

Youth Services Advisory Committee Minutes

April 21, 2011

Attendance: Rose Marie Kill; Claudia Salomon; Elizabeth Manley; Diane Williams; Suzanne Arnold; Diana Cirillo; Juli Harpell-Elam; Steven Neblett; Susan O'Donnell; Tammy Rosenthal; Abdul Staten; Linda Wolk; Kathleen Leonard; Diane Williams.

Guests: Patty Tomaszewski, Family Support Organization; Tara LeGates, Caring Family Community Service; Kathy Pross, Youth Advocate Programs; Karen Thibault, Youth Advocate Programs; Stephanie Iacopelli, Center for Evaluation and Counseling.

Morris County Department of Human Services Staff: Laurie Becker; Rachelle Farese.

Welcome

- Meeting began at 2:35 PM by Juli Harpel-Elam.

Minutes

- Minutes were reviewed and approved with no revisions.
 - Motion: Susan O'Donnell; 2nd: Diane Williams

Presentations

- Outpatient Services, Youth Advocate Program, Inc. Karen Thibault, LCSW
 - On May 3, 2011, Youth Advocate Program (YAP) will be starting its new Outpatient Services Program. They have nine (9) licensed clinicians, some certified to work with youth with autism. YAP is a Medicaid approved agency. They will be accepting Medicaid, Aetna and Magellan. Medicaid clients can be up to and including eighteen (18) years old. Ages range from five (5) to eighteen (18). Currently, there are no groups planned. There is one bi-lingual (Spanish speaking) clinician.
 - The services are being provided Monday through Friday from 4 PM to 8 PM with Saturday hours available if needed.
 - Referrals can come from community members, self and other agencies involved with the youth.
 - They will be offering psychiatric services as well. Dr. Chris O'Dullo from UMDNJ is currently contracted for eight (8) hours per month. They are working to increase his hours. He will be doing med. monitoring and evaluations.
 - For more information, please contact Karen Thibault at 973-729-3617.

Action Items

- Letter of Support, Assembly Bill No. A1561 Rachelle farese
 - Ms. Farese presented Assembly Bill No. A1561. Assembly Bill No. 1561 has been passed by the Assembly and has been referred to the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee. This bill would create a diversionary program for juveniles who are criminally charged for "sexting" or posting sexual images. The bill would establish an educational program as an alternative to prosecution for certain juveniles who are charged with a criminal offense for posting sexually suggestive or sexually explicit photographs or who engage in the behavior commonly known as "sexting".
 - The Legislative subcommittee would like to send a letter of support to the New Jersey legislature. However, there were not enough members present at the meeting to represent a quorum. Therefore, Rachelle Farese will send out the Assembly Bill No. 1561 to members via e-mail to obtain an e-mail vote.

State Reports

- **Juvenile Justice Commission** Rachelle Farese
 - The 2012-2014 County Comprehensive Youth Services Plans were distributed this week.

- In the past month, one (1) youth was committed to the JJC and Jim Saylor is currently reviewing two (2) referrals.

- **Division of Youth and Family Services**

David Johnston

- No report.

- **Department of Children and Families**

Jeena Williams

- No report.

Sub-Committee Reports

- Subcommittee reports were reviewed with updates. For a copy, please contact Rachelle Farese.

Community Reports

- No community reports at this time.

Old Business

- No old business at this time.

New Business

- No new business at this time.

General Announcements

- Abdul Staten – April 28th is Denim Day. The Denim Day event is sponsored by Morris County Sexual Assault Center and the Morris Alliance for the Prevention of Sexual Assault and will be held on the Morristown Green from 12 Noon to 2 PM. Denim Day is a day-long observance dedicated to raising awareness about sexual violence and consent. For more information, call 973-971-4754.
- Patty Tomaszewski – The Family Support Organization will be having a Spanish speaking group for parents of youth with behavioral health issues. The group will start on Monday, April 25th and will be held at Morris County Head Start in Dover. The group will take place the last Monday of the month. Child care will be provided. For more information, contact the Family Support Organization at 973-940-3194.
- Rachelle Farese – Morris County MHSAB is holding its annual Public Mental Health Forum on June 2nd at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center in Whippany from 5:30 PM to 8 PM. This year the forum will be focused on Self Help. For more information, contact Laurie Becker at 973-285-6852.
- Tammy Rosenthal – Ms. Rosenthal announced that Lou Schwartz will be leaving Family Service of Morris County to take the position of the president/CEO of Morris County Mental Health Association.
- Kathy Leonard – The Family Division is undergoing changes and reassignments. Judge Bonzonelis is retiring as of May 1st. Judge Weisenbeck has been appointed as the assignment judge. Judge Wright is now the Presiding Judge in the Family Division with help from Judge Whipple.
- Laurie Becker – The annual Co-Occurring Conference will be held on June 24th at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center. The main focus of the conference will be Cross Addictions including gambling, over eating, sexual addictions, etc. The registration cost is \$25.00.
- Steven Neblett – Morristown Neighborhood House will be holding its annual Community/Family Day Festival on August 6th. Tables are available for vendors.

Public Comment

- No public comment at this time.

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:20 pm.
 - Motion: Steven Neblett; 2nd: Diane Williams