

Salem County Youth Services Commission Meeting Minutes  
May 1, 2019



**YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION**  
Administered By  
**Inter Agency Council of Human Services**

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98 Market Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079  
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Jean Kuhl  
Chairperson

Jim Whitt  
Vice-Chairperson

**YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION and JUVENILE CRIME ENFORCEMENT COALITION**

Meeting Attendance: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Allison Ford	<u><b>Pittsgrove Middle School</b></u>	Jennifer Rodriquez	<u><b>Youth Advocate Programs</b></u>
Armando Gonzalez	<u><b>SC Probation</b></u>	Jim Whitt	<u><b>Ranch Hope</b></u>
Christine Graves	<u><b>FCIU/MRSS</b></u>	Joe Micarelli	<u><b>Quinton Township Middle School</b></u>
Chuck Goldstein	<u><b>CGS-CMO</b></u>	Joyce Grazier	<u><b>Penns Grove High School</b></u>
David Cruz	<u><b>JJC Juvenile Parole</b></u>	Lionel Woodley	<u><b>CGS-FSO</b></u>
Dawn Reed	<u><b>SODAT-NJ</b></u>	Melanie Ernest	<u><b>Executive Director, IAC</b></u>
Ed Ramsey	<u><b>Community Resident</b></u>	Nicholas Efelis	<u><b>SC Prosecutor's Office</b></u>
Erin Klein	<u><b>Robin's Nest</b></u>	Pam Comerford	<u><b>SC Board of Social Services</b></u>
Frank Carozza	<u><b>Youth Services, IAC</b></u>	Peggy Nicolosi	<u><b>SC Superintendent</b></u>
Gabrielle Hall	<u><b>Public Defender</b></u>	Rebecca DiLisciandro	<u><b>SC Mental Health Admin</b></u>
Greg Wolf	<u><b>Family Court</b></u>	Ron Hudak	<u><b>CGS-CMO</b></u>
Heather Vankleef	<u><b>SC Juvenile Probation</b></u>	Sarah Kuhl	<u><b>Rutgers Southern Regional</b></u>
Jack Swain	<u><b>Superintendent SC Vo-tech</b></u>	Spencer Young	<u><b>JJC Liaison</b></u>
Jean Kuhl	<u><b>Community Advocate</b></u>	Tiliya King	<u><b>SUN/First Step Clinic</b></u>
Jenna Harvey	<u><b>Southwest Council</b></u>	Victoria Maurizio	<u><b>SC Drug and Alcohol Admin.</b></u>
Jennifer Knox	<u><b>Upper Pittsgrove SMILE Club</b></u>	William Ziegler	<u><b>Judge, Family Court</b></u>
Jerry Oglesby	<u><b>DCP&amp;P</b></u>		

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**I). Call to Order-**

The meeting was called to order at 12:30PM by Co-Chair Jim Whitt. Welcome and introductions were made around the room.

**II). Approval of the Minutes-**

***\*MOTION*** to approve the minutes from April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, was made by Jim Whitt with a second from Jack Swain. Motion passed with all in favor.

**III). Committee Reports-**

**Planning and Allocations** – (Ron Hudak)

Planning meeting scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at St. John’s Parrish from 1-4PM. The Monitoring team will report results out to Planning for 2020 programming facilitation.

**Quality Assurance** – (Armando Gonzalez)

Frank has completed of monitoring scheduling and the new lineup is as follows:

<b><u>Date/Time:</u></b>	<b><u>Location:</u></b>	<b><u>Program(s):</u></b>
<b>Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 <u>2:00PM-3:00PM</u></b>	<b>Penns Grove High School 334 Harding Hwy, Carneys Point, NJ 08069</b>	<b><u>Shining Stars-Follow-up visit</u></b>
<b>Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> <u>1:30PM-3:30PM</u></b>	<b>First Step Clinic 70 W. Broad St., Bridgeton, NJ 08302</b>	<b><u>Juvenile Drug and Alcohol Treatment</u></b>
<b>Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> <u>10:00AM-12:00 PM</u></b>	<b>Salem County Sheriff’s GPS Office 96 Market St. Salem, NJ 08079</b>	<b><u>Ankle Bracelet Program</u></b>
<b>Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> <u>10:00AM-12:00 PM</u></b>	<b>Arthur P. Schalick High School 718 Centerton Rd., Pittsgrove Township, NJ 08318</b>	<b><u>MENTORS Program</u></b>
<b>Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> <u>10:00AM-12:00PM</u></b>	<b>Upper Pittsgrove Middle School 235 Pine Tavern Rd., Monroeville, NJ 08343</b>	<b><u>S.M.I.L.E. Club</u></b>

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**IV). JET** – (Greg Wolf)

Greg reported that the next JETS meeting is scheduled for May 7th, 2019 at noon. There are currently (1) juvenile in detention and (1) on the Grounded program.

