

Monmouth County Youth Services Commission

Tuesday, June 4, 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 Tuesday April 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes were approved.

YSC CO-CHAIR REPORT

Desiree Whyte/Dustin Knoblauch

Dustin shared that the YSC is seeking YSC Chairs. Desiree Whyte will temporarily fill in and stated that Ellen Cohen continues to be on extended medical leave. Also, we are getting ready for the site visits. Currently reaching out to volunteers who are interested in being part of the review team.

YSC ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Dustin Knoblauch

Dustin shared that Kathleen Peterson has returned as of May 1, 2024, and that her duties will be more of an administrative role. Any JDAI issues, concerns or information needed should be directed to Ivan Kaplan.

OFFICE OF CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

Dustin Knoblauch

The Division is preparing for our annual site visits. There are (9) agencies that will participate and part of Kathleen's administrative role will be to facilitate the site reviews. County Administration is streamlining the site visit process, so agencies with multiple county based contracts can anticipate one visit only.

INNOVATIONS PROPOSALS VOTE TOOK PLACE: APPROVAL FOR RENEWING FOR 2025

STEADY PROGRAM-JDAI

FAMILY NAVIGATOR FUNDING (C.T.)

*Explore and review further options

12 votes all in favor

2 votes abstained.

K.S.- motion

L.S.-second

APPROVED

On Friday May 24, 2024, KNOW THE GANG SIGNS was held at Monmouth University from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Approximately 65 people attended from many agencies.

Dustin reported that comments and feedback were significantly positive. Certificate of attendance were emailed to attendees.

The next CIACC meeting (6/12/24) will take place at the Human Services Building -3000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold in room 316 at 10:00 a.m. This will be a hybrid meeting and zoom attendance will also be available.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATES

Dr. Richens

Dr. Richens shared that this is the “most happiest” time of the year for students. The year is winding down and school is almost finished until the fall. Please note that programs will be offered through out the summer and to keep in mind that there is still learning loss from the pandemic. Encourage all to get children involved in school programs. We did have student losses and when tragedies like this occur, we can’t stress enough the mental health of our students. He encourages us to have a safe and healthy summer. To please spend time with our youth as it is especially meaningful to support their mental health.

PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE

Raymond Santiago

Thomas Fichter

Tom Fichter, Director of the Family Division shared the Juvenile Officer’s Training that took place was well received and positive feedback provided. The training addressed updates to juvenile law. An amendment to the Juvenile Rights to counsel was made in January 2024. Family court staff came in and filled out complaints well. We have 52 municipalities that normally do their own thing. A discussion on bodiless warrants took place and Amy Fischer added that the AOC is working this out. More education on the subject matter of extremist groups was discussed. Having a briefing sheet to distribute would be helpful. Our younger APs are doing well.

Prosecutor Santiago shared that Thomas Fichter-Director of Family Division reported thoroughly.

COURT AND PROBATION UPDATES

Amy Fischer

Amy shared how difficult the hiring process has been at the judiciary. It seems new hires are taking positions at the judiciary and then leaving within a few weeks. Amy stated that they are reporting they are accepting positions that are offering higher pay and better positions. Amy reported that Judge Marc Lemieux, Judge Richard English and Judge Jill Grace O’Malley will continue to cover Juvenile dockets. Judge Ellen Torregossa-O’Connor is in appellate court and starting Thursday, July 1,2024 will also be doing the FO calendar. In mid-July the new assignment order for Judge’s will be announced and September 1, 2024, new family PJ will be announced. Amy closed with how hard they are working on back log reduction and that the goal is to be finished by her last day (July

1, 2024). Many of the commission members offered well wishes to Amy for her retirement and for all her future endeavors and thanked her for all her hard work and dedication.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEW BUSINESS None

OLD BUSINESS None

PUBLIC COMMENT None

ADJOURNMENT - Prosecutor Santiago -motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned.