. Fosko will circulate the e-mail after the meeting.

The DCF budget was released, and a 5% reduction has impacted programs across the state. For Morris County, JBWS had a reduction of \$214,000 in one of their programs. Ms. Vaca-Bullaro is able to send the full list to Ms. Fosko for distribution if anyone would be interested.

### **Workforce Investment Board**

Kim Johnson reported on the following data for youth in their programs.

In their out-of-school program, there are 56 active youth working on their High School Equivalency (HSE) and 86 are awaiting follow-ups.

In the last year, 32 youth obtained HSEs, 67 gained employment, or entered into advanced education, and 1 enrolled in the military.

For their in-school program, there are 7 youth from Morristown High School who attend County College.

In the advanced manufacturing program, 5 individuals have obtained OSHA credentials, and all 7 in the program will obtain a National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) credential. There are 5 currently active in various training programs, 33 in follow-up, and all have obtained either certificates or credentials as a result of their programs. Approximately 17 have become employed in the last six months.

A current challenge is cell phone usage during schooling and programs. Ms. Johnson stated that youth have difficulty avoiding using their phone, even for those that have stated they would like to use their phone less.

### **Youth Services Coordinator Report**

Ms. Fosko sent out a doodle poll on March 19 regarding scheduling for a meeting with the Planning Subcommittee to discuss priorities for the unallocated state and community partnership funding for 2025. At the meeting, she would also like to look into sending out surveys to youth and parents. Gathering this data could help to form priorities for 2026.

The next full council meeting will be on Friday, April 4, 2025 at 1:30 PM.

### **Leadership Advisory**

No report.

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

Ms. Fosko reported on behalf of Jill Cerullo.

There are 4 males at the Youth Shelter. 2 of the males are placed on probation.

In the detention center, there are 5 males – 1 from Warren, 3 from Hudson, and 1 from Cumberland.

There is 1 male in the Smart Link App.

Mr. Johnston asked if all the male individuals in the Youth Shelter were from Morris County. Ms. Fosko responded that 3 are from Morris County and 1 is from Warren County.

### **JDAI**

No report.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

No reports.

## **NEW BUSINESS/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Deirdre's House is holding their next Game of Life on April 4, 2025 at Jefferson High School with 21 providers participating.

David Johnston announced that April 4, 2025 will be his last day with Deirdre's House. His role in the YSAC will transition from a representative of Deirdre's House to a Citizen Representative.

Ms. Augustowicz stated that the Community Networking Association (CNA) is active in 9 other counties in New Jersey. They hold meetings for individuals to connect with one another and share resources. The first meeting will be held virtually on May 5, 2025 and continue to be held once a month going forward. All information can be found on their website.

The Center for Evaluation and Counseling announced that they are having their annual wine tasting fundraiser on May 9, 2025 at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. There will also be a tricky tray with donations currently being sent in. Tickets are now available for sale.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next YSAC meeting will be held on April 17, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Lichtenberg  
Administrative Professional, CBHS