

**ATLANTIC COUNTY
YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
FULL COUNCIL MEETING VIA WEBEX
January 23, 2023**

Attendance

Member

Jerry DelRosso, *Co-Chairperson*
Maria Hadley, *ex-officio*
Danita Pierce, *ex-officio*
Naomi Jones
Kathy Quish
Brian Wilson
Forrest Gilmore
Robert Schober
Claudia Ratzlaff
Rev. Milton Hendricks
Alan DeStefano
Arrod Moore
Richard Jackson
John Thomas
Dan Noto
Geoff Dorsey
Jeff Harvey

Agency

County Administrator
Juvenile Justice Commission
Juvenile Justice Commission
Jewish Family Service
Mental Health Administrator
Atlantic County Substance Abuse Service
Dept. of Family & Community
Family Support Organization
Avanzar
Faith Baptist Church
CMO Executive Director
ONE Program
Detention Superintendent
Family Court Division Manager
Family Court
Business
Ranch Hope

Guests

Steve Schuck
Melissa Jackson (proxy for L. White-Coursey)
Stephanie Barone
Yvonne Flynn
Kathy McFadden
James Reina
Cynthia Torres

Agency

Acenda
Executive County Superintendent of Schools
Juvenile Probation
Family Crisis
Atlantic Prevention Resources

Workforce Development

Staff

Curtis Still
Dena Tartaro
Vacant

Agency

YSC Administrator
Detention Diversion Coordinator
MDT Case Coordinator

Call to Order:

Chairperson Jerry DelRosso called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM. Curtis Still announced that this meeting was being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting was provided in the Press of Atlantic City and Hammonton Gazette. Notice of the Webex meeting was also provided through Atlantic County News Release and posted on the County Aclink webpage. Approved minutes from this meeting will be posted on the YSC County Aclink webpage. Attendance was taken from the Webex participant list. Additional attendees introduced themselves or listed their name in the chat box on Webex.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the November 21, 2022 YSC meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Alan DeStefano and seconded by Forrest Gilmore. Motion passed. There were no corrections or additions noted.

Juvenile Justice Commission Report:

Maria Hadley reported Harborfields population for today:

Total Population for Atlantic County (In House, Out of House Hold & Diversion): **34**

In house Atlantic:

16 males.

14 African American, **0** Caucasian, **2** Hispanic and **0** Other youth in detention.

18 youth diverted in the following programs:

IHD: **0** HEDS: **18** Shelter: **0**

16 African Americans, **2** Caucasian, **0** Hispanic, and **0**.

Youth 14 or younger in detention:

2 youth

Youth on diversion age 14 or younger:

6 youth

Youth with weapons or robbery offenses **24**

12 youth in house

14 on diversion

End of the year JJC stats (2022)

Commitments: **2022 (8)** **2021 (2)**

Waived **2022 (1)** **2021 (0)**

Residential **2022 (7)** **2021 (3)**

3-year overview of combined categories (committed, waived and probationers)

2020 (3) **2021 (5)** **2022 (16)**

Maria Hadley reported:

-There are no new updates in regards to the monitoring tool at this time.

-Regulations up for Public Comments are at the AG's office for review and posting.

-Local YSC By-Laws will require updating based on amendments to JJC Regulations.

-JAMS now has the capacity to review the number of Intakes by each county.

-JAMS is open for county officials to go in and provide updates to the system and contracts as soon as counties receive their funding award letters.

-JJC Grants Management Team will be conducting state-wide trainings. Topics will include completing budget modifications, JAMS reporting, narrative reporting and detention alternative reporting.

CJSI update: The NJ Partnership committee is building a guide to support and educate sites looking to engage with community stakeholders. The guide will be a step-by-step overview of things to consider when planning how to engage with local community stakeholders.

The NJ Community Partnership Committee is developing a step-by-step guide to Community Partnership, implementing, and sustaining community & court relationships. As a pre-step to the guide, a Community Engagement Assessment survey is completed to identify where sites are in the process of community engagement and developing partnerships.

The committee has identified five (5) pilot sites based on either their experience in community engagement, eagerness to start engaging and build partnerships or the barriers and struggles they have identified in starting that process. Atlantic County was chosen as one of five pilot sites. As a pilot site, Atlantic County will have the opportunity to experience the development guide in real time. Your feedback, successes, barriers, and questions will be added to the guide to help other sites – as Atlantic will be a full pilot site throughout implementation and development of the guide.

The first NJ Community Partnership meeting will be held on 1/24/23. JJC staff have requested local stakeholders participate in the Community Engagement Readiness Survey, including YSC Committee members.

YSC Report:

Curtis Still reported:

Atlantic County received its 2023 Comprehensive Plan funding approval letter on 1/10/23. All service providers were notified on 1/11/23.

Atlantic's JDAI 2023 Comprehensive Plan and Innovations Funding were both scheduled to be reviewed on the 2/7/23 Commissioner's List. Once approved, both documents will be forwarded back to JJC for their final approval.

Mr. Still requested that all YSC Mandated members review the current 2023 YSC Membership list for information that applies to their agency or organization for any edits, updates or changes. The updated list must be submitted to the Commissioner's office for review by 1/25/23.

YSC Community Outreach:

Dena Tartaro reported:

Atlantic County's YSC staff continues to focus on ways to increase our engagement of families and community partners, here in Atlantic County.

The Atlantic County 2022 Holiday Adopt a Family Program was a great success! Nine families received over 200 gifts due to the generosity of numerous County employees, All Star One Cheer/ Dance Gym and for the first time this year, Seashore Construction. Appreciation was extended to the individuals and groups of individuals from the following County departments/divisions that gave of themselves during this Holiday season: the Atlantic County Justice Facility; the Atlantic County Environmental Health Unit; Atlantic County Department of Regional Planning & Development, the Atlantic County Management Team, and All Star One and Seashore Construction.

Dena Tartaro also reported:

YSC staff have begun the process of scheduling and attending various community events. At each event attended, YSC staff distribute our Atlantic county SOURCE booklets, Atlantic County's Community

Engagement Resource books and crisis cards. Dena also shared with committee members that we now have YSC t-shirts that are provided and distributed to youth and families in the community at each event.

Dena informed YSC members that the YSC Community Events Calendar is in the process of being updated. We are now in contact with a number of community partners who share their upcoming community events that are posted on our YSC events calendar. YSC staff also provide our upcoming county/YSC events with other community partners, who share our information with other community partners.

Dena requested all YSC Committee members to forward any upcoming community events they would like to share so they can be posted and shared with our community partners.

Old/New Business:

Mr. DelRosso requested comments under "old business".

No comments reported.

Mr. DelRosso requested any comments under "new business".

Mr. Still reported there was a request made for a letter of support by Atlantic Prevention Resources in regards to a grant funding opportunity from the NJ Department of Children and Families for NJ Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S).

Kathy McFadden (APR) reported that the vicinage for Cape May County is collaborating with Atlantic County. The funding will increase APR's ability to provide additional evidence based services to youth and families here in Atlantic County.

Kathy also reported that if the funding were awarded to Atlantic Prevention Resources, their organization would be willing to offer their services to our local agencies and schools.

Forrest Gilmore asked if the "letter of support" was a requirement for the grant application process.

Kathy McFadden reported that a letter of support was not a requirement for the application process.

Claudia Ratzlaff reported, as chair of Atlantic County's JDAI Monitoring Committee, that any organization that participates in Atlantic County's monitoring process should be qualified to receive a letter of support from our YSC Committee.

Curtis Still reported that our YSC committee currently provides funding to the Gun Violence Prevention program operated by Atlantic Prevention Resources. He also reported that APR is an active member of our YSC committee. Because of those reasons, he supports providing APR with the requested letter of support.

Mr. DelRosso requested a motion be made in this matter.

Geoff Dorsey made a motion in favor of providing a letter of support to Atlantic Prevention Resources from Atlantic County's Youth Services Commission in regards to a grant funding opportunity from the NJ Department of Children and Families for NJ Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S).

John Thomas seconded the motion.