**V). Administrator's Report** – (Frank Carozza)

The 2020 Comprehensive Plan-Update documents have been released for completion and Frank expects to be completed by Mid-June to submit for a vote at July 3<sup>rd</sup>'s SCYSC Meeting.

Cumberland County and Salem County have partnered together on the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant- Comprehensive School-Based Approach to Youth Violence and Victimization for Salem and Cumberland Counties. Frank is currently sending out requests for Letters of Support from YSC members.

Hopeworks N' Camden Website Launch is Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at The College of NJ – Education Center 2000 Pennington Rd, Ewing Township, NJ. Please register on Eventbrite if you plan on attending to support the work of the Salem County Youth Services Commission, please accept Frank's Outlook invite and register. The AG's office, JJC, and NJ County Administrators and guests will be in attendance. Carmen Day will be opening the ceremony as a former youth on probation in Judge Dortch's courtroom, who now is graduating Law School.

As we approach the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, Frank reported that First Step Clinic has spent only \$1,120.00 of a (\$66,777.00) allocation. YAP has spent \$6,241.21 of a \$15,000.00 allocation. These two programs should be closely tracked in the event that a budget modification needs to be performed to ensure that the maximum amount of youth are served with focus on spending down the YSC's total award funding.

**VI). JJC Liaison Report-** (Spencer Young)

No report.

**VII). Provider Reports-** (All Vendors)

A). **Robins' Nest Programming-** (Justin Caruso)

- Connect II Program- Currently serving (4) youth with (1) open slots for service.
- Grounded- Currently serving (1) youth with (1) slot available.

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- Cognitive Skills Program- Serving (7) youth for the Spring Cycle and have anticipate hosting graduation in May. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of programming is set to begin in late August or early September.

B). **YAP**- (Jennifer Rodriquez)

YAP is year to date has served (15) youth. Currently serving (4) Diversion and (1) Prevention Youth. YAP is continuing Pay It Forward and PATTS programming and is accepting referrals with no waitlist. Anti-theft and anger management programming is continuing as scheduled. YAP is opening an outpatient mental-health program in Oldman school for children ages 5 and up.

C). **Quinton Township School**- (Joe Micarelli for Stu Potter)

(41) Students were served in 2018 with 2019 updated programming currently being planned. Field trip schedules are currently being finalized and will be planned with usually scheduled activities for youth.

D). **Pittsgrove Middle School**- (Allison Ford for Priscilla Ocasio-Jimenez)

P.R.I.D.E.- Clubs are coming to a close for year with (360) total youth served.

Renaissance (Anti-Gang) – (506) Youth served with the next cycle programming set to continue in 2019.

E). **Penns Grove High School**- (Joyce Grazier for Sharon Riley)

There are currently (29) students enrolled in Shining Stars.

For the month of May, PGHS is currently providing (3) special assemblies for events for drug and alcohol prevention. Current planned activities include a volleyball tournament this evening, darts of War, a trip to the Franklin Institute (May 24<sup>th</sup>), and May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Cape May Zoo for LGBTQA youth.

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F). **First-Step Clinic-** (Tiliya King for Rosemarie Cuevas)

Year to date, First Step Clinic have received (5) youth referrals- (5) of those youth have received drug and alcohol evaluations, and (1) youth is enrolled in the program for treatment. Tiliya shared a success story of (1) Salem juvenile that was referred to the program completed treatment and the youth's father reported significant positive improvement in their relationship. First Step is currently not receiving the volume of referrals that they would like considering their award amount. Also, (1) Youth has been a no-call no-show without any attempt to reschedule.

Armando noted that there was (1) youth that has been referred within the last week that has been pending intake for more time than usual. A staff member at Probation reported that the youth was requested to provide their own transportation when First Step provides that as part of their services. Tiliya requested that he personally call First Step Clinic for a resolution after the meeting.

