

Salem County Youth Services Commission Meeting Minutes  
July 3, 2019



Board of Chosen Freeholders

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

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Jean Kuhl  
Chairperson

Jim Whitt  
Vice-Chairperson

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

Meeting Attendance: July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Angela Williams	<u><b>AP Schalick High School</b></u>	Heather Vankleef	<u><b>SC Probation</b></u>
Justin Caruso	<u><b>Acenda Health</b></u>	Gabrielle Hall	<u><b>SC Public Defender</b></u>
Chuck Goldstein	<u><b>CGS-CMO</b></u>	Ed Ramsey	<u><b>SC Resident</b></u>
Lionel Woodley	<u><b>CGS-FSO</b></u>	Jack Swain	<u><b>SC Vo-tech</b></u>
Jean Kuhl	<u><b>Community Advocate</b></u>	Frank Carozza	<u><b>SC Youth Services-IAC</b></u>
Jodie Loufik	<u><b>Girl Scouts of NJ</b></u>	Pam Comferford	<u><b>SCBSS</b></u>
Lauren Snyder	<u><b>MRSS</b></u>	Victoria Maurizio	<u><b>SCHHS Drug and Alcohol</b></u>
Herbert Woodard	<u><b>PGHS Shining Stars</b></u>	Nick Efelis	<u><b>SCPO</b></u>
Joyce Grazier	<u><b>PGHS Shining Stars</b></u>	Doug Bell	<u><b>SCSD</b></u>
Ryan Hudson	<u><b>Pittsgrove Middle School</b></u>	Amber Smith	<u><b>SODAT</b></u>
Jim Whitt	<u><b>Ranch Hope</b></u>	Jenna Harvey	<u><b>Southwest Council</b></u>
	<u><b>Rutgers Southern</b></u>		
Sarah Kuhl	<u><b>Regional</b></u>	Joshua Stafford	<u><b>Southwest Council</b></u>
William Ziegler	<u><b>SC Family Court</b></u>	Rosey Cuevas	<u><b>SUN/First Step Clinic</b></u>
			<u><b>Upper Pittsgrove Middle</b></u>
Mona Prakash	<u><b>SC Family Court</b></u>	Jennifer Knox	<u><b>School</b></u>
Armando			
Gonzalez	<u><b>SC Probation</b></u>	Jennifer Rodriguez	<u><b>YAP</b></u>

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**I). Call to Order-**

The meeting was called to order at 12:42PM 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 Bill Ziegler with one correction to reflect YAP receiving an additional (3k) in 2019 funding. Motion passed with all in favor.*

**III). Committee Reports-**

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

No Report.

**Quality Assurance** – (Armando Gonzalez)

Armando reported that both JDAI Programs (BRIDGE and PET) are currently being scheduled to be monitored and complete by mid-September.

**IV). JET** – (Heather VanKleef for Greg Wolf)

Heather VanKleef reported that the DCPD, the Public Defender, CMO, IAC, Family Court, JJC, were present at the JET/MDT meeting held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. They reviewed the statuses of youth held in detention, the GPS ankle bracelet, and the Grounded program. The next meeting will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

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

Frank began by reminding the Commission that there is no YSC meeting next month, and thanked the members and participants for all their hard work in rendering services. The plan-update will be complete after the day's vote on approving the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> county set-aside and submitted to the JJC shortly after. Frank reminded provider's that JAMS is open for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter reporting, and to please submit any questions or issues prior to his vacation starting July 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. JDAI Monitoring is expected to be completed by mid-September, and site visits are currently being conducted with YAP complete and Pittsgrove Middle School on-deck. Frank concluded his report by introducing Ryan Hudson (Pittsgrove Middle School Principal) and Herbert Woodard (PGHS Shining Stars Director) as new vendor participants in the Salem County Youth Services Commission.

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

No report.

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

A). **Acenda Health-** (Justin Caruso)

- Connect II Program- Currently serving (2) youth with (3) open slots for service.
- Grounded- Currently serving (3) youth with (0) slots available. Grounded has served (7) youth with only (8) slots available for the year. A conversation will be had with Frank regarding better options to service county needs.
- Cognitive Skills Program- Have (15) youth referred for the Spring Cycle. Programming set to begin on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

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

YAP is year to date has served (16) youth with (6) youth currently open. Yap is now serving (6) Diversion and (0) Prevention Youth that have been court-referred. 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. Last week, YAP conducted a community clean-up event and food bank in Penns Grove.

C). **Quinton Township School-** (Stu Potter)

No report. Programming has concluded, and will resume in September 2019.

D). **Pittsgrove Middle School-** (Ryan Hudson)

Both PRIDE and Renaissance programs have concluded for the year, and Ryan and Frank will be meeting next week to discuss plans for September of 2019, and look forward to a smooth transition.

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E). **Penns Grove High School-** (Herbert Woodard)

There are currently (32) students enrolled in Shining Stars with fluctuation anticipated for the summer program and graduations. Currently, Shining Stars is preparing to launch the Transitional Leadership program that is expected to serve (17) incoming freshman from July 8<sup>th</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>. For the end of the summer, a certified bike instructor will be coming in to encourage youth to exercise.