YSC committee voted to approve with no committee member voting to oppose the motion. Three members chose to abstain from the vote (Maria Hadley, Danita Pierce and Richard Jackson).

Cynthia Rodriguez reported:

Atlantic County's Workforce Development program is in the process of applying for the Summer Youth Employment grant. Local stakeholders will be notified and recruitment of youth for summer employment will begin once approval is confirmed.

Cynthia also reported that they are currently working with the Egg Harbor Township School District for their "Youth Transition to Work Program".

Forrest Gilmore reported:

In February of 2023, Emergency benefits for the SNAP program will terminate. Additional information can be provided at the following websites:

NJSNAP (For Food Assistance)

NJ211.org

Public Comments:

Mr. DelRosso asked if there were any public comments or announcements.
None reported.

Adjournment:

Mr. DelRosso called for a motion to adjourn.
Forrest Gilmore made a motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded by Curtis Still
Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting

2/27/23 at 2:30pm

**ATLANTIC COUNTY
YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
FULL COUNCIL MEETING VIA WEBEX
February 27, 2023**

Attendance

Member

Jerry DelRosso, *Co-Chairperson*
 Hon. Michelle D. Perry-Thompson
 Maria Hadley, *ex-officio*
 Danita Pierce, *ex-officio*
 Naomi Jones
 Kathy Quish
 Forrest Gilmore (*excused*)
 Robert Schober
 Claudia Ratzlaff
 Rev. Milton Hendricks (*excused*)
 Alan DeStefano
 Arrod Moore (*excused*)
 Richard Jackson (*excused*)
 John Thomas
 Dan Noto
 Geoff Dorsey
 Jeff Harvey
 Yvonne Flynn (*excused*)
 Fran Kuhn
 Scott Sherwood (*excused*)
 Courtney Milana
 Phillip Geunther
 Shalanda Austin

Agency

County Administrator
 Family Division Judge
 Juvenile Justice Commission
 Juvenile Justice Commission
 Jewish Family Service
 Mental Health Administrator
 Dept. of Family & Community
 Family Support Organization
 Avanzar
 Faith Baptist Church
 CMO Executive Director
 ONE Program
 Detention Superintendent
 Family Court Division Manager
 Family Court
 Business Rep.
 Ranch Hope
 Family Crisis
 Workforce Development
 Atlantic County Public Defender

 School Superintendent
 In My Care, Mentoring

Guests

Melissa Jackson (*proxy for L. White-Coursey*)
 Stephanie Barone (*proxy Sharnett Clark*)
 Kathy McFadden
 Cynthia Torres
 Brian Wilson (*proxy for Doug Mercer*) *excused*
 Edmund Mallqui-Burgos (*proxy*)
 Chris Gillespie
 Erica Hoskins
 Dave Roden
 Kristina Bloodgood
 Veronica Ford
 Shirley Robinson
 Wesley Parker (*proxy Richard Jackson*)
 Gina Hernandez
 Leila Crawford
 Tom Sykes

Agency

Executive County Superintendent of Schools
 Juvenile Probation
 Atlantic Prevention Resources
 Workforce Development
 Atlantic County Substance Abuse Service
 Atlantic County Prosecutor Office

 JEVS Human Services
 New Hope
 New Hope
 Prevent Child Abuse (ChildWIN®)
 Family Court
 Juvenile Detention
 PreventChildAbuse (ChildWIN®)
 Mighty Writers
 Mighty Writers

Christine Tripodi

Staff

Curtis Still
Dena Tartaro
Vacant

Agency

YSC Administrator
Detention Diversion Coordinator
MDT Case Coordinator

Call to Order:

Chairperson Jerry DelRosso called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM. Curtis Still announced that this meeting was being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting was provided in the Press of Atlantic City and Hammonton Gazette. Notice of the Webex meeting was also provided through Atlantic County News Release and posted on the County Aclink webpage. Approved minutes from this meeting will be posted on the YSC County Aclink webpage. Attendance was taken from the Webex participant list. Additional attendees introduced themselves or listed their name in the chat box on Webex.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the January 23, 2023 YSC meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made. Motion passed. There were no corrections or additions noted.

COMMUNITY PARTNER PRESENTATIONS

Mighty Writers: (See Attachments)

-Leila Crawford, Director of NJ Operations
-Tom Sykes, Literacy Leader—Atlantic City

Curtis Still asked how would the Mighty Writers program services apply to juvenile justice involved youth.

Leila Crawford replied; the program is interested in developing ways to work with detention/detention status youth. Their program offers virtual workshops, could offer writing contests and work with youth who are not enrolled in school.

Robert Schober requested information for referral process.

Tom Sykes informed committee members that enrollment can be done on-line or call Tom Sykes direct. tsykes@mightywriters.org

New Hope Integrated Behavioral Health Care: (See Attachments for contact info.)

-David Roden, LCSW, LCADC Vice President & C.O.O.
-Kristina Bloodgood MSW, LCADC Senior Director of Admissions and Men's Halfway House Services

PowerPoint presentation provided to committee members.

Dena Tartaro asked if youth pending charges could attend court from their facility.

Kristina Bloodgood informed committee members that youth could attend all court hearings and appointments from their facility. They service youth from various systems of care and work out required services on a case-by-case basis.

Curtis Still asked if New Hope offers emergent detox services for youth.

David Roden informed committee members that New Hope has a 24hr/7 days a week admission process. New Hope has four beds designated for youth. Mobil Response and the Care Management Organization work with New Hope in regards to referring youth.

Jerry DelRosso mentioned that New Hope is working closely with Atlantic County Schools and the Atlantic County Opioid Settlement Committee.

Curtis Still thanked both programs for attending our meeting and looked forward to continue to build a working relationship.

Juvenile Justice Commission Report:

María Hadley reported Harborfields population for today:

Total Population for Atlantic County (In House, Out of House Hold & Diversion): 34

In house Atlantic:

19 males.

19 African American, 0 Caucasian, 0 Hispanic and 0 Other youth in detention.

15 youth diverted in the following programs:

IHD: 0 HEDS: 15 Shelter: 0

14 African Americans, 1 Caucasian, 0 Hispanic, and 0.

Youth 14 or younger in detention:

1 youth

Youth on diversion age 14 or younger:

5 youth

Youth with weapons or robbery offenses 24

16 youth in house

12 on diversion

Pending Adult Charges

2

Danita Pierce reported:

JJC staff are currently providing trainings for the Restorative Justice Initiative to pilot sites. Atlantic County is not one of the sites being trained at this time. Danita stated she would provide updates at future meetings.

YSC Report:

Curtis Still reported:

Atlantic County received its 2023 Comprehensive Plan funding approval letter on 1/10/23. All service providers were notified on 1/11/23.

Atlantic's JDAI 2023 Comprehensive Plan and Innovations Funding were both reviewed and placed on the 2/7/23 Commissioner's List. Both documents were approved and forwarded back to JJC for their final approval on 2/14/23. Atlantic is currently awaiting approval at the state level. Curtis Still reported he would update committee members as they come in.

Mr. Still requested all YSC Mandated members to review the current YSC Membership list for information that applies to their agency or organization for any edits, updates or changes. The updated list was submitted to the Commissioner's office for review on 1/25/23. Curtis Still informed committee members that Judge Perry-Thompson and Yvonne Flynn were both approved for YSC membership. Judge Perry-Thompson has replaced Judge Rodney Cunningham, and will assume the role of YSC Co-Chair. Yvonne Flynn will now replaces Heather Oldis, and will fill the role of FCIU with her membership.

Curtis Still reported that Atlantic County's 2023 Planning Committee met, for the first time, on 2/22/23. Scott Sherwood agreed to act as Chair of our Planning Committee again this year. The first meeting was utilized as an opportunity for committee members to come together to discuss ideas in regards to how Atlantic County's YSC would allocate a total of \$142,000. (\$102,000 under the YSC Points of the Continuum...Detention and Disposition) (\$40,000 under Continuum Points Prevention, Diversion, Detention, Disposition and Reentry).

Our next meeting is scheduled for 3/28/23. This meeting will be utilized to focus more on points of data, gaps in our current system and identified needs.

