

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YSAC)
Morris County Human Services Building, 340 West Hanover Avenue, Ground Floor
Conference Room, Morristown, New Jersey
January 19, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chair person Linda Seeley at 2:35 PM. Members present:

Michelle Borden (arrived after vote)
Christopher Burkhart
Jill Cerullo
Diana Cirillo
Sandra Gogerty (arrived after vote)
Juli Harpell-Elam
Beth Jacobson
David Johnson
David Johnston
Kathleen Leonard
Sylvia Lippe

Elizabeth Manley
Steven Neblett
Susan O'Donnell
Claudia Salomon
Jim Saylor
Linda Seeley
Laura Siemonsma-Bertelli
Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro
Linda Wolk

Also in attendance:

Dana Columbo, Community Hope
Kimberly Snow, Family Support Organization
Nechama Tarlow, Community Provider
Laura Budinick, New Alliance Academy

Staff in attendance:

Rachelle Farese

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Susan O'Donnell, seconded by member Elizabeth Manley, the committee approved the minutes of November 17, 2011 regular meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

There was no presentation at the January meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

2012 Fact Sheet

Linda Seeley presented the 2012 YSAC Fact Sheet.

2012 YSAC Chair and Co-Chair Votes

Nominated parties were asked to exit the room for voting and discussion. Member David Johnson presented the 2012 YSAC Chair and co-Chair positions. Linda Seeley was nominated to a 2012 term as Chair and Juli Harpell-Elam was nominated to a 2012 term as co-Chair.

After discussion, on motion by member David Johnson, the committee approved the 2012 YSAC Chair and co-Chair positions. (16-Aye; 0-Nay; 0-Abstain)

2012 Subcommittee Sign Ups

Rachelle Farese briefly described each of the YSAC subcommittees and their meeting dates and time. The sign up sheets were sent around through the committee.

STATE REPORTS

Juvenile Justice Commission

Jim Saylor reported that Morris County has eight (8) juveniles in the custody of the JJC. There is also one (1) juvenile up for parole in February.

Division of Youth and Family Services

David Johnston reported that in December Morris County received a total of 270 calls. Morris East received 118. Morris West received 152 calls. The top three (3) municipality reports were Morristown (34), Mt. Olive (28) and Dover (27).

Department of Children and Families

Dave Johnston reported that the \$1.4 million RFP for Evaluation, Treatment, Medication and Psychiatric Services was awarded to NewBridge Services. The funding authorization was issued in January and they are currently working on the contract. Michelle Borden informed the group that NewBridge is looking at previous Center for Protection of Children sites to continue the services in those areas. Some of these areas include Vernon, Newton, Sparta and Mountain Lakes. NewBridge is also seeking clinicians with dual licenses in psychiatry and substance abuse. The services are strictly for DYFS youth.

Mr. Johnston also reported that there are several RFPs on the DCF website at www.nj.gov/DCF. These RFPs include:

- New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect 2012 Skill Building Conference
- Psychiatric Community Home Services
- Unified Care Management Organization
 - Bergen
 - Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem
 - Hudson
 - Passaic
- Summer Intensive Life Skills Camp

Mr. Johnston informed the group that there is currently pending legislation that would increase the number of categories for investigative findings to three (3). Currently there are two (2). The Legislative subcommittee will be tracking this legislation.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Subcommittee

Subcommittee met on Monday, January 9, 2012. There were no CIACC or Systems Review updates because the committees have not met. Ms. Farese informed the subcommittee that the 2012 Award letters from the JJC should be received by the County by the end of the week. The group also reviewed the by-laws and made tentative revisions. The revisions will be made and re-submitted to the planning subcommittee in February and will be presented to the YSAC at the February YSAC meeting. The next meeting of the Planning Subcommittee is on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.

System Review Committee

The subcommittee met in November but did not meet in December; however, the reports were submitted via e-mail. November reports are as follows:

Subcommittee met on November 22, 2011.

Group reviewed the October 2011 minutes and noted the following necessary corrections:

- Sussex YCM report should include more statistics. Laura Woody will submit the full statistics.
- Division of Youth and Family Services report should read "...Sussex County Area Office held their quality review in September."

Group did introductions. Two (2) new members were present, Mr. Charles O'Rourke from St. Clare's Hospital and Ms. Barbara Miller from Sussex County Youth and Community Services.

Care Management Organization – Maria Augustowicz reported that the CMO census is currently at 195. ResourceNet is up and running with over 400 resources for families. Providers continue to add their information.

Youth Case Management – Stephanie Villota reported that YCM began the month with 161 youth; they received fifteen (15) new referrals (1-CCIS, 4-DYFS, 1-14 Day Plan, 1-Community, 1-Mobile Response, 6-Needs Assessment, 1-Perform Care). Twenty seven (27) families were transitioned out. YCM ended the month with 128 families.

Mobile Response & Stabilization Services – Stephanie Villota reported that Mobile Response received sixty eight (68) calls which resulted in sixty (60) dispatches. Of those dispatches, thirty six (36) were for Morris. MRSS transitioned thirty six (36) cases and had 153 in stabilization at the end of the month. MRSS received eight (8) school referrals from Morris County.

Family Support Organization – Shauna Gregory reported that the FSO provided twenty three and a half (23.5) hours of peer support groups, ninety nine (99) people attended support groups, ten (10) new families were referred to the FSO and seen face-to-face by the FSO, ninety seven (97) families are receiving peer support, 393 hours of peer support was provided to CMO families and there were thirty eight (38) calls to the warm line. There were eleven (11) youth at the Youth Partnership.

Division of Youth and Family Services – Jeena Davis reported that Morris East received ninety two (92) referrals (76-Child Protective Services & 16-Child Welfare Services); Morris West received 134 referrals (112-Child Protective Services & 22-Child Welfare Services [via YSAC report from Dave Johnston]).

Division of Child Behavioral Health Services – Rachele Farese reported that the November 2011 CIACC meeting was cancelled. Ms. Farese also reported that DCBHS will not be reaching out to the educators in Morris or Sussex County for information regarding the Education Partnerships. If there are any questions, they will be reaching out to Rachele Farese or Barbara Miller directly.

CSA – Melissa Latronica reported that the Mental Health Administrators are worried about the upcoming switch to the ASO in the adult system as part of the Medicaid Waiver due to the issues that were experienced during the set up of Value Options and most recently, PerformCare. Ms. Latronica stated that the issues were being addressed and there were not as many complaints or issues as there had been in the beginning. Laura Woody stated the inconsistency in level of care designations continues to be a problem.

Youth Shelter – Tara LeGates reported that there were currently four (4) juveniles in the Shelter (3-Morris & 1-Hunterdon). Through the month of October, the Youth Shelter provided services to fourteen (14) youth (9-Morris, 3-Hunterdon, 1-Warren and 1-Louisiana),

Morris Juvenile Detention Center – Sarah Kepler reported that there were currently ten (10) male juveniles in the Juvenile Detention Center (5-Morris, 2-Sussex, 2-Hunterdon and 1-Passaic). During the month of October, the Detention Center housed twenty (20) youth. Discharges included home (6), house arrest (2), Jamesburg (2), residential (3), inpatient (2) and the Youth Shelter (2). Of the twenty (20) youth, sixteen (16) were on formal probation, two (2) were CMO involved, two (2) were YCM involved and one (1) was DYFS involved. The average length of stay was eleven (11) days and eleven (11) of the youth had been in the Detention Center more than once.

Probation –Mark Ripatrazone reported that there are currently 299 youth on formal probation. 52% are deferred and 48% are on regular probation.

System Struggles – Shauna Gregory reported that the Warm Line received eighteen (18) calls this month from parents, grandparents and counselors at pre-schools, requesting services for children under the age of five (5). Many of the children had been expelled from pre-school and/or day care. Ms. Gregory reported that many of the calls had been directed to the FSO by Perform Care. This is an ongoing trend on which Ms. Jeena Williams had been reporting statistics. Ms. Williams will bring her numbers and information regarding the Pre-School Inclusion Project to the next meeting. Discussion followed regarding referrals. Referrals for this age group can be made by Perform Care to YCM, MRSS and/or CMO. The families have to request therapy/treatment for the entire family, not just the child. Mr. O'Rourke from St. Clare's mentioned that St. Clare's still has family therapy for residents of Morris County as long as the family is willing to participate.

Aging Out/Aging In Task Force – The Aging Out/In Task Force will be meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 2PM. Daytop will be present to speak with the group. Daytop is looking into expanding their services to meet the needs of the aging out population. When the reminder is sent, it will be forwarded to the Systems Review Committee for those that would like to attend.

New Business and Announcements – The FSO will be holding its Annual Open House on Friday, December 9, 2011 at its Phillipsburg office from 3PM to 7PM. Please call the FSO to RSVP. Last year's open house had 148 people in attendance.

The next meeting of the Systems Review Subcommittee is on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at Caring Partners CMO in Mt. Arlington.

