

Youth Services Advisory Committee Minutes

March 17, 2011

Attendance: Suzanne Arnold; Terri Belske; Lila Bernstein; Tina Bibbo; Michelle Borden; Diana Cirillo; Jill Cross; Sandra Gogerty; Juli Harpell-Elam; David Johnson; David Johnston; Cecelia Laureys; Elizabeth Manley; Steven Neblett; Neville Newton; Susan O'Donnell; Tammy Rosenthal; Claudia Salomon; Linda Seeley; Linda Wolk.

Guests: Paul Halpern, Morris County Prevention is Key; Kathy Pross, Youth Advocate Program; Samuel Rodriguez, Healthfirst New Jersey; Sarah Chinsky, Mentoring Program.

Morris County Department of Human Services Staff: Mary Jo Buchanan; Rachelle Farese; Beth Jacobson.

Welcome

- Meeting began at approximately 2:40 pm by Linda Seeley.

Minutes

- Minutes were reviewed and approved with no revisions.
 - Motion: Terri Belske; 2nd: Claudia Salomon

Presentations

- Morris County Prevention Is Key Just 1 Mentoring Program Paul Halpern
 - Morris County Prevention is Key (MCPIK) along with Hunterdon Prevention Resources and NORWESCAP (Passaic County) have received grant funding to provide mentoring services to youth with incarcerated parents. The youth must be between four (4) and eighteen (18) years of age with a parent figure that is incarcerated in state or federal prison at the time of referral and reside in Morris, Hunterdon or Passaic County. The youth can also have a parent figure that has been remanded to a halfway house or ICE Detention Center. Currently the mentors receive twelve (12) hours of training. They provide one on one mentoring for a minimum of one year. For additional information, contact Paul Halpern at 973-625-1998.
- New Alliance Academy Nadia Sexton
 - New Alliance Academy was founded by the staff at Sage Day and is located in Parsippany. They provide a safe and supportive learning environment with therapeutic treatment and individualized academics. Most of the youth that are referred have acute psychiatric needs which may include multiple hospitalizations, diversion from residential programming to keep them in their community or youth that for other reasons have not been able to stay in school for a sustained length of time successfully. New Alliance emphasizes academics first. They do this by providing the therapeutic supports the students need around them to keep them engaged. Students must be referred by the child's school district's Child Study Team. New Alliance is providing a workshop on Friday, March 25, 2011 entitled "Making Educators Partners in Suicide Prevention". For more information on New Alliance Academy, contact Nadia Sexton at 973-316-0700.

Action Items

- There were no action items.

State Reports

- **Juvenile Justice Commission** Rachelle Farese
 - Two (2) juveniles were committed to the New Jersey Training School for Boys.
- **Division of Youth and Family Services** David Johnston
 - Mr. Johnston reported that in February Morris East received ninety one (91) referrals and Morris West received 125 referrals.

- Mr. Johnston informed the committee that Morris County will be undergoing a Qualitative Review the week of April 25th. During the review, the reviewers pick fifteen (15) cases at random to go through. The cases are usually picked by the Central Office and the Policy Group. This is the first year that the review group will include service providers. The review is taking place statewide and will include two (2) counties per month.
- **Department of Children and Families** David Johnston
 - Mr. Johnston also informed the committee that there are still three (3) RFPs on the State website at <http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/notices/index.html>.
 - Support for Pre-School Mental Health Services
 - Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Intensity of Care (IOC)
 - Home Furnishings

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

- Lila Bernstein: The New Jersey Child Placement Advisory Council in Partnership with CASA of NJ will be hosting “Path to Permanency: The First Twelve Months” on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The Honorable Glenn Grant will be the keynote speaker. Ms. Bernstein provided Rachelle Farese with the registration information to be distributed to the group.
- Tammy Rosenthal: Family Service of Morris County will be starting two (2) teen groups called “Surviving and Thriving”. They will be weekly group sessions to discuss life as a teenager. Groups are \$20 per session and will be held at Family Service of Morris County, 62 Elm Street, Morristown. The support groups will be separated, one for males and one for females. Ms. Rosenthal distributed fliers for each of the groups.
- Beth Jacobson: Morris County will be holding their 4th Annual Natural High Family Ice Skating Event on Thursday, March 24, 2011 from 6 PM to 8 PM at Mennen Sports Arena. Admission is free. For more information please contact Steven Nebesni at 973-285-6860.
- Mary Jo Buchanan: Morris County will be holding their 8th Annual Conference for Not-For-Profit Organizations on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph. The conference is from 8 AM to 1:30 PM. There is a non-refundable \$5 registration fee. Seating is limited. Registration and display table information will follow shortly.
- David Johnston: David Johnston distributed an article in relation to a current U.S. Supreme Court case regarding how Central Oregon police agencies deal with cases of possible abuse and interviewing young people in such cases.
- Juli Harpell-Elam: JBWS in collaboration with Drew University is sponsoring “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: The International March to Stop Gender Violence” on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at Drew University. Men are encouraged (but not required) to walk in women’s shoes. There is a \$3 registration fee. For more information, contact Rachel @ 610-568-6967.

Public Comment

- No public comment at this time.

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:35 pm.
 - Motion: Terri Belske; 2nd: Steven Neblett