Ideas discussed at our last meeting:

- Development of an "In Home Detention" based program to act as a "step-down" supervision program from our current HEDS program.
- Gun Violence Awareness program to address the increase in weapons related charges.
- Evening/Weekend Drop in Center.

Curtis Still announced that Dena Tartaro is now Atlantic County's Detention Alternative Co. He stated that he is confident that Dena will continue to work with Atlantic's Detention Alternative programs with the goal of servicing and supporting the youth and families of Atlantic County!!

YSC Community Outreach:

Dena Tartaro reported:

Atlantic County's YSC staff continues to focus on ways to increase our engagement of families and community partners, here in Atlantic County.

On 2/6/23 Atlantic County's YSC staff hosted our annual **Detention Alternative Troubleshooting and Improving Communication (TIC)**.

The meeting was held at Atlantic County's COB Auditorium (in person). The goal of the meeting is to bring all components of Atlantic County's DA system to the table to discuss/identify and gaps in our system. We also discuss ways to improve our current system. Each component of our DA system was provided an opportunity to introduce new staff, and provide an overview of their program. Meeting was attended by the following:

Judge Perry-Thompson, YSC staff, Court Staff, JJC staff, FCIU, HEDS Case Managers, and HEDS Staff.

Sgt. Tornblon provided a demonstration in regards to how the HEDS equipment operates.

Dena stressed the importance of continued high level of communication between everyone. Contact information was shared.

(County SOURCE booklets/Community Engagement Committee Resource Booklets and Crisis cards distributed to be utilized for DA youth and families).

Jerry DelRosso asked Judge Perry-Thompson if she would like to share any comments.

Judge Perry-Thompson reported that overall she thinks our local stakeholders are doing a great job of filling the gaps in our system. Judge Perry-Thompson shared that gun violence is a major concern. Judge also indicated that she has noticed an increase in the number of carjacking cases coming before her.

Old/New Business:

Mr. DelRosso requested comments under "old business".

**Workforce Development Program Update
-Fran Kuhn/Cynthia Torres**

Fran Kuhn and Cynthia reported that juvenile justice involved youth are often over looked. There needs to be more of a focus to develop and provide employment opportunities for those youth here in Atlantic County.

Fran/Cynthia reported that there would be 200 youth employment opportunities for youth to work an eight-week program, with the opportunity to make up to \$3,000 for the summer.
100 for youth working with the LIT program.
100 for the rest of Atlantic County.

Fran reported there are over 1,000 positions open that the casinos are looking to fill. (500 Dealers)

Cynthia reported that Constance Lane has attended Job Fairs in Mays Landing and Atlantic City for court involved youth and adults. Connie continues to engage the community and provide a listing of available job listings to local stakeholders.

Mr. DelRosso requested any comments under "new business".

Alan DeStefano reported that the Care Management Organization currently services over 1,250 families (900 Atlantic County). The CMO is receiving referrals for 8-10 youth on a daily basis. Alan reported that they are in the process of hiring new staff to keep up with the influx of cases being referred.

Gina Hernandez reported she is attending today's meeting as a guest. Gina provide committee members with a brief overview of her agency, Prevent Child Abuse (ChildWIN®). Prevent Child Abuse ChildWIN is a statewide organization that concentrates on supporting family and children. Agency offers trainings and workshops in regards to Human Trafficking and Trauma.

Gina reported that April is National Child Prevention Month. They will be looking to partner with local providers to participate in their annual Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. Atlantic County YSC staff are working with Gina and Veronica to attempt to coordinate a local event.

Veronica Ford reported that she was attending as a guest. Veronica reported that she also works for PreventChildAbuse/(ChildWIN®). They are in the process of starting a "Young Parent Coalition" in 21 counties in the state of New Jersey. (Norther/Southern/Central)

Their goal is to engage partners who interact with youth and young parents. Their agency provides the following trainings:

Parenting Education

24/7 Dad (for young fathers)

Their kick-off date for this initiative is 9/20/23.

Public Comments:

Mr. DelRosso asked if there were any public comments or announcements.

None reported.

Adjournment:

Mr. DelRosso called for a motion to adjourn.

-motion made to adjourn.

Motion seconded

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting

3/20/23 at 2:30pm

**ATLANTIC COUNTY
YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
FULL COUNCIL MEETING VIA WEBEX
March 20, 2023**

Attendance

Member

Jerry DelRosso, *Co-Chairperson*
 Maria Hadley, *ex-officio*
 Danita Pierce
 Naomi Jones
 Kathy Quish
 Brian Wilson
 Forrest Gilmore
 Robert Schober
 Claudia Ratzlaff
 Rev. Milton Hendricks
 Alan DeStefano
 Arrod Moore
 Richard Jackson
 John Thomas
 Dan Noto
 Geoff Dorsey
 Jeff Harvey
 Robert Zlotnik
 Yvonne Flynn
 Phillip Gunther
 Doug Mercer
 Shalanda Austin

Agency

County Administrator
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 CMO Executive Director
 ONE Program
 Detention Superintendent
 Family Court Division Manager
 Family Court
 Community/Business
 Ranch Hope
 Atlantic Prevention Resources
 Family Crisis
 School Superintendent
 Substance Abuse Program Coordinator
 In My Care, Inc.

Guests

Ren Parikh
 Deidre Lonza
 Erica Hoskins
 Steve Schuck
 Melissa Jackson (proxy for L. White-Coursey)
 Stephanie Barone (proxy for Sharnett)
 Kathy McFadden
 James Reina
 Cynthia Torres
 Karl Weiskopf
 Keisha Griffin

Agency

IDEAL Institute
 New Hope
 JEVS Human Services
 Acenda
 Executive County Superintendent of Schools
 Juvenile Probation
 Atlantic Prevention Resources

 Workforce Development

 KEAN University

Staff

Curtis Still
Dena Tartaro
Vacant

Agency

YSC Administrator
Detention Diversion Coordinator
MDT Case Coordinator

Call to Order:

Chairperson Jerry DelRosso called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM. Curtis Still announced that this meeting was being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the March 20, 2023 YSC meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Claudia Ratzlaff and seconded by John Thomas. Motion passed. There were no corrections or additions noted.

Community Partners Presentations

Ren Parikh provided a program overview of IDEAL Institute of Technology. (See attached info.)

Juvenile Justice Commission Report:

Maria Hadley reported Harborfields population for today:

Total Population for Atlantic County (In House, Out of House Hold & Diversion): **27**

In house Atlantic:

15 males.

14 African American, **0** Caucasian, **1** Hispanic and **0** Other youth in detention.

12 youth diverted in the following programs:

IHD: **0** HEDS: **12** Shelter: **0**

10 African Americans, **2** Caucasian, **0** Hispanic, and **0**.

Youth 14 or younger in detention:

0 youth

Youth on diversion age 14 or younger:

3 youth

Youth with weapons or robbery offenses **25**

15 youth in house

10 on diversion

Maria Hadley reported:

-There are no new updates in regards to the monitoring tool at this time.

-Regulations up for Public Comments are at the AG's office for review and posting.

-Local YSC By-Laws will require updating based on amendments to JJC Regulations.

-JJC Grants Management Team will be conducting state-wide trainings. Topics will include completing budget modifications, JAMS reporting, narrative reporting and detention alternative reporting.

CJJSI update:

No new updates at this time.

YSC Report:

Curtis Still reported:

Atlantic County received its 2023 Comprehensive Plan funding approval letter on 1/10/23. All funded service providers were notified on, 1/11/23.

Atlantic's JDAI 2023 Comprehensive Plan and Innovations Funding were both approved at the state level and returned to Atlantic County. Atlantic County's 2023 Comprehensive Plan and Innovations Funding are currently being reviewed at the county level. Final step will be to have both funding sources placed on Atlantic County books. Mr. Still reports that he will update all local stakeholders once the funds are placed on Atlantic County's books.

Mr. Still reported that Atlantic County's 2023 Planning Committee met on 2/22/23.