F). **First-Step Clinic-** (Rosemarie Cuevas)

For the month of June, First Step Clinic has not received any referrals. Juvenile scheduled appointments are not showing even with phone call reminders. (1) Youth has received an evaluation and will begin individual treatment. (2) Youth are receiving treatment services in a group setting. Year to date, First Step Clinic has served (6) youth, with (3) currently enrolled in the program. The biggest barrier to services is the youth no-call no-shows, as the program provides transportation to youth throughout Cumberland and Salem.

Armando stated that there seems to be a disconnect somewhere in the communication between the juveniles and First Step correspondence process. Armando further noted that Salem County Probation does receive copies of the juvenile appointment letters when distributed, but youth are claiming that they are not receiving them. Heather asked if the juveniles are a no-call no-show, is Family Court and Probation notified? If not, that is a step to fill the communication gap by encouraging the officers and Family Court staff to follow-up with the juvenile directly after a missed appointment. Rosey stated that she would look into it, and get back to them with an answer.

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

Jenny reported SMILE Club is served a total of (21) youth all of which are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Year to date, SMILE Club has spent \$5,281.88, and have concluded programming in June. The club has recently worked with the South Jersey Breast Cancer Coalition and making bowls and baskets for the Ronald McDonald House. The youth also (450) bagged lunches with positive messages included for Philly, Camden, and Delaware shelters. Jenny is currently planning events for the upcoming school-year, and noted even being contacted by youth over the summer to possibly expanding club activities to summer.

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H). **A.P Schalick High School-** (Angela Williams)

Tiffany reported that the MENTORS program that the program is expanding into the summer with strong board approval and support. A summer camp is planned with (16) Mentors being trained on July 16<sup>th</sup>, as well as (48) Mentees referred to attend at Olivet school. Activities and field trips are currently scheduled and will be taking place throughout the summer. They have spent \$220.00, but expect about \$4,500.00 to be spent on upcoming activities.

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

Amber smith reported (8) youth currently being served by SODAT in the Probation Enrichment program. The PET program offers probation incentives, trips, and transportation is planning to have a family recognition in October. They project to meet their contract commitments, and had an orientation on June 25<sup>th</sup>- out of (5) youth invited, (5) attended. The next activity is a Phillies game trip on July 18<sup>th</sup> and (6) youth are expected to participate. Currently things are running smoothly, and SODAT does not have any issues or barriers to report.

Armando began by reporting that the Vo-tech graduation occurred on June 11<sup>th</sup>, with (9) out of (10) youth graduating. Out of the graduates, one was specially recognized for having perfect attendance. There are multiple youth that are “aging-out” of the program, and reported that creative ways to keep youth in the program will be discussed by YSAC. Armando concluded by thanking Jack Swain and his staff for facilitating a great program. Armando concluded by announcing the next PET Family Engagement night to be August 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30PM in the Courthouse.

Jack Swain added that the first two cycles of programming went swimmingly. Two students were offered driving classes and skill profiles for future employment resumes. Jack thanked all those involved for their dedication and hard work in getting the program running. The youth learned applicable skills in culinary/pastry, electrical, carpentry, and welding. Two youth received driving lessons, and one of the students has been accepted as a full-time student at the Vo-tech. Two students received paid scholarships for two youth in the welding program to work towards their Osha-30 and ‘Servsafe’ certifications. The program’s students still on probation are welcomed to return, and the new programming cycle is expected to begin in mid-September.

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

No report.

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**X). Old Business- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> Set-aside Vote (20k)**

*\***MOTION** to approve the county 1/3<sup>rd</sup> set-aside in the amount of (20k) was made by Jim Whitt with a second from Frank Carozza.*

*Vote:*

Armando Gonzalez	SC Probation- <b>(Abstain)</b>
Lauren Snyder	FCIU/MRSS- <b>(Aye)</b>
Chuck Goldstein	CGS-CMO- <b>(Aye)</b>
Gabrielle Hall	Public Defender- <b>(Abstain)</b>
Brian Pennington	SCSD- <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>
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>
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>

*The motion passed the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> standard with:*

*(10) Aye*

*(0) Nay*

*(4) Abstentions*

**XI). New Business- None**

**XII). Announcements- None**

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

Jean mentioned today's topic concerns the meaning of the word 'free'. Jean was working on the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program, and asked kids what do safe, strong, and free mean to them. From the safety of their classrooms, they garnered responses from youth k-6<sup>th</sup> grades. A few of the answers given were no homework, playing all the time, not having to pay, and not having to clear a plate. Jean's favorite response came from a young girl who was the daughter of a migrant farm-worker. Her definition of free was swinging high on her swing, with no crops planted in the fields around her. Surrounding herself with positivity and not having to be troubled by the labor intensive atmosphere and commotion that the planting seasons bring. With the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday approaching, Jean challenged the Commission to define their own meaning of freedom, and celebrate it with loved-ones.

**XIV). Adjournment-**

**\*MOTION** to adjourn was made by Chuck Goldstein with a second from Jack Swain. Motion passed with all in favor.

*The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 PM*

*The next Salem County Youth Services meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4th, 2019, at 12:30PM.*

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

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Frank Carozza*