

Salem County Youth Services Commission Meeting Minutes  
June 5th, 2019



Board of Chosen Freeholders

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

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98 Market Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079  
Telephone: 856-935-7510 x 8314 Facsimile: 856-935-7747

Jean Kuhl  
Chairperson

Jim Whitt  
Vice-Chairperson

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

Meeting Attendance: June 5th, 2019

Allison Ford	<u>Pittsgrove Middle School</u>	Jerry Oglesby	<u>DCPP</u>
Amber Smith	<u>SODAT of NJ</u>	Jim Whitt	<u>Ranch Hope</u>
Angela Williams	<u>A.P Schalick High School</u>	Jodie Loufik	<u>Girl Scouts-Central/Southern NJ</u>
Armando Gonzalez	<u>SC Probation</u>	John Stranahan	<u>Penns Grove PD</u>
Brian Pennington	<u>SCSD</u>	Joshua Bruno	<u>Southwest Council SCRATCH</u>
David Cruz	<u>JJC Juvenile Parole</u>	Justin Caruso	<u>Robin's Nest</u>
Dawn Reed	<u>SODAT of NJ</u>	Laurie Spears	<u>SC FCIU/MRSS</u>
Ed Ramsey	<u>Salem Resident</u>	Lionel Woodley	<u>CGS-FSO</u>
Erin Klein	<u>Robin's Nest</u>	Lois Kawajiri	<u>SC Probation</u>
Frank Carozza	<u>SC Inter Agency Council</u>	Nick Efelis	<u>SC Prosecutor's Office</u>
Gabrielle Hall	<u>SC Public Defender</u>	Paige Hagelgans	<u>SC Prosecutor's Office</u>
Greg Wolf	<u>SC Family Court</u>	Pam Comerford	<u>SCBSS</u>
Heather Vankleef	<u>SC Juvenile Probation</u>	Pavi Lakshminarayan	<u>Mindbytes Program</u>
Jade Fleming	<u>Stockton College</u>	Peggy Nicolosi	<u>SC Superintendent</u>
Jaime Rex	<u>Stockton College</u>	Rebecca DiLisciandro	<u>SC Mental Health</u>
Jean Kuhl	<u>Community Advocate</u>	Ron Hudak	<u>CGS-CMO</u>
Jenna Harvey	<u>Southwest Council SCRATCH</u>	Sarah Kuhl	<u>Rutgers Southern Regional</u>
Jennifer Knox	<u>Upper Pittsgrove Middle School</u>	Tiffany Duca	<u>A.P Schalick High School</u>
Jennifer Rodriguez	<u>Youth Advocate Programs</u>	William Ziegler	<u>SC Judge, Family Court</u>

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**I). Call to Order-**

The meeting was called to order at 12:50PM by Chair Jean Kuhl, and Co-Chair Jim Whitt. Welcome and introductions were made around the room.

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

***\*MOTION** to approve the minutes from May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, was made by Jim Whitt with a second from Teddy Stranahan. Motion passed with all in favor.*

**III). Committee Reports-**

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

SCYSC Planning met on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at St. John's Parrish from 1-3PM. All programs were reviewed in addition to system partner surveys to see what was working best for Salem County. The Allocations subcommittee approved the planning recommendations which will be further explained later in the meeting.

**Quality Assurance** – (Armando Gonzalez)

2019 YSC Monitoring is complete and went smoothly with no reported major areas of concern. All recommendations were made to vendors and planning. Armando thanked all involved for their amazing cooperation during monitoring, and thanked members of the committee for their hard work. Armando noted that it was a pleasure to wrap up 2019 monitoring early before the summer months this year.

**IV). JET** – (Greg Wolf)

Greg reported that the MDT Team met on 6-6-2019 to discuss JDAI such as the shelter and GPS bracelet. There are some juveniles having some issues that will be reported on next month. All information is being shared in a timely manner. The next JETS meeting is scheduled for July 2nd, 2019 at noon.

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

The 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 noted that the grant was submitted on 5-20-2019, and is currently under the review process. Frank also thanked the YSC members and Schools that sent in their letters of support in regards to the application.

The System Partners survey has been completed and reviewed by planning. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Survey that will be compiled will attempt to include feedback from the public in the various municipalities throughout Salem County. Frank also will begin scheduling 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Site-Visits with vendors in August and September to complete before the end of the year.

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

No report.

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

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

-Connect II Program- Currently serving (2) youth with (1) pending.

-Grounded- Currently serving (0) youth with (2) slots available. (1) Grounded Client that was on for (9) months was finally discharged this month.

-Cognitive Skills Program- Graduated spring cycle with (7) youth, anticipate hosting graduation in May. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of fall programming is set to begin in late August or early September.

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

YAP is year to date has served (15) youth. Currently serving (6) Diversion 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.

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C). **Quinton Township School**- (Frank Carozza for Stu Potter)

- Currently no report as programming is resuming in September 2019.

(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)

-P.R.I.D.E. - Clubs are coming to a close for year but are currently serving (100) total youth . Their rendition of Lion King Jr. was well received and the kids are currently celebrating the events.