-The first meeting was held to bring stakeholders to the table to begin discussion in regards to how we would allocate our 2023 unallocated funds:

\$102,000 (Detention, Disposition)

\$40,000 (Prevention, Diversion, Detention, Disposition, Reentry)

Discussion was held with stakeholders to get their perspective in regards to what they identify as gaps in our current system. The following needs were identified as areas of concern:

1. The need for a step-down program to act as an option for the court to place youth who were supervised by our HEDS Program.
2. Program to address the increased number of youth being charged with possession of a weapon, robbery and assaultive charges.

The next 2023 Planning Committee will meet again on 3/28/23.

-Mr. Still reported that Atlantic County's Monitoring Committee would begin the monitoring process of our YSC funded programs. Claudia Ratzlaff agreed to act as chair of our committee for 2023. YSC staff will be reaching out to YSC members to act as volunteers to participate in the monitoring process.

YSC Community Outreach:

Dena Tartaro reported:

Atlantic County's YSC staff attended a Health and Fitness Fair in Egg Harbor Township, NJ on 3/18/23.

YSC staff had an opportunity to meet with families and other service providers at the event. Atlantic County's Community Engagement committee members and CIACC also attended the event. YSC staff distributed Atlantic County's SOURCE booklets and t-shirts. Community Engagement Committee members distributed CEC Resource Booklets, t-shirts, and crisis cards.

YSC staff also attended the AtlanticCare Healthy Schools Steering Committee meeting via Zoom.

Old/New Business:

Atlantic County's YSC staff continues to focus on ways to increase our engagement of families and community partners here in Atlantic County.

Mr. DelRosso requested comments under "old business/new business".

Cynthia Torres provided a report in regards to Atlantic County Workforce Development's Youth Works Summer Youth Employment Program and the Summer Internship Program.

If anyone is interested in participating in the Summer Internship Program, please contact Cynthia Torres.

Mr. DelRosso requested any comments under "new business".

None reported

Public Comments:

Mr. DelRosso asked if there were any public comments or announcements.

None reported.

Adjournment:

Mr. DelRosso called for a motion to adjourn.

Geoff Dorsey made a motion to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Alan DeStefano

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting

4/17/23 at 2:30pm

**ATLANTIC COUNTY
YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
FULL COUNCIL MEETING VIA WEBEX
April 17, 2023**

Attendance

Member

Jerry DelRosso, *Co-Chairperson*
 Honorable Michelle Perry-Thompson (Co-Chairperson)
 Maria Hadley, *ex-officio*
 Danita Pierce, *ex-officio*
 Naomi Jones
 Kathy Quish
 Brian Wilson
 Forrest Gilmore
 Robert Schober (Excused)
 Claudia Ratzlaff
 Rev. Milton Hendricks (Excused)
 Alan DeStefano (Excused)
 Richard Jackson (Excused)
 John Thomas
 Jeff Harvey
 Dan Noto
 Doug Mercer
 Edmund Mallqui-Burgos
 Fran Kuhn
 Shalanda Austin (Excused)

Agency

County Administrator
 Family Court Judge
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 Avanzar
 Faith Baptist Church
 CMO Executive Director
 Detention Superintendent
 Family Court Division Manager
 Ranch Hope
 Family Court
 Substance Abuse Program Co.
 Prosecutor
 Workforce Development
 In My Care Mentoring

Guests

Steve Schuck
 Stephanie Barone
 Yvonne Flynn
 Kathy McFadden
 Cynthia Torres
 Veronica Ramos-Cruz (
 Shirley Robinson
 Mike Dindak
 Linda Bizzelle
 Erica Hoskins
 Anthony Previti
 Shannon Casula
 Barb Whatley
 Sandy Mead
 Deidre Lonza
 Ellie Eisbrenner
 Ren Parikh

Agency

Acenda
 Juvenile Probation
 Family Crisis
 Atlantic Prevention Resources
 Workforce Development
 Center for Family Services
 Family Court
 Shelter of Hope
 Shelter of Hope

 Public Defender

 Metrix Learning

 IDEAL Institute of Technology

Staff

Curtis Still
Dena Tartaro
Vacant

Agency

YSC Administrator
Detention Diversion Coordinator
MDT Case Coordinator

Call to Order:

Chairperson Jerry DelRosso called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

Curtis Still announced that this meeting was being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting was provided in the Press of Atlantic City and Hammonton Gazette. Notice of the Webex meeting was also provided through Atlantic County News Release and posted on the County Aclink webpage. Approved minutes from this meeting will be posted on the YSC County Aclink webpage. Attendance was taken from the Webex participant list. Additional attendees introduced themselves or listed their name in the chat box on Webex.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the March 3, 2023, YSC meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Naomi Jones and seconded by Dan Noto. Motion passed. There were no corrections or additions noted.

Community Partner Presentation

Sandy Mead provided a presentation in regards to the Metrix Learning Program. (Information provided to committee)

Mike Dindak and Linda Bizzelle provided a presentation in regards to the Shelter of Hope. (Power Point presentation and program contact information provided to YSC committee).

Kathy Quish provided a brief update in regards to status of Center for Families Contract with Atlantic County. CFS staff will be provided an opportunity to present to the YSC committee members later.

Juvenile Justice Commission Report:

Maria Hadley reported Harborfields population for today:

Total Population for Atlantic County (In House, Out of House Hold & Diversion): **28**

In house Atlantic:

20 males.

18 African American, **0** Caucasian, **2** Hispanic and **0** Other youth in detention.

8 youth diverted in the following programs:

IHD: **0** HEDS: **8** Shelter: **0**

7 African Americans, **1** Caucasian, **0** Hispanic, and **0**.

Youth 14 or younger in detention:

2 youth

Youth on diversion age 14 or younger:

1 youth

Youth with weapons or robbery offenses **24**
20 youth in house
8 on diversion

Danita Pierce reported:

JJC Grants Management unit will be offering YSC refresher courses for YSC Administrators and staff. Courses will cover topics that range from JAMS reporting, Budget Modification process, General Reporting out at meetings.

YSC Report:

Curtis Still reported:

Atlantic County's 2023 Comprehensive Plan funding was approved at the county level and is in the process of being placed on Atlantic County books. Mr. Still will continue to work with Atlantic County's Fiscal department and JJC Grants Management Team to monitor funds. Updates will be provided at scheduled YSC meetings.

Atlantic County 2023 Innovations funds were approved at the county level and is in the process of being placed on Atlantic County books. Mr. Still will continue to work with Atlantic County's Fiscal department and JJC Grants Management Team to monitor funds. Updates will be provided at scheduled YSC meetings.

YSC 2023 Planning Committee began meeting 2/27/23. A second meeting was held on 3/28/23. Scott Sherwood is acting as committee chair again this year. Scott will provide updates at future meeting in regards to decisions and recommendations developed by the committee.

YSC 2023 Monitoring Committee is in the process of scheduling program-monitoring dates. Claudia Ratzlaff has agreed to act as chair of the Monitoring Committee again this year. We are looking for volunteers to participate in our monitoring process for 2023. This will provide YSC members an opportunity to learn about the programs our YSC committee currently fund and will allow volunteers to see the impact the funded programs have upon the youth and families we serve.

YSC Community Outreach:

Dena Tartaro reported:

Atlantic County's YSC staff continues to focus on ways to increase our engagement of families and community partners, here in Atlantic County.

Atlantic County YSC will be co-hosting our first Pinwheels for Prevention program on 4/26/23, along with Bob Schober (Family Support Organization) and Dr. Veronica Ford (Prevent Abuse NJ). The goal of the event is to bring awareness to the issue of Child Abuse. Atlantic County will commemorate the day (4/26/23) as National Child Abuse Prevention Month here in Atlantic County.

Dena also reported that she would begin training with the Connection Matters organization. The goal is for Dena to become trained as a trainer. Dena will then provide the services to youth and families within the Atlantic County community.

Old/New Business:

Mr. DelRosso requested comments under "old business".

Kathy McFadden (APR) reported:

Kathy wanted to thank our YSC committee for providing Atlantic Prevention Resources with a letter of support in regards to a grant funding opportunity from the NJ Department of Children and Families for NJ Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S).

