

# **Monmouth County Youth Services Commission**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

**Minutes**

**4:00 PM**

## **CALL TO ORDER: OPEN PUBLIC MEETING'S ACT Amy Fischer**

The meeting was called to order, and the Open Public Meetings Act statement was shared. Welcome and Introductions were completed. The December 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved.

## **YSC CO-CHAIR REPORT**

**Dustin Knoblauch**

Dustin shared that the YSC is seeking a YSC Chairs. Desiree Whyte will temporarily fill in.

## **YSC ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

**Dustin Knoblauch**

Ellen Cohen continues to be on extended medical leave. Please reach out to Dustin Knoblauch – Director of the Division of Child and Youth Services during this time. Agencies should have received 2024 Contracts and Purchase Orders.

The Division of Child and Youth Services is accepting RFP's for Youth Based Behavioral Health.

## **OFFICE OF CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES**

**Dustin Knoblauch**

The Division collaborated with Tom Fichter of the Prosecutor's Office to deliver a third presentation to the Juvenile Officers in March 2024. The Division, along with several other YSC providers continue to participate in the Gun Violence Reduction Initiative facilitated by Probation. The Ed Partnership coordinated a presentation on School Refusal presented by Ira Hays, LCSW; this was well received.

The next Positive Youth Development Hub is scheduled for May 3rd at 10am via Zoom. Monmouth Regional HS students will share with the group; Detective Shawn Murphy to share on the School Threat Assessment. The hub has identified priority areas and will be gathering in work groups to discuss. The Youth Violence and Gang Awareness Work Group will host a training on 5/24/24 at Monmouth University – "Know the Gang Signs." Topics include: State, county, local trends. The Safe and Free Place Work Group are developing a youth-based survey.

The next CIACC meeting (4/17/24) will take place at Red Bank Regional hosted by the SOURCE; students will participate in the meeting.

**EDUCATIONAL UPDATES**

**Dr. Richens**

SEL continues to be a substantial topic. Information regarding the Child Family Crisis Clinician (CFCC) program through Monmouth Medical has been shared with school districts. The CFCC program offers in community youth assessments in an effort to divert youth from the Emergency Room.

**PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE**

**Raymond Santiago**

**Merlin Thomas**

Merlin shared about the Juvenile Officer’s Training that took place in March; positive feedback provided. The training addressed updates to juvenile law. An amendment to the Juvenile Rights to Council was made in January 2024. Per VASPA, an application can be made if a victim; this cannot be done in peer to peer cases. Juvenile Officer’s Training to be held on consistent basis; the next will take place in a few months. Please share topics of discussion.

Prosecutor Santiago shared the impact of bail reform. There is concern for the number juvenile car thefts and gun violence; legislative reform for juvenile justice is being explored. We are encouraged to think about realistic suggestions to be best inform.

**COURT AND PROBATION UPDATES**

**Amy Fischer**

**Caitlin Mejia**

**Katherine Wardlow**

Katie shared positive news; Juvenile hit all time low for cases, 7 total. The next training for JJC volunteers will focus on Microaggressions and Implicit Bias.

Caitlyn shared that Probation is offering Job Readiness and Life Skills Training. Probation is thankful to the Department of Education and Dr. Richens for the joining the Gun Violence Reduction Initiative (GVRI).

Judge O’Connor has accepted another position; Judge Lemieux is the acting judge. Amy Fischer will be retiring July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Dedication and tribute were made to Judge Thornton in March, 2024; thankful for those that could attend and take part.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**OLD BUSINESS** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None

**ADJOURNMENT**