Legislative Subcommittee

Subcommittee met on January 17, 2012. The group discussed upcoming legislation. It will be tracking eight (8) bills for the session. Many of the bills are related to juveniles being waived to the adult courts. The next meeting of the Legislative Subcommittee is on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.

Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Program Subcommittee

Subcommittee met on December 9, 2011. The group discussed the current status of the program. There are two (2) youth pending evaluations and six (6) youth pending individual education sessions. There were thirteen (13) new referrals to the program in 2011. The group discussed the 2011 NJ Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council Conference. Rachele Farese, Bill Wagner and Mike Pellek attended. Ms. Farese and Mr. Wagner spoke about the conference and the information that they gathered from the Intervention Specialist II program that they attended. The group also reviewed the 2011 Survey results. Overall, the program rated very good or excellent in all categories. One recommendation made by a parent was to include the Firesetter prevention classes in the high schools. The group will continue to discuss how to make that possible in 2012. Ms. Farese distributed the 2012 Calendar. The September date will have to be rescheduled. The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Program subcommittee will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at 30 Schuyler Place, 3rd Floor, Morristown.

Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee

Subcommittee did not meet in December. The next meeting of the DMC Subcommittee will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.

Education Partnership Subcommittee

The subcommittee met on Thursday, January 5, 2012. The group discussed the surveys from the December cross training. The cross training speaker was Dr. Beirne from DCBHS. The surveys were

overwhelmingly positive. The group also discussed and planned the next Cross Training on February 8, 2012. The training will address youth and adolescent suicide. Ms. Mary Veines from NewBridge Services, Inc. will be the presenter. The group also discussed possible presenters for the April and October trainings. The next meeting of the Education Partnership Planning Subcommittee is on Thursday, March 3, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.

Family Advisory Committee

No report at this time. The next family advisory committee meeting date and time is to be determined.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Nechama Tarlow informed the group of an unmet need that she is experiencing within her practice. She is finding that there is a need for increased communication between teenage girls and their mothers, particularly in Latino families. Discussion ensued regarding needs within the community. Throughout the priority planning process, data was collected and the needs within the community were developed. For the 2012-2014 planning process, this need was not identified; however, it was encouraged to collect as much data as possible to inform the group of the growing need. Discussion also ensued regarding the recently held Youth Services Commission sponsored Girls Circle Trainings. Rachelle Farese will find out if there are more trainings being sponsored in the future. Linda Seeley discussed a program that was held for 8th grade females and their parents called Summer Quest. It was found that communication between teens and their parents is a problem no matter the culture; however, when given the proper forum, the gap was bridged. The youth and families have asked for another follow-up training.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business at this time.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**All hand outs will be redistributed via e-mail.*

Steven Neblett announced that Morristown Neighborhood House will be holding its annual Black History Month Celebration. This year's celebration is entitled "Black Women in American History and Culture; Past, Present and Future". The celebration will take place on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 6:00 PM at Morristown High School. The high school is within walking distance for many seniors in the Morristown community. Neighborhood House is hoping to bring youth and seniors together for this event. For more information, please contact Steven Neblett at 973-539-1229 Ext. 28. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for Children under 10, students with ID and senior citizens.

Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro announced that the Family Intervention Services, Inc. National Institute for Family Success is hosting 2012 clinical supervision course offerings for social workers, counselors and marriage and family therapists. The trainings will begin in June 2012. For more information please call 973-586-5243.

Juli Harpell-Elam announced that February is Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month. JBWS is working with teen youth groups to get involved and create projects to raise awareness and educate their communities. There is a list of projects available. Dover peer leaders will be doing

activities throughout the month. The Morris County Youth Shelter previously did “Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve” and the Freeholders presented a proclamation. If you would like assistance with school-based programs, contact Monique Pearlman. If you would like assistance with community-based programs, contact Juli Harpell-Elam. JBWS would be willing to come out to organizations and groups to do awareness and prevention education.

Linda Wolk presented brochures for the Daytop Day School. They take youth from their residential program as well as youth from the community. The school currently has openings for their second semester.

Rachelle Farese announced that the 9th Annual Natural High Skating Event will be held on March 22nd at Mennen Arena from 6 pm to 8 pm. There is also a t-shirt and poster contest this year. To register, please go to the link on the hand out or call Steve Nebesni.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 2:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:30 PM Chair Linda Seeley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachelle Farese
Juvenile Justice Coordinator

Original is signed and kept on file at the office of the Division of Behavioral Health and Youth Services.