



# COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

## HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



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**REFERENCE:**

- Council
- Mental Health
- Youth
- Disabled
- Substance Abuse
- Transportation

Approved November 16, 2016

### YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

#### Regular Meeting

**Wednesday September 28, 2016, 12:30 p.m.**  
**Law Library, Second Floor**  
**Hunterdon Justice Center**

#### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

F. Brown	*A. Menes
S. Bruder	*K. Pazoga
S. Laputka	
J. Marino	
J. McKeon	
S. Rozycki	

#### EX-OFFICIO

C. Baxevane  
L. Lupo

#### STAFF

D. Childers  
D. Paulmeno

#### GUESTS

R. Marks  
J. Fields

\*Designees

- I. "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting has been provided in the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Courier News, and the Hunterdon Review. A public notice announcing this meeting has also been placed in the lobbies of the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, the first floor of the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street Building #1, Flemington, NJ; the first floor of the Route 12 County Complex, Building #1, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ and County Clerk's Office."
- II. MINUTES: The Minutes of the July 27, 2016 meeting were approved.
- III. REPORTS:
  - A. Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC): D. Childers reported that CIACC will be hosting a parent educational event on Thursday, September 29, 2016 discussing the topic of "Anxiety in Children & Adolescence How Much is Too Much". The presenter is Dr. Gail Burack, a licensed clinic psychologist and certified school psychologist. The event is scheduled to run from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm with provided refreshments, raffle chances and a Q&A period.

**B. Department of Children and Families – Children’s System of Care (CSOC):**

- i. **Tri-County Care Management Organization (CMO):** The total census as of September 27, 2016 for the CMO (Hunterdon, Somerset, Warren) is 546 youths with moderate or high level behavioral acuity. 107 (20 percent of total enrollment) are Hunterdon County youths with both levels. Perform care relegates them into either moderate behavioral or high behavioral.

The current living situations for the high behavioral youth are that 16 of the 23 (70 percent) live at home. The remaining seven are in alternate treatment such as residential treatment centers, partial care, etc. and two are placed in out-of-state. In terms of the moderate youth, currently there are a total of 84 of the 107. The current living situation is 79% or 67 of the 84 that are living at home, five that are in resource homes and the remaining are in out of home such as residential treatment, partial care, shelter, etc.

The referral sources for both the moderate and high behavioral primarily emanate from mobile response stabilization, DCP&P, providers, families and children’s crisis intervention services. As reported earlier effective this year, the agency for each of the counties has been reporting on the towns or municipalities in which the youth parents and guardians are residing. Not surprisingly, the numbers correlate with the density of the location. There have been higher numbers reported in Flemington and in the southern part of the county, while the northern sections such as Clinton Township have reported lesser numbers.

- ii. **Tri-County Family Support Organization (FSO):** In E. Deusinger’s absence, D. Childers provided an updated readout. In August 2016, there were 30 new families referred to the FSO. All 30 families were seen face-to-face and 245 families actively received peer support and 587 peer support hours. Of the 245 active families, 17 percent were from Hunterdon County.

In terms of outreach for August 2016, there were 39 warm line contacts to and from the FSO. Additionally, there were two support groups provided and 4.5 hours of support group provided with nine attendees. Five Hunterdon youths participated in Youth Partnership in August and 15 partook in the Youth Partnership Activities.

- iii. **Tri-County Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS):** For August, 44 dispatches were combined for all three counties. 11 (25%) were from Hunterdon County, which is very good for our county. The referral sources were: one from DCP&P, four from the DCP&P project initiative, one from screening, one from school, one from police and three from parent-only. The racial breakdowns are as follows: three were African-American, seven were Caucasian and one was Hispanic.

16 children were discharged in August. Nine went on to outpatient services, one to FSO, two to the CMO, one to Intensive Outpatient Program and three to outgoing IOC Services.

- C. **N.J. Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P):** In August, DCP&P received 40 requests for investigations. There were 244 children active and receiving services. 26 children are in out-of-home placement, with 22 placed in resource homes, two are in a treatment home, one is in a youth residential facility and one was placed with a family friend.

- D. N.J. Juvenile Justice Commission (NJJC):** D. Childers reported that the 2017 funding application for Hunterdon County was reviewed and should receive comments by the following week.
- E. School Based Youth Services:** No report at this time.
- F. Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU):** The FCIU currently has 17 youth open cases (16 in the FCIU and one in Detention). The leading reasons for referrals are truancy and family conflict. In addition, there is an increase in substance abuse involving youth with the underlying reasoning again for some youths being truancy and family conflict.