-Renaissance (Anti-Gang) – 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period cards have been distributed along with rewards. There (360) Youth currently being served, and the next cycle programming set to continue in 2019.

E). **Penns Grove High School**- (Sharon Riley/Joyce Grazer)

-No report submitted.

F). **First-Step Clinic**- (Frank Carozza for Rosemarie Cuevas)

First Step Clinic received six (6) referrals in the month of May. One youth has to be rescheduled for intake due to recuperating from an injury. Five youth are scheduled for evaluations in the month of June (6/17, 6/18, 6/19, 6/20, and 6/24). One youth started treatment on 5/14/19 and has attended 3 group sessions and one individual session. The youth are using the transportation services that are provided. Twice the transportation has gone to the address provided to them, only to find out the youth canceled their appointment. The contracted transportation services bill for one way trip.

First Step isn't receiving the number of referrals we would like to receive to spend down this award. In addition, some of the clients scheduled have been no call/no show for their appointments and have had to be rescheduled. Clients are called to be reminded of their

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scheduled appointments a day or two before. Clients and/or Probation Officers should call ahead of time when the client cancels an appointment so transportation can be canceled.

The total amount spent for the year is \$2,562.50, and one client has successfully completed treatment with positive results. First Step Clinic projects to meet their contract commitments for 2019. Recommendations to combine the intake and evaluation date have been made by planning to condense the waiting time between visits and treatment for youth.

Several members of Family Court, Probation, CMO, and school-based vendors had a conversation to see if school-based prevention youth could be referred to treatment services. The short answer was no, since the program was designed for court-involved youth only. Gabrielle Hall and Greg Wolf noted that there haven't really been many recent juvenile referrals due changing of JJC/ISC screening procedures in Family Court. Additionally, during the 2018 planning for providing treatment services, anticipation to allocate additional funds for juveniles that may require in-patient options if needed.

Jenna Harvey introduced the idea of providing YSC funded early intervention screenings for youth in Salem County Schools. As conversations progressed, the school representatives vocalized the need for school-based options to provide voluntary drug and alcohol referrals for students suspected of being under the influence while actively attending school. Discussions will continue to after planning looks into opening up the continuum to possibly include prevention youth after fiscal review in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. The agreement of the Commission was to pass the current planning recommendation for the 2020 YSC Plan Update with the contingency that funding for possible service expansion can be revisited based upon identified needs in the future.

**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 \$2,222.61 and are well into wrapping-up programming to prepare for graduation. The youth just wrapped up publication of their community book *The Smile Zoo*, which is available for distribution by direct request to Jenny. The students participated as testing buddies for youth in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to assist with state testing. The SMILE club is currently working on providing food-based provisions for the Ronald McDonald House to be sent up to those in need at the end of the week.

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

Tiffany reported continuing to serve (331) youth between mentors and mentees. There is a current anticipated change for the summer expansion program that is poised to serve students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Currently, the program has not spent any funds, but will be in the near future. There are currently (16) enrolled mentors that are planning to volunteer their time in the summer program. Students are excited to participate as there have been (45) additional mentee requests for pairings. Next Saturday, the very first Mentor breakfast has been scheduled to recognize mentors and their parents for their amazing work in the program. The barriers that were once present in this program's facilitation have been overcome with the help of the Salem County Youth Services Commission.

**VIII). JDAI Report – (Armando Gonzalez)**

Armando began by being pleased to announce that the second component of the JDAI has begun with SODAT's Probation Enrichment and Transportation program. The program seeks to host probation orientation events for youth and their families, earned incentives, trips, and transportation to and from counseling and court dates. Transportation is provided by SODAT vehicles, independent contractors, and bus passes as a last resort. The first trip is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>, and will include (3) probation youth for a trip to the Ben Franklin Institute.

Dawn Reed-Snell took the opportunity to introduce Amber Smith as SODAT's PET Transportation Coordinator. Dawn continued to report that the first Probation Orientation is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> in the Fenwick Building. Food and drinks will be provided to the youth attending with a specific focus on transportation options that will be offered to all the youth involved.

The Vo-Tech's BRIDGE Program is currently hosting (10) youth, with graduation scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> with (9) out of (10) youth successfully graduating. Armando was pleased to report that many youth participating in the program have perfect attendance, and showing tremendous responsibility by actively checking-in with probation regarding their scheduled visits and required actions to successfully complete the terms of their probation. The next round of BRIDGE programming is scheduled for the fall with hopes of possible expanding to providing summer programming in the near future.

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**IX). Vote To Approve the 2019-2020 Youth Services Plan Update-**

**\*MOTION** *Teddy Stranahan made a motion with a 2nd from Peggy Nicolosi, to approve the 2019-2020 SCYSC plan update and JDAI Innovations programming with below recommended budget modification suggestions from the planning subcommittee:*

*First Step Clinic: (-13k)*

*Penns Grove High School Shining Stars: (+2k)*

*Quinton Middle School Culture Club: (+2k)*

*Upper Pittsgrove Middle School: (+2k)*

*Pittsgrove Middle School PRIDE: (+2k)*

*A.P Schalick High School MENTORS: (+2k)*

*Youth Advocate Programs: (+3k)*

**VOTE Record:**

<i>Jim Whitt</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>Peggy Nicolosi</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>Lois Kawajiri</i>	<b>Abstain</b>
<i>Ron Hudak</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>John Lenahan (Nick Efelis)</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>Gabrielle Hall</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>Jerry Oglesby</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>Harold Johnson (William Ziegler)</i>	<b>Abstain</b>
<i>Armando Gonzalez</i>	<b>Abstain</b>
<i>Greg Wolf</i>	<b>Abstain</b>
<i>Rebecca DiLisciandro</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>Lionel Woodley</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>John Stranahan</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>Kathy Lockbaum (Pam Comerford)</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>Sarah Kuhl</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>Jennifer Rodriquez</i>	<b>Abstain</b>
<i>Lauren Snyder (Laurie Spears)</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>Charles Miller (Brian Pennington)</i>	<b>AYE</b>
<i>Ayes: (13) Nays: (0)</i>	<i>Abstentions: (5)</i>

*The motion passed with (13) Aye, (0) Nay, and (5) Abstentions.*

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**X). SC Law Enforcement Report & 1/3<sup>rd</sup> Set-aside Discussion**-(Brian Pennington/Gabby Hall)

Gabrielle Hall noted that there have been some identified constraints with the GPS ankle-bracelet program that warrants discussion between the Sherriff's Office, Prosecutor, and Public Defender- This due to the fact that the GPS program is a pivotal service to Salem County youth as a detention alternative in light of the JDAI initiative. Frank noted that the GPS program's funding has steadily been reduced from over (60K) with funds primarily allocated to officer salaries, to the current (20K) allocation that is intended only for the cost of the tracking services and equipment.

Brian Pennington noted that the SCSD that the rules of the program have become more strict in not allowing juveniles who have damaged equipment back into the program. Gabby and Brian had some productive dialogue as to what behaviors should really constitute a negative discharge for the program. The need for additional flexibility for non-compliant youth was conveyed due to their lack of cognitive development. Further discussion has been requested while simultaneously tabling the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> set-aside vote until the next SCYSC meeting in July. Ron Hudak further highlighted the importance of having GPS services available to youth in need without issues from the provider and possibly looking into other providers if needed to remain compliant with JDAI.

Gabrielle Hall spoke brought up the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) between Salem County law enforcement and schools. John Stranahan noted that many schools are not currently following the guidelines, especially with the most recent incident of one parent filing (14) complaints for fights between her daughter and other students. The heart of the issue is that school administrators are reportedly charging youth for small infractions that do not pertain to the true intent of the MOU, and that reintroduction and presentation of the original purpose of the MOU should facilitated between Family Court, law enforcement, and Salem County schools. The discussion will seek to clarify parameters where school-based discipline is best practiced over the filing of criminal complaints.

**XI). Old Business-** None

**XII). New Business-** None

**XIII). Announcements-**

- Jenna Harvey announced the hosting of Data Walks to curb substance abuse on Friday at Seabrook House. All are welcomed to attend by RSVP'ing to Jenna.
- Rebecca DiLisciandro The Office of Mental Health and Office of Addiction is offering Narcan training and a seminar on Family Dynamics of Addiction on June 25<sup>th</sup>. There is also a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team Training for first responders- law enforcement, clergy, dispatchers, and others are welcomed to attend.

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- Jennifer Rodriguez announced that YAP is hosting (2) workshops in June for community at the Pennsville and Penns Grove Family Success Centers with regards to juvenile justice reform in New Jersey. Jennifer will be plugging the school-based prevention programs that the SCYSC funds as a highlight of her presentation. Dates will be distributed by Frank once Jennifer submits them.
- Jean Kuhl announced that the Salem County Powwow will be commencing this weekend in Salem County. Also, Sunday is superheroes day at the Family Success Center from 12-3pm and attendance is free.
- Jod Loufik announced that that Girl Scouts of America is currently hosting (4) troops in Salem City, and (70-75) youth that will be attending camp on Saturday.

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

Jean touched on the importance of Mother's Day and how it means different things to different people. Her Sunday school youth would dress up in suits and corsages. One youth in a white corsage that was being raised by her grandparents was questioned as to why her flower was white as opposed to the other colors that her fellow classmates were wearing. It was explained that youth wearing red and pink had mothers that were still alive. If a youth was wearing white, it indicated that your mother had passed away. As Jean explained the meaning of the colors, the youth got up from their seats to approach and comfort the little girl whose mother had died. After the youth engaged the little girl, she revealed to them that her mother had committed suicide. This additional support that had followed included an outpouring of love, and the sharing of pictures of the girl with her mother. Jean challenged the Commission to identify these opportunities to allow kids to respond and share their thoughts.

**XV). Adjournment-**

\*A motion to adjourn was made by Ron Hudak with a second from Sarah Kuhl. Motion passed with all in favor.

*The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 PM*

*The next Salem County Youth Services meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, at 12:30PM.*

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

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Frank Carozza*