

**MINUTES**  
**MORRIS COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YSAC)**  
**Morris County Human Services Building, 340 West Hanover Avenue, Ground Floor**  
**Conference Room, Morristown, New Jersey**  
**October 20, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Chair person Linda Seeley at 2:30 PM. Members present:

Elizabeth Manley	Danielle Wysocki
Lila Bernstein	Laurie Becker
John Dixon	Jill Cerullo
Juli Harpell-Elam (arrived late)	David Johnson
Neville Newton	David Johnston
Susan O'Donnell	Kathleen Leonard
Linda Seeley	Jeena Williams
Linda Wolk	Steven Neblett

Also in attendance:

Sylvia Lippe, Family Service of Morris County of Morris  
Tara LeGates, Morris County Youth Shelter and Juvenile Detention Center  
Laura Siemonsma-Bertelli, Morris County Sheriff's Office

Staff in attendance:

Rachelle Farese

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of member Steven Neblett, seconded by member Kathleen Leonard, the committee approved the minutes of September 15, 2011 regular meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS**

New Pathway SOAR Program

Mr. Allen Bradley presented the SOAR Program to the group. The SOAR Program incorporates physical fitness with twelve step (12) substance abuse programming. Youth are involved in IOP for three times per week for twelve (12) weeks. The program has contracts with various insurance companies and also has a sliding scale fee. Youth may be responsible for pay \$25 per day for all services including transportation. The SOAR Program has mandatory Saturday meetings with mandatory urine screenings. There is also random testing throughout the week. There is an adolescent psychiatrist on staff, a psychologist and LCADC staff. The adolescent psychiatrist is licensed by the American Society for Addictive Medicine. The agency also provides early intervention and relapse prevention for at-risk youth.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Creative Heartwork Subgrant Modification Request**

Rachelle Farese reviewed the subgrant modification request. Creative Heartwork submitted a subgrant modification because the original subgrant has one (1) one-week intensive summer workshop included; however, the agency did not have the referrals to hold the workshop. Creative Heartwork proposed to replace this workshop with a twelve (12) week workshop at the Morris County Youth Shelter for the same number of hours and cost as the original intensive summer workshop. Another part of the modification requested that the agency be able to include the parents of youth involved at a JBWS workshop.

After discussion, on motion by member David Johnston, seconded by member Lila Bernstein, the committee approved the Creative Heartwork subgrant modification request. (12-Aye; 0-Nay; 4-Abstain)

## **STATE REPORTS**

### **Juvenile Justice Commission**

Rachelle Farese informed the committee that Jim Saylor was unable to make it to the October meeting; however, he reported via e-mail that there were eight (8) Morris County youth in the NJ Training School, two (2) youth in JJC Fields Programs and one (1) youth in Burlington County Jail.

### **Division of Youth and Family Services**

David Johnston reported that Morris County received a total of 214 calls (50-CWS & 164 CPS). Morris East received eighty (80) calls (14-CWS & 66-CPS) and Morris West received 134 calls (36-CWS & 98-CPS). Mr. Johnston also reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference will be held on October 26, 2011. The conference will celebrate the 10 Year Anniversary of the Division of Child Behavioral Health. Also, DYFS issued an RFP for Evaluation, Treatment, Medication and Psychiatric Services for approximately \$1.4 million. The RFP can be found on the DCF website at [www.dcf.state.nj.us](http://www.dcf.state.nj.us). There is a mandatory bidders conference on October 27, 2011 in Trenton.

### **Department of Children and Families**

Jeena Williams reported that in September the Office of Advocacy celebrated its one year anniversary. From September 2010 and September 2011 the Office responded to over 4,000 calls. Their phone number is 1-877-543-7864 and their e-mail is [askdcf@dcf.state.nj.us](mailto:askdcf@dcf.state.nj.us). Also, in 2011, DCBHS is celebrating their ten year anniversary. In the ten (10) years, DCBHS has decreased out of home placements. Previously 35% of youth were placed out of home, now only 10% of the youth are placed out of home. In 2006 there were 327 youth in out of state placements, currently in 2011 there are only ten (10) youth out of state. Also, the system is now serving younger youth. Before only 40% of youth were younger than fourteen (14), currently 60% of youth are younger than fourteen (14).

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Planning Subcommittee**

The next meeting of the planning subcommittee will take place on Monday, October 3, 2011 at 10:00 AM at 30 Schuyler Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Morristown.

### **System Review Committee**

**Care Management Organization** – Liz Manley reported that the CMO census is currently at 188 and they are fully staffed. The Community Development dollars have been award to Youth Advocate Program (YAP) and Center for Prevention and Counseling (CPC). YAP has been able to move through

their waiting list and CPC is accepting referrals. Also, ResourceNet is available on the internet at [www.morrisussexresourcenet.org](http://www.morrisussexresourcenet.org).

