

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YSAC)
Morris County Human Services Building, 340 West Hanover Avenue, Ground Floor
Conference Room, Morristown, New Jersey
June 25, 2012

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

Terri Belske	Jaime Simon
Rose Marie Kill	Linda Wolk
Claudia Salomon	Chris Burkhart
Lila Bernstein	Beth Jacobson
Michelle Borden	David Johnson
Diana Cirillo	David Johnston
Juli Harpell-Elam	Kathleen Leonard
Neville Newton	Kim Johnson
Susan O'Donnell	Laura Siemonsma-Bertelli
Linda Seeley	

Also in attendance:

Carlos Caprioli, Morris County Family Success Center
Liz Lummie, Morris County Juvenile Detention Center Intern
Kimberley Snow, HSW FSO

Staff in attendance:

Rachelle Farese

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Linda Wolk, seconded by member Rose Marie Kill, the committee approved the minutes of May 17, 2012 regular meeting.

PRESENTATION

Morris County Family Success Center

Dr. Carlos Caprioli

The Morris County Family Success Center is funded by the State of New Jersey and is overseen by the NJ Department of Children and Families. There is at least one (1) Center in each county. The Morris County Family Success Center operates with a new concept. There is no regular board; instead a Parent/Community Advisory Board meets once per month. All of the people on the board must have utilized the Center during the previous month. The Board offers recommendations for programs and services to the Center. The Morris County Center opened in March of 2012. It is located on Bassett Highway in Dover. They began by offering basic services to the residents of Morris County and built upon those services with the recommendations of the Board. They have recently held a Strengthening Families Program and are currently working with the FSO to host an end of year party for the FSO Youth Partnership. There is no income requirement to utilize the services. The family fills out an initial form; however, due to grant guidelines, the center can not charge for any services. Most of the referrals are received through word of mouth at this point. The Family Success Center has been getting out in the community and attending many events. They do

not receive any material resources from the County or providers but there many people have volunteered their time and expertise to hold presentations or help with programs. The Center is currently promoting many events, such as *Access to College and Universities*, Youth Partnership Events, *Want to become your own Boss and produce your own income?* and *Q & A Immigration Forum*. The fliers for each of the programs were distributed. For more information, please call 973-483-7400.

Moving Forward...Planning for the Future

Andrea Silvershein

The Moving Forward...Planning for the Future Program is a program that is run by the National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW) – Essex County Section. The program is for young women ages 16 to 21. The core of the program is built around self esteem. The workshops are three (3) consecutive weeks from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Each workshop serves approximately fifteen (15) young women and there is a staff to participant ratio of 1:3 for most sessions. The goal of the program is to prepare young women for independence, provide them with the skills necessary to achieve their goals, present guest speakers to help the young women and to provide adults in their lives with the skills to support the young women on their journey. The workshops consist of career interest surveys, resume development, job search and networking strategies, job application process and effective follow up, practice interviews, self-esteem building and support and motivation. After the young women complete the workshops, they are eligible for all of the services offered by the NCJW which include job readiness and placement services, computer classes and self-empowerment workshops. For more information about the program, please call Stefanie Burgess-Bertrand at 973-648-3325.

ACTION ITEMS

2012 Site Visit Sign Up

Rachelle Farese

Rachelle Farese encouraged all members of the YSAC to sign up for at least one (1) site visit. These are the agencies for which the YSAC makes funding recommendations. Also, the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) will be releasing a mandate that states the Youth Services Commission Administrator, Court Liaison and at least one (1) YSC member must be present at each of the JJC funded site visits. The court liaison is only mandated to be present at the JABG site visits; however, they are strongly encouraged to attend all of the visits. The sign up sheet was sent around the committee.

STATE REPORTS

Juvenile Justice Commission

No report.

Division of Youth and Family Services

David Johnston reported that the Morris East office received ninety nine (99) referrals and the Morris West Office received 152 referrals. The municipalities with the most referrals were Mt. Olive, Parsippany and Dover. The Quality Review was done in the first week of June. Morris did well, but not as well as last year. On the first day of the review, ACNJ released their annual survey of child welfare and Morris County was named number one in New Jersey.

Department of Children and Families

David Johnston reported that Commissioner Blake announced that Elizabeth Bowman was appointed as the Assistant Commissioner of DCF Office of Performance Management and Accountability. Ms. Bowens has been a part of the leadership team at DCF serving as the Director of Quality for the past two years. Dave also announced that on June 13th, Commissioner Blake sent a memo regarding the Task Force on Helping Youth Thrive in Placement (HYTIP). The HYTIP has been tasked with studying the

opportunities and making recommendations for change. Jessica Trombetta and Tony Conover have been appointed as co-chairs.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Subcommittee

Rachelle Farese reported that the subcommittee discussed the May CIACC meeting information. Liz Manley provided the group with an update to the Division of Addiction Services (DAS) and DCHBS Integration. There are many providers on the workgroup and they have been discussing which assessment tool to use, how PerformCare will answer the phone and what will happen if a youth “walk in” arrives at a substance abuse facility without calling PerformCare. Providers have also been working with PerformCare to teach them every step in the current process to ensure that the transition in January is as seamless and smooth as possible. They are also discussing how youth will be “treated” because currently substance abuse is not a Medicaid reimbursable service and it will not be one after the Medicaid Waiver is approved. Youth may call with primary substance abuse and only get residential substance abuse treatment but not case management. Currently, DCBHS is looking into how they can treat all kids the same, despite primary diagnosis, within the limited funding resources.

Rachelle Farese reported the Systems Review meeting information, which can be found below. Ms. Farese also distributed the final 2012-2014 Comprehensive County Youth Services Plan. The plan is available in limited printed version and also via PDF. Dave Johnston informed the group that the Morris East, Morris, Sussex, Passaic Area Office and Northwest Business office will be moving to their new facilities off of Route 202 in Morris Plains on July 20th.

The next meeting of the planning subcommittee will be held on Monday, July 9, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.

System Review Committee

Rachelle Farese reported that the subcommittee met on Monday, April 21, 2012 and the group reviewed the May 2012 minutes. The following revisions were necessary:

- In the System Struggles section, it should read, “Melissa Latronica will reach out to **Paul Burns...**”

Community Reports:

Care Management Organization – Liz Manley reported that the CMO census is currently at 199 with several transitions pending. Ms. Manley also reported that currently approximately 33% of CMO youth are from Sussex County while 67% are from Morris County. This is a much larger difference than last month, which was close to 50-50.

Youth Case Management –Stephannie Villota reported that YCM began the month with 143 youth; they received twenty two (22) new referrals during the month (5-CCIS, 4-PHP, 3-MRSS, 1-14 Day Plan, 6-NA/IIC, 3 Community/Private). Nine (9) refused services. They terminated twenty six (26) families and ended the month with 130. YCM worked with 165 families throughout the month of April 2012. Ms. Villota also reported that YCM has hired a Spanish speaking clinician.

CCIS – No report.

Mobile Response & Stabilization Services – Jennifer Oatley reported that Mobile Response received fifty three (53) calls which resulted in forty four (44) dispatches. Of those dispatches, thirty (30) were in Morris. MRSS transitioned fifty five (55) youth and had 165 families in stabilization at the end of the month. MRSS received five (5) school referrals in Morris County.

Morris County service gaps included: trauma based evaluations and services for young children, long-term in-home services, behavioral supports, respite, domestic violence/trauma specific therapy, social skills group for children that provides transportation (5 children identified for this group), more services for families/teenagers with Medicaid, afterschool programs, anger management groups, domestic violence and trauma specific group therapy for teenagers.

Family Support Organization – Madeline Lozowski reported that the FSO received fourteen (14) Warmline contacts. There are eighty two (82) active CMO families receiving peer support and 314 hours of peer support was provided to these families. The youth partnership numbers have decreased. 123 people attended support groups in April. The number of people that attended support groups was affected by the NAMI Basics training. There were thirty two and three quarter (32.75) peer support group hours provided.

Division of Youth and Family Services – No report.

Division of Developmental Disabilities – No report.

Division of Child Behavioral Health Services – The group met on Friday, April 18, 2012. There were no new discussions. The group talked about the Education Partnership Initiative, Medicaid Waiver and DCBHS Integration.

CSA – Liz Manley reported that the Adolescent HUB received 120 referrals since its opening and twenty six (26) of those youth had been placed. DYFS, CMO and self-referrals were the highest number of referrals. The youth must be homeless and behavioral health needs cannot be the driving factor behind the referral.

Morris County Youth Shelter – Tara LeGates reported that there are six (6) youth in the Shelter (4-Morris, 1-Hunterdon, 1-Sussex). During the month of April, the Shelter worked with twenty three (23) youth (18-Morris, 2-Sussex, 2-Hunterdon and 1-Somerset).

Morris Juvenile Detention Center – Sarah Kepler reported that there are twenty four (24) youth in the Detention Center (22-Male, 2-Female; 14-Morris, 4-Sussex, 6-Warren, 1-Passaic).

Probation – Mark Ripatrazone reported that approximately 50% of the youth are deferred and 50% are on regular probation. Tracey Skop reported that they received 150 new cases, disposed of 147 and have 117 pending. The judge will be scheduling a lot of trials between the time of the meeting and the end of June to close as many cases as possible before the end of the court year.

JJC – No report.

System Struggles/Questions – When Hopatcong School District refers parents to St. Clare's they have been told by St. Clare's that they must refer the youth to Newton Medical Center for PES services. Is this correct? This is true because Hopatcong is in Sussex County and Newton Medical Center is the dedicated PES center for Sussex County.

Columbia Suicide Severity Scale – will it be required by the schools? This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Paul Burns from Newton Medical PES did not attend the meeting. Sussex County staff, along with Youth Shelter and Detention staff, will request a smaller meeting to discuss current issues.

System Successes – No report.

Aging Out/Aging In Task Force – The Task Force met to participate in the HSAC Needs Assessment Focus Group on April 17, 2012. Liz Manley reported that the Transition Guide for Youth is posted on ResourceNet. This is a provisional version; an updated version will be posted later in the year.

New Business and Announcements – No report

The next meeting of the system review subcommittee will be held on Monday, June 25, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at Caring Partners CMO in Mt. Arlington.

Legislative Subcommittee

Dave Johnson reported that the subcommittee did not meet in June.

The next meeting of the legislative subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.

Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Program Subcommittee

Rachelle Farese reported that the subcommittee did not meet in June. At the time of the meeting there was one (1) youth pending evaluation and nine (9) youth pending individual education. There have been four (4) referrals made in 2012.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Program subcommittee will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.

Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee

Rachelle Farese reported that the subcommittee did not meet in June.

The next meeting of the Disproportionate Minority Contact subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, July 3, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.

Education Partnership Subcommittee

Rachelle Farese reported that the subcommittee met on Thursday, May 24, 2012 and reviewed the surveys from the April training. The main topic of discussion focused on the October training, Anti-Bullying, Creating Positive Climates and Cultures in School. The training will be held on October 17th at the MC Public Safety Training Academy. The save the date will go out BEFORE the end of the school year and the registration will be sent out the beginning of September.

For this training, we will be highlighting best practices for creating a positive culture and climate within the different school districts in Morris County. The main session will start at 9 AM with Keynote Speakers from K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 age groups. The plan is to ideally have three presenters, one for each age group.

After they present, the audience would be broken into 3-4 workgroups depending on which age the participants work with. In these workgroups, there would be prescribed questions to be answered by the groups regarding practices in their school districts and classrooms. After the workgroups, the group would come back together to share the results of each workgroup's session.

Also, there would be index cards in the folders to allow for people to put their contact information and different ideas/curriculums they are using in their districts/classrooms. This information would then be put together into a resource list and put onto the Partnership website. Invitations will go out to the "Keynote" speakers on behalf of the YSAC Partnership and DOE asking them to come and speak.

The next meeting of the Education Partnership subcommittee will be held on Thursday, July 26, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.

Family Advisory Subcommittee

No report at this time. The next Family Advisory subcommittee meeting date and time is to be determined.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

There were no reports at the time.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business at the time.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at the time.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Michelle Borden announced that NewBridge was on the CBS Evening News. The program highlighted the 70001 program. It featured past and present students, Robert Parker and the 70001 Annual Graduation Ceremony. Rachelle Farese will forward the link to the program via e-mail. Ms. Borden stated that since the airing she has received many referrals for the program. The majority of the referrals are coming from out of state. Ms. Borden is directing them to their local workforce boards.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 2:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:25 PM Co-Chair Juli Harpell-Elam 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.