Kathy reported that APR did not receive the funding.

Mr. DelRosso requested any comments under "new business".

Cynthia Rodriguez reported:

Atlantic County's Workforce Development Summer Youth Program will be looking to fill 200 slots for summer employment (100 with the LIT Program and 100 for the rest of Atlantic County). The program will serve youth between the ages of 16-24, for an 8-week program paying individuals \$15/hr. Program will begin placing youth at work sites in May 2023.

Public Comments:

Mr. DelRosso asked if there were any public comments or announcements.
None reported.

Adjournment:

Mr. DelRosso called for a motion to adjourn.
Motion made and seconded.
Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting

5/22/23 at 2:30pm

**ATLANTIC COUNTY
YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
FULL COUNCIL MEETING VIA WEBEX
June 26, 2023**

Attendance

Member

Jerry DelRosso, *Co-Chairperson* (Excused)
Honorable Michelle Perry-Thompson (Co-Chairperson)
Maria Hadley, ex-oficio
Danita Pierce, ex-oficio
Naomi Jones
Kathy Quish
Forrest Gilmore (Excused)
Robert Schober (Excused)
Claudia Ratzlaff
Rev. Milton Hendricks (Excused)
Alan DeStefano
Richard Jackson (Excused)
John Thomas (Excused)
Jeff Harvey (Excused)
Dan Noto
Doug Mercer (Excused)
Edmund Mallqui-Burgos
Fran Kuhn
Shalanda Austin
Daniel Harvey
Phillip Gunther
Scott Sherwood

Agency

County Administrator
Family Court Judge
Juvenile Justice Commission
Juvenile Justice Commission
Jewish Family Service
Mental Health Administrator
Dept. of Family & Community
Family Support Organization
Avanzar
Faith Baptist Church
CMO Executive Director
Detention Superintendent
Family Court Division Manager
Ranch Hope
Family Court
Substance Abuse Program Co.
Prosecutor
Workforce Development
In My Care Mentoring
Juvenile Probation
School Superintendent (ACIT)
Atlantic county Public Defender Office

Guests

Steve Schuck
Kathy McFadden (Excused)
Cynthia Torres
Veronica Ramos-Cruz (Excused)
Shannon Casula
Veronica Ford
Robert Zlotnick

Agency

Acenda
Atlantic Prevention Resources
Workforce Development
Center for Family Services

Prevent Abuse NJ
Atlantic Prevention Resources

Staff

Curtis Still
Dena Tartaro
Vacant
Tori Dorn

Agency

YSC Administrator
Detention Diversion Coordinator
MDT Case Coordinator
YSC Intern

Call to Order:

Chairperson Judge Perry-Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

Curtis Still announced that this meeting was being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting was provided in the Press of Atlantic City and Hammonton Gazette. Notice of the Webex meeting was also provided through Atlantic County News Release and posted on the County Aclink webpage. Approved minutes from this meeting will be posted on the YSC County Aclink webpage. Attendance was taken from the Webex participant list. Additional attendees introduced themselves or listed their name in the chat box on Webex.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the April 17, 2023, YSC meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Claudia Ratzlaff and seconded by Alan DeStefano. Motion passed. There were no corrections or additions noted.

Juvenile Justice Commission Report

María Hadley reported Harborfields population for today:
Total Population for Atlantic County (In House & Diversion): **26**
Total Population for Atlantic County (Placed Out of County) **6**
Total Atlantic County Youth (In-House/Out of County) 32

In house Atlantic:

20 males.
19 African American, **0** Caucasian, **1** Hispanic and **0** Other youth in detention.

Detention Alternative Youth:

6 Males
IHD: **0** HEDS: **6** Shelter: **0**
3 African Americans, **2** Caucasian, **1** Hispanic, and **0**.

Out of County:

6 youth
Essex County: **4** (Male) **1** (Female) **5** (African American)
Ocean County: **1** (Male) **1** (African American)

Youth Detained 60 Days or More

18 (Male)

Youth Detained 90 Days or More

16 (Male)

Youth 14 or younger in detention:

6 youth

Youth on diversion age 14 or younger:

0 youth

Youth with weapons or robbery offenses

27 total
21 youth in detention
6 on diversion

Maria Hadley also reported:

- Jennifer LeBaron has been confirmed by the State to be the Executive Director of JJC.
- Lisa Macaluso has rejoined JJC as the Deputy Executive Director of Policy Research and Planning.
- JJC has awarded the construction management contract for construction of the new sites replacing the NJ Training School for Boys. The construction contract was awarded to Skanski USA Building Management. The next phase will be to develop a prototype, which will include input from residents and staff in the finalized architectural plans.
- JJC still has no release date for the 2024 JDAI Comprehensive Plan and Application. JJC will provide updates when they become available.
- JJC has resumed their "Women of Celebration" conference. Conference will be held on July 25/2023 in Camden County for the Southern Region.

Danita Pierce reported:

- The JJC Regulations (1390) was passed. JJC continues to work on finalizing the narrative in an effort to create a user-friendly document.
- JJC continues to work on Regulation (1392) in regards to 60-day commitment compliance. Final draft is expected to be released sometime early next year.
- JJC contracted with the Parent Advocacy Network to develop the Family Advocate Network, Family Center Resource Center, Family Youth Advocacy Board, Family Youth Advisory Board and Parent Orientation for all residential programs.
- JJC provides a "Drivers Behind the Wheel Training" program for youth in custody and placed in residential settings.

YSC Report:

Curtis Still reported:

- Atlantic County has not received information for our 2024 JDAI Comprehensive Plan/Application at this time. JJC Grants Management Team reports they will forward all information once approved to be distributed.
- Atlantic County submitted its application for CY 2024 Innovations funding on 6/6/23. All required documents were provided. Atlantic County was approved to receive funding at the exceptional funding level. Mr. Still reported that part of the required documents that need to be submitted to JJC, as part of our application process, would include an YSC Roll Call Vote. The vote needs to be held to approve allocation of \$120,000 (\$114,000 to go to Jewish Family Services for providing Case Management services to youth placed on our HEDS Detention Alternative Program...with an additional \$6,000 to be provided to Atlantic County Government for G&A services).

A motion was made by Fran Kuhn to approve allocation of \$120,000 (\$114,000 to go to Jewish Family Services for providing Case Management services to youth placed on the HEDS Detention Alternative Program...with an additional \$6,000 to be provided to Atlantic County Government for G&A services)

Shalanda Austin seconded the motion.

However, once the final vote was totaled, there were not enough mandated members in attendance to make the vote official.

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson requested the "Roll Call" vote be conducted via email. Mr. Still was instructed to forward an email out to YSC committee members requesting all mandated YSC members vote on the above-mentioned motion to allocate our CY2024 JDAI Innovations Funds. The deadline to vote was set for 6/27/23 at 2:00pm.

Mr. Still forwarded an email to YSC members to conduct "Roll Call" vote on 6/26/23.

Voting for the "Roll Call" vote ended at 2:50pm on 6/27/23.

-A motion was made by Jeff Harvey to approve allocation of \$120,000 (\$114,000 to go to Jewish Family Services for providing Case Management services to youth placed on the HEDS Detention Alternative Program...with an additional \$6,000 to be provided to Atlantic County Government for G&A services)

-Motion was seconded by Dawn Lomangino-DiMauro

-YSC Mandated members voted via email. Final results of vote are as follows:

16 yes

7 Abstain

0 No

Planning Committee Update

-Chairperson, Scott Sherwood provided an update for Atlantic County's JDAI Planning Committee. Mr. Sherwood reported:

-The Planning committee began meeting on 2/22/23. The committee last met on 6/23/23. The purpose of the meetings are to bring local stakeholders to the table to discuss ways Atlantic County would allocate unspent JDAI funds toward youth programming. The decision to allocate funds is based on conversations held with the Judge and local stakeholders, the identified gaps in our current system and the points of data provided.

The Planning committee is in the process of finalizing two proposals and will provide an update at the next YSC meeting.