**Youth Case Management** –Stephannie Villota reported that YCM began the month with 185 youth; they received thirteen (13) new referrals (1-CCIS, 1-DYFS, 1-14 Day Plan, 1-Community, 1-CMO Step Down, 1-Mobile Response, 7-Needs Assessment). Four (4) families did not accept services and twenty five (25) families were transitioned out. YCM ended the month with 169 families and worked with 198 families throughout August 2011.

**CCIS** – Ginny Conlin reported that the CCIS census is eighteen (18). CCIS has moved into their swing unit. There are only nine (9) rooms in the swing unit and they have to hold census at a maximum of twenty three (23) youth; however, they are frequently under census to address the youth's needs more efficiently. The CCIS is expecting to be back in their original space within twelve (12) weeks.

**Mobile Response & Stabilization Services** – Jennifer Oatley reported that Mobile Response received thirty five (35) calls which resulted in thirty two (32) dispatches. Of those dispatches, twenty two (22) were for Morris. MRSS transitioned forty two (42) cases and had eighty two (82) in stabilization at the end of the month. MRSS received one (1) school referral in Sussex County (Park Lake School). Service gaps for Morris County included: girls support groups, Spanish speaking neurologist, social skills group/girls group and anger management.

**Family Support Organization** – Shauna Gregory reported that the FSO provided one and a half (1.5) hours of peer support groups, eighteen (18) people attended support groups, eleven (11) new families were referred to the FSO and seen face-to-face by the FSO, sixty three (63) families are receiving peer support, 285 hours of peer support was provided to CMO families and there were twenty nine (29) calls to the warm line. Madeline Lozowski reported that the new parent support group "Parents on the Lake" has been well attended. The FSO is now providing Tough Choices Beyond Anger Management. The NAMI groups are now running with fifteen (15) families. The FSO continues to struggle with participation in the Youth Partnership.

**Division of Youth and Family Services** – David Johnston reported that the Sussex Quality Review went fairly well. The reviewers reviewed some complicated cases and have reached out to Dave to be a reviewer in other counties. Mr. Johnston also informed the group that the DYFS contract with St. Clare's Center for Protection of Children will end on December 31, 2011; however, an extension may be provided to ensure that current families are transitioned from the program appropriately. DYFS is currently in the process of finalizing the RFP for services. Jeena Williams reported that Jean Marimon is stepping down from the DYFS Director position to become Area Director for Bergen/Hudson. Valerie Kelly, the former Bergen/Hudson Director, is becoming DYFS Deputy Director of Adoption, Resource Families, and Licensing. Kara Wood, Chief of Staff, is acting DYFS Director until a permanent director is appointed. Susan Jones is Morris East Local Office Manager effective 9/12/11. She is the former DYFS Deputy Director of Operations.

**Division of Developmental Disability** – Wendy Zoccola reported that DDD is moving forward with transitional day programs for those young adults that aged out of the educational system at age 21 this past June. The Division is continuing to be able to provide fewer services for fewer youth. This may affect supports and placements throughout other systems as well. Elizabeth Manley suggested that it may be helpful for the group if Ms. Zoccola could provide the numbers of youth that are being affected.

**Division of Child Behavioral Health Services** – Rachelle Farese reported that the CIACC Conveners met on Friday, September 16, 2011. Jessica Trombetta, director of the Office of Adolescent Services, presented information about the Office. Previously, the services offered were only available to DYFS youth. Currently, they are open to all DCBHS youth. The Office has created a strategic plan that focuses on housing, education and employment for those youth aging out of the child serving system. The Bergen Youth Advisory Board worked with the Office to enact the Luggage Act. The act states that no youth is to be moved with his/her belongings in garbage bags. Wal-Mart donated 7,000 bags. The Office is also working with Rutgers to provide DYFS workers around the state with Adolescent Certificates. The course is a fifteen (15) credit course and is mostly available on-line to allow access for the workers. For more information, please contact Juanita Blair at 609-292-1000. DCBHS has a new

Educational Partnership Initiative in which they provide technical assistance, through McKinney-Vento, to those Counties that have had trouble starting a partnership or who have an interest but have not started yet. The Medicaid Comprehensive Waiver proposal was released this the week of September 12, 2011. It is available on the website. Currently, DCBHS is focusing on preparing to implement the Comprehensive Waiver within the next six (6) months. The System Review Committee discussed parts of the waiver that indicated that Medicaid eligibility may be based on diagnosis, not income and that parents may be eligible through the waiver as well.

**CSA** – Jeena Williams reported that recently the intensity of service determinations by Perform Care has been inconsistent. Many times the referral source has to re-refer and get a redetermination to get the appropriate intensity of service determination. Laura Woody reported that there is lag time between services, especially when youth are coming from the CMO into YCM. Ms. Woody also reported that Perform Care requires additional clinical information before YCM is able to refer youth up to the CMO level of care. Essentially, YCM has to put clinical services in place before Perform Care will upgrade them to CMO. Elizabeth Manley reported that the CMO census numbers have been extremely low since this summer. The numbers have not been at this level since the selection team ended, before the census was raised to 200 youth.