G). **Upper Pittsgrove Middle School-** (Jenny Knox)

Jenny reported SMILE Club is currently serving (21) youth all of which are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Year to date, they have spent \$1,573.00 and are well into programming. The youth just wrapped up a Easter egg project at the Eleanor Corbett House (shelter). There were (15) middle school underclassmen to match with the (12) SMILE Club youth participants. The youth set-up games and activities while celebrating youth birthdays. The youth had such a good time; they asked if they were allowed to attend the shelter outside of school hours which is a strong indicator that the program's mission is working. (21) Youth collectively wrote a book with illustrations about being kind to others. The book is being published on Friday, and it should be ready in about three weeks. *The Smile Zoo* will be released to certain areas and is available to obtain by requests to Jenny.

Current planned activities include projects include making peanut butter sandwiches and bowls for the Unforgotten Haven, and the Ronald MacDonald House. Jenny also took a moment to publically thank the Southwest Council for recent programming that took place at UPMS.

H). **A.P Schalick High School-** (Tiffany Duca)

Tiffany began by thanking Frank for all the support and guidance in the grant process. Tiffany reported having great additional support from the district and is busy and optimistic. In the first quarter, (331) youth were served. Now that the planning/allocations committee

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approved the MENTORS Summer expansion budget, funds will begin to be spent down accordingly. The summer program will be launching for the first time after the approval of the Board on May 9<sup>th</sup>, @ 7:00PM- All are welcomed to attend. Due to the positive support and collaboration in participation and transportation, funds now are arranged to where the entire 10k award will be used for only programming and not transportation. Tiffany is excited to now be able to expand the program, and thanked the Commission for all of their support.

**VIII). JDAI Report** – (Armando Gonzalez/Jack Swain)

Armando began by sharing a sentiment that it was really nice to finally see two years of planning and preparations come to fruition. The (B.R.I.D.G.E) Program started on April 16<sup>th</sup>, and already has already begun showing positive results. The youth are engaged and interested, and (1) youth who missed the bus, found their own transportation to get to class.

SODAT has been selected as the Probation Enrichment Program provider pending YSC the vote at scheduled for this meeting.

Jack Swain reported that there have been (3) sessions to date (16<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>). The current cycle will be running until June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with classes being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30-6PM. There are currently (10) juveniles actively participating in programming with age ranges from 13-19. Out of participants there were (8) in-school youth, (1) out of school youth, and (1) high school graduate. Current programming started with the culinary trade where students learned knife-skills introduction, sanitary food preparation, weights and measurements, and safe operation of a barbeque grill. Trades were then overviewed, and the youth were able to participate on working on a diesel engine while being introduced to tools. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, the students prepared meals and learned safe preparation fish and poultry. The students continued to then receive overviews on building and electrical skills. College and career planning has now begun with the staff counselor performing one-on-one evaluations with youth. The follow up includes completing student GEDs/college diplomas, positive reward incentives for participation and attendance, job prep, and education on how to obtain driver's permits and licenses. Jack added that the transportation aspect of the program is up and running smoothly, and is currently inviting a school-resource officer to attend and joining during classes.

Peggy Nicolosi made the announcement that on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, she was joined by Ed Ramsey, Frank Carozza, Melanie Ernest, Jack Swain, and county administration to review and score SODAT's proposal submission to provide JDAI Probation Enrichment and Transportation services. The goal of the program is to help youth understand the terms of their probation while incentivizing them to positively complete it. The grant award is for (\$38,087.00) with approximately half of that going toward salaries and benefits for SODAT facilitators. Peggy spoke on a few of the program components such as incentives, field trips, and a scheduled family dinner. One major points of focus is transportation, that

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will be provided by SODAT staff when needed or via private/public means as a last resort. It was noted overall that the presentation was well written and well received.

Dawn Reed-Snell from was present to accept the award on behalf of SODAT, and gave a brief introduction on some of the work that she and SODAT are doing in Cumberland for both PET and Cognitive Skills. She thanked the Commission for the ability to assist and serve Salem County with the awarding of the contract, and looks forward to mimicking Cumberland County's successful outcomes in providing Probation Enrichment programming for Salem County. She is always available to answer questions and open to any feedback members may have.