Monitoring Committee Update

-Chairperson, Claudia Ratzlaff provided an update in regards to Atlantic County's YSC Monitoring Committee. The Monitoring committee members continue the work of monitoring our YSC funded programs. Monitorings of the APR Gun Violence Prevention program, YAP program (Community Engagement Committee), EOBSS program, HEDS Case Management program and the ASOP Sex Offender program have been completed. YSC Staff are in the process of completing all required documentation. Once all monitorings are complete, the Monitoring committee chairperson will provide a full report.

YSC Internship Update

-Atlantic County YSC staff is working with Atlantic County's Workforce Development Board to sponsor a paid internship in 2023. Tori Dorn was assigned to an eight-week internship with YSC staff. Tori was assigned the responsibility of re-establishing Atlantic County's Detention Database. Database tracks all

youth detained in Atlantic County. Tori has also attended court and various meetings both on the local and statewide level.

YSC Community Outreach:

Dena Tartaro reported:

-Atlantic County's YSC staff continues to focus on ways to increase our engagement of families and community partners, here in Atlantic County.

-On 7/17/23, Community Engagement and Probation will hold a Community Resource Fair at the Courthouse. YSC staff will attend and assist.

-YSC staff have purchased various outreach materials to distribute at upcoming community events.

-YSC staff have started gathering various forms of information that can prove to be helpful to youth and families while attending court. Dena continues to meet with youth and families at court to provide resources and information.

Old/New Business:

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson requested comments under "old business".

None reported

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson requested any comments under "new business".

Cynthia Torres reported:

-Atlantic County's Workforce Development Program has a new contract in place for the July 2023 session. IDEA Institute of Technology was provided the contract to service approximately 130 youth.

-The Summer Youth Program was contracted to service 200 youth. This year there are approximately 240 youth who applied.

-The Taniff Summer Youth program's goal was to service 20 youth. They are currently servicing 12 active youth.

-Overall, 48 employers participated in 2023. Cynthia informed committee members that Atlantic County YSC sponsored two internships this year. Cynthia will be reaching out to YSC members for sponsorship in the next cycle.

Rob Zlotnick reported:

-APR will be starting a new program. The "Strengthening Families Program" is an evidence-based, interactive skills-building curriculum for youth and their caregivers/parents. The program is located at the EHT Community Center. Parents of youth between the ages of 9-14yrs. are qualified. The two-hour program provides meals, transportation (as needed). **(See attached Flyer)**

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson reported:

-IDEAL Institute of Technology recently held a graduation ceremony. Five youth who came through our juvenile justice system took part in the graduation ceremony. Judge Perry-Thompson expressed how we should all make an effort to attend the next ceremony.

Maria Hadley reported:

-The YSC Monitoring committee recently completed a program monitoring of the HEDS Case Management program. Part of the monitoring process calls for committee members to interview youth and families. During one of the family interviews a juvenile's mother reported positive feedback. Maria requested Dena Tartaro to provide a brief update.

Dena Tartaro reported:

-During the family interview portion of our HEDS Case Management program monitoring a juvenile's mother reported how thankful she was for participating in the "Family Engagement" Jewish Family Services program. The mother felt the program was supportive in that it allowed her to have the opportunity to talk with other parents whose children are in the HEDS Detention Alternative program. The mother reported how the HEDS Case Manager assisted in navigating the court system and assisted her in finding housing.

-During monitorings family members personally mentioned (Derell Branch and John Michael Redding.

Public Comments:

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson asked if there were any public comments or announcements. None reported.

Adjournment:

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson called for a motion to adjourn.
Motion made and seconded.
Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting

7/17/23 at 2:30pm

**ATLANTIC COUNTY
YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
FULL COUNCIL MEETING VIA WEBEX
July 17, 2023**

Attendance

Member

Jerry DelRosso, *Co-Chairperson*
Honorable Michelle Perry-Thompson (Co-Chairperson)
Maria Hadley, ex-officio
Daniya Pierce, ex-officio
Naomi Jones
Kathy Quish
Forrest Gilmore
Robert Schober
Claudia Ratzlaff
Rev. Milton Hendricks
Alan DeStefano (Excused)
Richard Jackson
John Thomas
Jeff Harvey
Dan Noto (Absent)
Doug Mercer (Absent)
Edmund Malliqui-Burgos
Fran Kuhn
Shalanda Austin (Excused)
Daniel Harvey
Phillip Gunther
Scott Sherwood
Courtney Milana

Agency

County Administrator
Family Court Judge
Juvenile Justice Commission
Juvenile Justice Commission
Jewish Family Service
Mental Health Administrator
Dept. of Family & Community
Family Support Organization
Avanzar
Faith Baptist Church
CMO Executive Director
Detention Superintendent
Family Court Division Manager
Ranch Hope
Family Court
Substance Abuse Program Co.
Prosecutor
Workforce Development
In My Care Mentoring
Juvenile Probation
School Superintendent (ACIT)
Atlantic county Public Defender Office
Atlantic County Prosecutors Office

Guests

Steve Schuck
Kathy McFadden
Cynthia Torres
Ozzie Smith-Bey

Agency

Acenda
Atlantic Prevention Resources
Workforce Development
Detention Assistant Superintendent

Staff

Curtis Still
Dena Tartaro
Vacant
Tori Dorn
Yasani Leftwich

Agency

YSC Administrator
Detention Diversion Coordinator
MDT Case Coordinator
YSC Intern
YSC Intern

Call to Order:

Chairperson Judge Perry-Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

Curtis Still announced that this meeting was being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting was provided in the Press of Atlantic City and Hammonton Gazette. Notice of the Webex meeting was also provided through Atlantic County News Release and posted on the County Aclink webpage. Approved minutes from this meeting will be posted on the YSC County Aclink webpage. Attendance was taken from the Webex participant list. Additional attendees introduced themselves or listed their name in the chat box on Webex.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the June 26, 2023 meeting were not presented at our 7/17/23 meeting. Curtis Still reported the minutes would be prepared and presented to the full committee for review and acceptance prior to our next meeting. Vote tabled until committee review is complete.

Juvenile Justice Commission Report

Maria Hadley reported Harborfields population for today:
Total Population for Atlantic County (In House & Diversion): **32**
Total Population for Atlantic County (Placed Out of County) **6**
Total Atlantic County Youth (In-House/Out of County) **38**

In house Atlantic:

20 males.

19 African American, **0** Caucasian, **1** Hispanic and **0** Other youth in detention.

Detention Alternative Youth:

6 Males

IHD: **0** HEDS: **6** Shelter: **0**

5 African Americans, **1** Caucasian, **0** Hispanic, and **0**.

Out of County:

12 youth

Essex County: 9 (Male) 1 (Female) 10 (African American)

Ocean County: 1 (Male) 0 (Female) 1 (African American)

Bergen County: 1(Male) 0 (Female) 1 (African American)

Youth Detained 60 Days or More

19 (Male) **0** (Female)

Youth Detained 90 Days or More

18 (Male) **0** (Female)

Youth 14 or younger in detention:

6 youth

Youth on diversion age 14 or younger:

2 youth

Youth with weapons or robbery offenses

20 total

18 youth in detention

2 on diversion

Danita Pierce reported:

-Atlantic County's 2024 Comprehensive Plan/Application has no scheduled release date at this time. Data will be provided to each site. Because of the late release, JJC will adjust the document submission deadline.

-Danita and Maria requested that they also be included in any information being sent to the JJC Grants Management Team. This will allow them to follow up on any request being made.

Maria Hadley also reported:

-Our overall detention numbers are trending upward. We currently have thirty-two youth at four different detention centers in the state of New Jersey. This is a statewide issue.

-Local stakeholders have developed a plan to address this matter, while also taking steps to assist AYC remain compliant with JJC Regulations.

-The plan includes:

-Atlantic County contracting with out of county vendors to maintain our detention youth in Essex, Bergen and Ocean counties.

-A process to inform juvenile court staff when (AYC) Harborfields Detention Center is at capacity.

-An outline of what out of county detention centers are available to admit Atlantic youth

-Direction in regards to how Atlantic County youth will be transported to and from out of county detention placements for in-person court, evals., placement on a Detention Alternative program.

-Judge Perry-Thompson reported:

She sees a light at the end of the tunnel and felt the emergency Detention Capacity meeting, held on 7/5/23, was very helpful. Stakeholders had an opportunity to discuss the capacity issue.

Curtis Still reported:

The level of communication between all of the working parts of our entire juvenile justice system has remained at a high level, and thanked everyone for their efforts and patience. We all realize the plan is not perfect; however, it has provided stability to our system at this time.

YSC Report:

Curtis Still reported:

-Atlantic County has not received information for our 2024 JDAI Comprehensive Plan/Application at this time. JJC Grants Management Team reports they will forward all information once approved to be distributed.

-Atlantic County submitted its application for CY 2024 Innovations funding on 6/6/23. All required documents were provided. Atlantic County was approved to receive funding at the exceptional funding level. Mr. Still reported that part of the required documents that need to be submitted to JJC, as part of our application process, would include an YSC Roll Call Vote. The vote needs to be held to approve allocation of \$120,000 (\$114,000 to go to Jewish Family Services for providing Case Management services to youth placed on our HEDS Detention Alternative Program...with an additional \$6,000 to be provided to Atlantic County Government for G&A services).

A motion was made by Fran Kuhn to approve allocation of \$120,000 (\$114,000 to go to Jewish Family Services for providing Case Management services to youth placed on the HEDS Detention Alternative Program...with an additional \$6,000 to be provided to Atlantic County Government for G&A services)

Shalanda Austin seconded the motion.

However, once the final vote was totaled, there were not enough mandated members in attendance to make the vote official.

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson requested the "Roll Call" vote be conducted via email. Mr. Still was instructed to forward an email out to YSC committee members requesting all mandated YSC members vote on the above-mentioned motion to allocate our CY2024 JDAI Innovations Funds. The deadline to vote was set for 6/27/23 at 2:00pm.

Mr. Still forwarded an email to YSC members to conduct "Roll Call" vote on 6/26/23.

Voting for the "Roll Call" vote ended at 2:50pm on 6/27/23.

-A motion was made by Jeff Harvey to approve allocation of \$120,000 (\$114,000 to go to Jewish Family Services for providing Case Management services to youth placed on the HEDS Detention Alternative Program...with an additional \$6,000 to be provided to Atlantic County Government for G&A services)

-Motion was seconded by Dawn Lomangino-DiMauro

-YSC Mandated members voted via email. Final results of vote are as follows:

16 yes

7 Abstain

0 No

Planning Committee Update

-Chairperson, Scott Sherwood provided an update for Atlantic County's JDAI Planning Committee. Mr. Sherwood reported:

-The Planning committee began meeting on 2/22/23. The committee last met on 6/23/23. The purpose of the meetings are to bring local stakeholders to the table to discuss ways Atlantic County would allocate unspent JDAI funds toward youth programming. The decision to allocate funds is based on conversations held with the Judge and local stakeholders, the identified gaps in our current system and the points of data provided.

The Planning committee is in the process of finalizing two proposals and will provide an update at the next YSC meeting.

Monitoring Committee Update

-Chairperson, Claudia Ratzlaff provided an update in regards to Atlantic County's YSC Monitoring Committee. The Monitoring committee members continue the work of monitoring our YSC funded programs. Monitorings of the APR Gun Violence Prevention program, YAP program (Community Engagement Committee), EOBSS program, HEDS Case Management program and the ASOP Sex Offender program have been completed. YSC Staff are in the process of completing all required documentation. Once all monitorings are complete, the Monitoring committee chairperson will provide a full report.

YSC Internship Update

-Atlantic County YSC staff is working with Atlantic County's Workforce Development Board to sponsor a paid internship in 2023. Tori Dorn was assigned to an eight-week internship with YSC staff. Tori was assigned the responsibility of re-establishing Atlantic County's Detention Database. Database tracks all youth detained in Atlantic County. Tori has also attended court and various meetings both on the local and statewide level.

YSC Community Outreach:

Dena Tartaro reported:

-Atlantic County's YSC staff continues to focus on ways to increase our engagement of families and community partners, here in Atlantic County.

-On 7/17/23, Community Engagement and Probation will hold a Community Resource Fair at the Courthouse. YSC staff will attend and assist.

-YSC staff have purchased various outreach materials to distribute at upcoming community events.

-YSC staff have started gathering various forms of information that can prove to be helpful to youth and families while attending court. Dena continues to meet with youth and families at court to provide resources and information.

Old/New Business:

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson requested comments under "old business".

None reported

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson requested any comments under "new business".

Cynthia Torres reported:

-Atlantic County's Workforce Development Program has a new contract in place for the July 2023 session. IDEA Institute of Technology was provided the contract to service approximately 130 youth.

-The Summer Youth Program was contracted to service 200 youth. This year there are approximately 240 youth who applied.

-The Taniff Summer Youth program's goal was to service 20 youth. They are currently servicing 12 active youth.

-Overall, 48 employers participated in 2023. Cynthia informed committee members that Atlantic County YSC sponsored two internships this year. Cynthia will be reaching out to YSC members for sponsorship in the next cycle.

Rob Zlotnick reported:

-APR will be starting a new program. The "Strengthening Families Program" is an evidence-based, interactive skills-building curriculum for youth and their caregivers/parents. The program is located at the EHT Community Center. Parents of youth between the ages of 9-14yrs. are qualified. The two-hour program provides meals, transportation (as needed). **(See attached Flyer)**

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson reported:

-IDEAL Institute of Technology recently held a graduation ceremony. Five youth who came through our juvenile justice system took part in the graduation ceremony. Judge Perry-Thompson expressed how we should all make an effort to attend the next ceremony.

Maria Hadley reported:

-The YSC Monitoring committee recently completed a program monitoring of the HEDS Case Management program. Part of the monitoring process calls for committee members to interview youth and families. During one of the family interviews a juvenile's mother reported positive feedback. Maria requested Dena Tartaro to provide a brief update.

Dena Tartaro reported:

-During the family interview portion of our HEDS Case Management program monitoring a juvenile's mother reported how thankful she was for participating in the "Family Engagement" Jewish Family Services program. The mother felt the program was supportive in that it allowed her to have the opportunity to talk with other parents whose children are in the HEDS Detention Alternative program. The mother reported how the HEDS Case Manager assisted in navigating the court system and assisted her in finding housing.

-During monitorings family members personally mentioned (Derell Branch and John Michael Redding.

Forrest Gilmore asked:

-How the issue of trauma impacts our youth, and what is being done to address the issue.

Curtis Still reported:

Court involved youth are open cases with other service providers, including Care Management Organization and DCP&P. Those service providers provide an initial assessment and provide services based on that initial evaluation.

-Maria Hadley reported:

Atlantic's YSC previously funded a program that focused on the issue of trauma through Jewish Family Services. The program had difficulty securing appropriate referrals, so funding was no longer justified.

-Jerry DelRosso reported:

Atlantic County recently contracted with Jewish Family Services to provide counseling to youth in (AYC) Harborfields. INSIGHT also provides services in regards to psychiatric intervention as needed.

Public Comments:

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson asked if there were any public comments or announcements. None reported.

Adjournment:

Chairperson, Judge Perry-Thompson called for a motion to adjourn.
Motion made and seconded.
Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting

8/21/23 at 2:30pm

**Atlantic County Youth Services Commission
Full Council Meeting
September 16, 2023
Minutes**

Full Council Meeting Attendance

Member

Jerry DelRosso, *Co-Chairperson*
Hon. Michelle D. Perry-Thompson
Maria Hadley, *ex-officio*
Danita Pierce, *ex-officio*
Andrew Parker
Alan DeStefano
Forrest Gilmore
Jeff Harvey
Rev. Milton Hendricks
Richard Jackson
Naomi Jones
Francis Kuhn
Kathy Quish
Scott Sherwood
John Thomas
Geoff Dorsey
Daniel Harvey
Philip Gunther
Doug Mercer
Melissa Jackson
Shalanda Austin
Veronica Ramos
Claudia Ratzlaff
Bob Schober

Attendance

Agency

County Administrator
Family Division
Juvenile Justice Commission
Juvenile Justice Commission
County Commissioner
Cape Atlantic CMO
Dept. of Family & Community
Ranch Hope
Faith Baptist Church
Atlantic Youth Center/Harborfields
Jewish Family Service
Atlantic County WDB
Mental Health Administrator
Deputy Public Defender
Family Division
Dorsey Construction
Probation
Superintendent, ACIT and SSSD
Substance Abuse Program Coordinator

In My Care Mentoring, Community Partner
Center for Family Services
AVANZAR
Family Support Organization

Staff

Curtis Still
Dena Tartaro

Agency

YSC Administrator
Detention Diversion Coordinator

Call to Order:

Chairperson Jerry DelRosso called the meeting to order at 2:40pm.
Curtis Still announced this meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting was provided in the Press of Atlantic City and Hammonton Gazette. Notice of the Webex meeting was also provided in the Press of Atlantic City News Release and posted on the County Aclink webpage. Approved minutes from this meeting will be posted on the YSC County Aclink webpage.

Atlantic County Youth Services Commission
Full Council Meeting
September 16, 2023
Minutes

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from October 16, 2023, YSC meeting were reviewed. There was a committee member who indicated that a correction needed to be made in regards to their attendance. That individual never provided their name, and failed to contact the YSC Administrator to correct their attendance status. A motion to approve the minutes, which would include the correction to the attendance, was made. The motion was second. Motion passed.

Juvenile Justice Commission Report:

Maria Hadley reported total population for Atlantic County:

In House Atlantic County:

18 males

Bergen County:

1 male

Essex County:

17 males:

Ocean County:

1 males

Total:

37 youth detained.

31 African Americans, 4 Hispanics, 2 White

19 youth diverted on HEDs:

13 males 6 females

11 African Americans, 0 Hispanics, 3 White

Youth 14 and younger in house:

5

Youth 14 and younger on diversion:

5

10 in Total

Weapon and robbery offense:

29 in house

6 on diversion

Carjacking and looting:

11 in house

1 Diversion

Atlantic County Youth Services Commission
Full Council Meeting
September 16, 2023
Minutes

Youth pending Waivers
7 In house

18 youth 60 days or more
12 youth 90 days or more

Maria Hadley reported that there is a notable increase in the number of youth coming to our system with carjacking charges. We also have an increase in the population of young offenders entering our juvenile justice system.

Danita Pierce reported:

Danita reported a number of JJC Highlights, including the Annual JJC Fun Fest, the NJJDA Annual Staff training held in Atlantic City, which twenty JJC staff attended.

Danita reported out in regards to JJC Residential Activities, which included the JMFS Resident's participation in a Poster Contest addressing substance abuse, and various "Family Engagement" activities.

Danita also reported that on October 10, 2023, Awards notices came out to YSC Administrators for 2023 Innovations Funding.

Out of County Placements/Detention Capacity:

Curtis Still reported:

Capacity and Out of County placement of Atlantic County youth has affected our entire juvenile justice system in many ways. Atlantic County stakeholders have held two meetings in regards to this issue (7/5/23 and 10/11/23). All stakeholders came to the table to discuss what steps needed to be taken to address this issue.

Mr. Still reported that this would be an agenda item to be discussed at every YSC meeting, moving forward.

Maria Hadley replied:

This is a statewide issue, primarily in the south. Unfortunately, Atlantic County is being hit the hardest with this issue. This issue is also being discussed at the AOC and JJC level.

Curtis Still replied:

Our local committees and working groups will continue to update our DA Manual and review our policies and procedures, to identify and address all gaps to ensure our out of county placed youth receive the same services as those placed here in Atlantic County.

Scott Sherwood discussed concerns with our Atlantic County youth having to pay for phone calls, and concerns with youth transportation to court and youth released from out of county detention facilities.

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Maria Hadley reported that JJC is taking the steps to meet with Essex County Detention to discuss a number of issues, including transportation and phone calls provided to Atlantic County youth.

JJC reported that based on their recent meeting, Atlantic County youth now receive two free phones calls and one video phone call while placed at Essex Detention. Atlantic County youth also will be allowed to make all calls to their attorney at no charge.

JJC will continue to hold discussion in regards to transportation, and providing updates to the current phone system to accommodate out of county placed youth.

Program Monitoring Results:

Claudia Ratztaff reported:

APR Gun Violence Prevention Program

Kathy McFadden provided a program overview.

Claudia presented the program monitoring report.

The YSC Monitoring committee determined there were no corrective actions needed, and the program was in compliance with its contract.

Youth Advocate Program (Community Engagement Committee)

Naomi Jones reported:

Claudia and CEC members provided a program overview.

Claudia presented the program monitoring report.

The YSC Monitoring committee determined there were no corrective actions needed, and the program was in compliance with its contract.

2023 Planning Committee Update:

Scott Sherwood reported:

The YSC Planning Committee began meeting in Feb 2023. The committee reported it would base all decisions in regards to potential program funding on three points:

1. Conversations with our Judges and local stakeholders
2. Addressing identified gaps in our current system
3. Review of data that applies to Atlantic County and the State of New Jersey

After several meetings, the planning committee members were able develop two program proposals for potential funding. On August 1, 2023, the committee voted to recommend funding of two potential programs:

“Step down Program from HEDS”

“Gun Violence Prevention Program” for youth sentenced to charges involving a weapon.

Both programs went out for RFP, and were posted on Atlantic County’s portal for competitive bid.

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The “HEDS Step Down Program” was to be posted from 8/29/23 – 9/21/23.

The Gun Violence Prevention Program was to be posted from 9/5/23 – 9/21/23.

September 21, 2023, is when the posted programs will be taken down from the county’s portal for review. The RFP Planning Committee members will then begin the process of scoring all proposals received. Updates will be provided upon completion of the scoring process.

2024 Comprehensive Plan Update:

Curtis Still reported:

Dena Tartaro, Jurnee Ward, and Curtis Still are currently in the process of completing the 2024 Comprehensive Plan application process. We will continue to reach out to our JJC staff and liaisons for assistance in completing this process. Our YSC Planning Committee will review our programs that are currently funded and look to fill gaps in our system based on:

1. Conversations held with our local Judges and stakeholders
2. Identified gaps in our current system
3. Best available data in regards to trends, both here in Atlantic County and around the State of New Jersey

FCIU Budget Modification Request

Family Crisis (Family Court Funds) made a request for a budget modification to the JJC on 10/11/23. The request is required to be reviewed and approved at the YSC level. YSC staff were presented with the FCIU budget modification request on 10/16/23. Terms of the request were discussed with YSC members and a Roll-Call vote was held to approve the requested budget modification request on 10/16/23. (See all required documents attached).

YSC Outreach Update:

Dena Tartaro reported:

YSC staff continue to attend various community events here in Atlantic County. YSC staff attended a number of community events, distributing Atlantic County’s SOURCE booklet, the Community Engagement Committee Resource booklet and Crisis Intervention cards to youth and families in the community. We will continue to meet with youth and families in the community and collaborate with other service providers/grassroots organizations, in an effort to strengthen our relationship with our community partners.

By continuing to develop trusting relationships with our community partners, we intend to link our community based and court involved youth to services within their own community and neighborhoods. The goal is to link our youth to positive programs and individuals in the communities that our youth live in. Our hope is, the act of linking youth to positive community based partners will reduce the chances that youth will return to the same activities that brought them to the juvenile justice system in the first place.

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OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Old Business:

New Business:

Cynthia Torres reported:

The Workforce Development Summer programming has concluded. Year-round programs are still available to serve anyone interested in the services. (IDEAL and Boys and Girls Club).

Fran Kuhn reported:

The High School Equivalency Testing program is now operational. Testing and Test Preparation services are now available. Tutoring services for the test are offered through "Learning Link".

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment:

Jerry DelRosso called a motion to adjourn.

Motion made to adjourn.

Motion seconded.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: December 18, 2023 @ 2:30pm