**Youth Shelter** – Nacie Arnold reported that there were currently six (6) youth in the Shelter (4-males, 2-females; 3-Morris, 1-Sussex, 1-Hunterdon and 1-Warren).

**Morris Juvenile Detention Center** – No report.

**Probation** – Mark Ripatrazone reported that there are currently 280 youth on formal probation. 50% are deferred and 50% are on regular probation. Tracey Skop reported that intake received 157 new cases, disposed of 152 and has 151 pending.

**JJC** – Rachelle Farese reported that in the past month, two (2) Morris County youth were put in JJC custody.

**System Struggles** – The system is experiencing a number of adolescent IOP closures. St. Clare's is closing their IOP in both Morris and Sussex Counties. St. Clare's Center for Protection of Children is also closing. There were many concerns raised about the unavailability of these services and the impact on the system moving forward.

**System Successes** – Nacie Arnold informed the committee about a youth in the Youth Shelter that had been placed there from the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). This youth was placed in the JDC because she assaulted a police officer. This youth had a bad reputation and a long history with the system, including family issues and substance abuse. DYFS and CMO were able to get the youth linked to her previous therapist and the youth was placed at East Mountain Youth Lodge. In the month that the youth was at the shelter, there was a complete turnaround in behavior and this youth took on a leadership role and being a mentor to other youth. The Shelter invited the youth back to the Shelter after placement to talk with residents about her experience.

**Aging Out/Aging In Task Force** – The Aging Out/In Task Force will be meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2011. The group is currently seeking presentations. Anyone that would like to present was encouraged to contact Rachelle Farese.

The next meeting of the system review committee will take place on Monday, October 24, 2011 at 9:30 AM at 200 Valley Road, Suite 406, Mt. Arlington.

### **Legislative Subcommittee**

The subcommittee discussed the 2010-2011 tracked legislation. There were two (2) updates. Bill number A1561 was passed on September 16, 2011. This bill permitted diversionary programming for juveniles who are criminally charged for "sexting" or posting sexual images. Bill number A973 received an absolute veto on September 13, 2011. This bill created a Juvenile Transfer Task Force to examine the procedures in which a youth is waived to the adult system. The subcommittee also discussed and created the slate for the YSAC 2012 chair and co-chair positions.

The next meeting of the Legislative subcommittee is to be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.

### **Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Program Subcommittee**

The subcommittee did not meet in October or November.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Program subcommittee will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at 30 Schuyler Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Morristown.

### **Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee**

Subcommittee did not meet in October. Morris County Prevention is Key hosted a cultural competency training entitled *How to feel welcomed when in reality...You're Not*. The training provided by MCPIK allowed the DMC Subcommittee to achieve one (1) of the proposed goals from the 2009-2011 County Comprehensive Youth Services Plan. The DMC subcommittee assisted by sending invitations to the YSAC, Morris County juvenile officers and Morris County probation. The training was successful with three (3) law enforcement professionals, five (5) probation staff and other youth serving professions in attendance. Rachelle Farese and Liz Manley met with MC PIK staff, Daniele Elizaire, after the training to discuss additional training opportunities and ways to increase the attendance and diversity of professions at the next event.

The next meeting of the DMC Subcommittee will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the Morris County Department of Human Services, Morristown.

### **Education Partnership Subcommittee**

Subcommittee met on September 22, 2011. The subcommittee discussed the Cross Training scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup>:

- Reviewed Power Points from System of Care- Maria Augustowicz will put together everyone's Power Point, so it will be one continuous presentation.
- Reviewed agenda for the day- Maria Augustowicz will email a draft of the agenda to the planning committee to finalize.
- Packets will be made for attendees- Materials will include: agenda, Power Points, System Partners contact information, list of resource fair providers (with contact information), DCBHS flyer, list of acronyms, index cards for Q & A, and survey.
- Coffee- Rachelle will confirm if we will have coffee for the training.

Maria Augustowicz will email everyone the Power Points, agenda, acronym list, contact information, etc. by next week. The group also discussed the Pediatrician Partnership Initiative. Jeffrey Guenzel, Director of DCBHS, was present at the meeting. He discussed piloting a similar partnership with pediatricians in Morris County. Further discussions will be held. Discussion was had regarding the December Cross Training. Jeffrey Guenzel will reach out to Dr. Beirne to see availability for training. Other potential presenters were also discussed if Dr. Beirne was not available.

The October 19<sup>th</sup> cross training went very well. All of the surveys came back with positive and constructive feedback.

The next meeting of the Education Partnership Planning Subcommittee will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2011 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**

There are no community reports at this time.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There is no old business at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There is no new business at this time.

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jill Cerullo introduced Tara LeGates. Tara is the new Social Services Coordinator for the Morris County Youth Shelter and Juvenile Detention Center.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 2:30 PM.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 3:15 PM, member and co-chair Linda Seeley moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Elizabeth Manley seconded and all approved by voice vote.

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.*