***\*MOTION** to approve SODAT of NJ as the selected vendor to facilitate 2019 Probation Enrichment Programming with Transportation in the amount of (\$38, 087.00) was made by Chuck Goldstein with a second from Jack Swain. The motion passed with (15) Ayes, (0) Nays, and (3) Abstentions\**

Armando Gonzalez	SC Probation- <b>(Abstain)</b>
Christine Graves	FCIU/MRSS- <b>(Aye)</b>
Chuck Goldstein	CGS-CMO- <b>(Aye)</b>
Gabrielle Hall	Public Defender- <b>(Aye)</b>
Greg Wolf	Family Court- <b>(Abstain)</b>
Jack Swain	Superintendent SC Vo-tech- <b>(Aye)</b>
Jennifer Rodriquez	Youth Advocate Programs- <b>(Aye)</b>
Jim Whitt	Ranch Hope- <b>(Aye)</b>
Jerry Oglesby	DCP&P- <b>(Aye)</b>
Lionel Woodley	CGS-FSO- <b>(Aye)</b>
Nicholas Efelis	SC Prosecutor's Office- <b>(Aye)</b>
Pam Comerford	SC Board of Social Services- <b>(Aye)</b>
Peggy Nicolosi	SC Superintendent- <b>(Aye)</b>
Rebecca DiLisciandro	SC Mental Health Admin- <b>(Aye)</b>
Ron Hudak	CGS-CMO- <b>(Aye)</b>
Sarah Kuhl	Rutgers Southern Regional- <b>(Aye)</b>
Victoria Maurizio	SC Drug and Alcohol Admin. - <b>(Aye)</b>
William Ziegler	Judge, Family Court- <b>(Abstain)</b>

**IX). Salem County Law Enforcement Report-** (Brian Pennington)

No report.

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**X). Old Business-** None

**XI). New Business-** None

**XII). Announcements-**

- Jean Kuhl made an announcement that Big Ike's has a fishing education program at Riverview Park in Pennsville from 10-12PM on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Participating student will learn how to fish and receive their own fishing pole at the end.
- Jack Swain announced that last Saturday, the Vo-tech hosted their 4<sup>th</sup> annual car show with (219) vehicles on display. The event was a success and looks forward to next year's. Jack continued to announce that building restoration is continuing on the 67 Broadway Street from 9-12PM in Salem City. Any interested volunteers are encouraged to attend and participate. Children are allowed to participate as long as they sign the provided release.
- Jennifer Rodriguez announced that they are hosting a series of workshops in June for community with regards to juvenile justice reform in New Jersey. Once the dates are solidified, Jenn will share with Frank to forward to the Commission.
- Victoria Maurizio announced that there will be technology dependence seminar on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Salem Community college from 6-8PM in the events room- all are welcome to attend.
- Jenna Harvey of the Southwest Council announced that Camp YEY (Camp Edge) registration is closed for youth in 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades (100 pre-registered youth). For campers in 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, registration is still open and transportation will be provided from central locations. Also, the Southwest Council's Youth Tobacco Action Groups have been initiated and are offering seminars to groups of youth by request to Jenna. Please contact her for more information.
- Ron Hudak announced that Garden State Psychiatric Center is opening up their fully Medicaid provider services for psychiatric evaluations. Please contact him for more information.

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**XIII). Jean's Gems-** (Jean Kuhl)

Jean shared a story of how in her time as a teacher, she ran vacation bible schools to teach youth in the community about God's love. She noted that sometimes when working with youth, one doesn't always see the fruit of their labors. During one year's class, Jean's group had an opportunity to present the importance of seeds. Each child played a different role acting as the seed, sun, and earth. As the program concluded and the kids moved off the stage, one youth remained seated for a long while as a seed that had not yet sprouted. As some time had passed waiting for them to make up their mind, the youth then jumped up after everyone had shuffled off-stage and exclaimed, "I'm grown now"! The moral of the story is planting the seed is the first step to creating something great. With some patience, the seed will eventually sprout.

**XIV). Adjournment-**

\*A motion to adjourn was made by Armando Gonzalez with a second from Chuck Goldstein. Motion passed with all in favor.

*The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM*

*The next Salem County Youth Services meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5th, 2019, at 12:30PM.*

*Location: St. John's Parrish Hall 76 Market St. Salem, NJ 08079.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Frank Carozza*