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Youth Participation** – D. Childers advised the commission of historical youth participation in the Youth Services Commission meetings. At one point, the Youth Services Commission used to meet later in the day to help accommodate their school schedules. D. Childers inquired if it would be useful to begin inviting youth again to participate. A positive comment was quickly made to definitely extend an invitation. It would be very beneficial, helpful and interesting to hear from their prospective along with the services and events that could be shared. A question was asked as to where to locate interested young people to participate. D. Childers responded to maybe starting inquiry with the high school guidance counselors would be a good start. They could identify and suggest any children that would be interested in getting involved. A. Menes interjected that she believes her youth coalition would love to get involved. Another suggestion was to reach-out to the Family Support Organization and the youth involved in the Youth Partnership. D. Childers suggested holding the meeting later in the day to accommodate the youths' schedules and transportation needs. Also, maybe if there is enough youth interest, they could institute a sub-committee. Sometimes it can be overwhelming for teenagers attending meetings with adults. L. Zimmerman offered a comment regarding the Somerset County Youth Services Commission meeting she had recently attended. Jack Bennett, from the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office spoke about a program at this meeting called the START (Steps to Action Recovery & Treatment) initiative, which was introduced to healthcare providers, law enforcement and first responders during a special program and training by the New Jersey State Police on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 on the current trends and conditions of drug trafficking opiates to heroin. Packets of information will be given out by law enforcement, first responders through the Hunterdon Medical Center's Emergency Room and Hunterdon Prevention Resources. A. Menes mentioned, in Hunterdon County, the packet contains the Hunterdon County Resource Guide to Adolescent and Young Adult Services, information provided by Hunterdon Healthcare on services provided by Hunterdon Behavioral Health, the 911-Good Samaritan Law, the Overdose Prevention Act, Crime Stoppers and the Prosecutor's Office Victims Witness Unit. L. Zimmerman continued that J. Bennett commented about the underutilization of both Outpatient and Residential Services for youth with substance abuse. Much concern was raised given the epidemic of heroin across the counties. It is a great idea to incorporate this epidemic into the invitation for the youth so they may provide their input and feedback. Some questioning as to "why is it occurring and what seems to be the barrier?" There is such an acute need for treatment but for some reason it is not

happening. A. Menes added that the top two referrals for the Law Enforcement Adolescent Program (LEAP) are underage drinking and possession of less than 50 grams of substance. They are trying to change the perspective of parents of downplaying the severity of the charges imposed on their youth. It is a big issue! Some parents do not treat it as a serious situation. Sherriff Brown added the START Program began here in Hunterdon County. Heroin abuse in our county is unbelievable. The parents need to be educated. There is a tremendous amount of denial, allowing children to engage in smoking marijuana with their friends. They are not enforcing rules for children that have a drug problem or have been arrested. The parents must be supportive. A question was asked, "Then how do we devise workshops, event, etc. targeted for parents to market and promote in such a way that they do not become defensive?" Free events such as Community Conversation are currently held at the schools, partnered with the Prosecutor's Office to help educate the parents. There is also a family support group run by a peer group to help support parent who lost a child, although, it is very challenging to host evening parent events with very little attendance. D. Childers stated that new methods and outside of the box thinking is needed because parents do not attend events. Maybe do small webinars attached to the schools. D. Paulmeno added that for students to get a driving pass, they must attend an instructional event, which includes information about substance misuse. A suggestion was made for the committee to go to where most people in Hunterdon County go, i.e. grocery store, church, sporting events, wellness centers and provide educational messages, videos, etc. Hunterdon Prevention is working very closely with family physicians and pharmacies providing START packets so when they see someone who is at risk, they can provide the support needed. When someone comes in for an annual physical, they will receive a two-page handout on safe disposal and risk of drug use. Hunterdon Prevention is open to expanding and including other resources. Another great idea was raised to begin educating on Middle School PTO and PTA's. Hearing from a parent who faced a tragedy is more powerful than hearing the county has a "heroin epidemic".

Judge Marino asked about any applicable mentoring programs specifically for boys. This has been an ongoing issue for some time now. Maybe focus on organizations with young men to help mentor these young boys in need of attention. A large concern for Big Brother/Big Sister's funding is that it had been cut and services are limited in Hunterdon. Tri County has the ability through their flex-funding to contract with agencies that provide mentors for \$25 - \$30 an hour. The mentor is authorized to work with the youth on specific goals and can range throughout the youth's enrollment. Another idea is to search for mentors at colleges (RVCC/the Lion's Board) to go to games, help with social issues such as making friends, etc. Thoughts to encourage the community college to implement a program giving service hours, internship or credit to students to help children was well-received. This is a very important component. D. Childers will research and provide more information at the November meeting.

**VI. AGENCY NEWS:**

**VII. ADJOURN:** The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 16, 2016 in the Law Library at the Hunterdon County Justice Center.