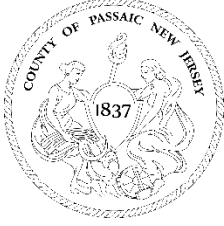


Passaic County

CIACC

Member

Orientation



COUNTY OF PASSAIC

401 GRAND STREET, ROOM 506

PATERSON, NJ 07505

ARTI KAKKAR

DIRECTOR

FRANCINE VINCE, MSW

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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E-MAIL: artik@passaiccountynj.org

E-MAIL: francinev@passaiccountynj.org

To: CIACC Members
From: Jenny Vuksic, Children's Mental Health Planner
Re: CIACC Orientation
Date: January 2024

I would like to welcome you to the Passaic County Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC).

The CIACC is an advisory board. Recommendations from agencies from throughout Passaic County are made to the Mental Health Board. The CIACC also serves as an advisor to the Passaic County Department of Human Services and to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families.

The CIACC serves as the county mechanism to advise DCF on the development & maintenance of a responsive, accessible, and integrated system of care for children, youth and young adults and their families with emotional & behavioral challenges, substance use issues, and intellectual developmental disabilities. This is done through the involvement of parents, children, youth, young adults, child serving agencies, and community representatives. The CIACC, through enhanced coordination of system partners, also identifies service & resource gaps and priorities for resource development.

I have enclosed our By-Laws. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Best regards,
Jenny Vuksic

CIACC 2024

The Passaic County Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC) meets every second Wednesday, except for July and August. Please note changes of times to the schedule. Meetings will take place both virtually and in-person. Please contact Passaic County Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services for meeting information at (973) 881-2834.

2024 Dates for the meetings are as follows:

January 10, 2024, 9:30 am (virtual)

February 14, 2024, 9:30 am (hybrid)

March 13, 2024, 9:30 am (hybrid)

April 10, 2024, 9:30 am (virtual)

May 8, 2024, 9:30 am (cancelled)

June 12, 2024, 9:30 am (*In-person*)

Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P)

201 Willowbrook Boulevard, 4th Floor, Wayne

September 11, 2024, 9:30 am (*In-person*)

Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P)

201 Willowbrook Boulevard, 4th Floor, Wayne

October 9, 2024, 9:30 am (virtual)

November 13, 2024, 9:30 am (virtual)

December 11, 2024, 9:30 am (*In-person*)

Highlands Family Success Center (FSC), 1801 Greenwood Lake Turnpike,
Hewitt

COMMITTEES

The CIACC has the following standing committees with the duties described below:

1. An Executive Committee consisting of the officers, Chairpersons of the other standing committees, and members selected by the Chairperson of CIACC with due consideration to providing a balance of interests and representation on the Committee. The Executive Committee is empowered to meet and act on issues whenever it is not possible or feasible to wait for a regular meeting or to hold a special meeting of CIACC.
2. Bylaws and Membership Committee are empowered to:
 - a. review and modify the CIACC Bylaws, subject to the approval of CIACC
 - b. review and recruit individuals/providers for CIACC membership
 - d. provide orientation for new members regarding the functions and responsibilities of CIACC and its committees
 - e. review attendance and levels of participation by members and recommend changes to membership.
3. A Planning Committee consisting of members with expertise in mental health, intellectual developmental disabilities, juvenile delinquency, substance use, community services, and other relevant fields, as well as liaisons with other related planning groups.
 - a. engages in local needs assessment activities. Assist in the biennial HSAC Needs Assessment by collecting data and assessing trends through interviews, focus groups and/or surveys.
 - b. the Education Partnership is a sub-committee of the Planning Committee, which will work on building relationships with the school system partners, provide resources and information as determined, and cross-train on topics as determined by the collective system partners.
 - d. Passaic County Special Commission on Child Abuse and Missing Children: Working to improve awareness of child abuse and missing children issues and to support efforts to prevent and remedy these major social problems.
4. Passaic County Special Commission on Child Abuse and Missing Children:

The goal is to Engage with Passaic County FSC and/ or community providers that promote events in April around Child Abuse Prevention Month
5. Intellectual Developmental Disabilities: Form partnerships with agencies and individual service providers who provide services for families of youth with intellectual and developmental challenges. Engage providers, coordinate

resources, develop cross training opportunities, education and awareness, and to assist with transition services.

6. Racial Equity: Working towards building racial equity within Passaic County. To identify barriers and advocate for positive change within the community.
7. Community Voice Committee: Shall meet to seek youth and family members interest to attend and participate routinely. Reports at CIACC meetings so that their perspectives may inform planning for local services. Youth/family members shall ideally be former service recipients. CIACC shall demonstrate efforts to retain youth and family who have joined the as members.

List of required CIACC membership:

- CSOC Representatives (Mobile Response, Family Support Organizations, Care Management Organizations,)
- Child serving agencies directors or designee
- Local residential provider agency directors or designees
- Child serving agencies directors or designee
- Local residential provider agency directors or designees
- Community based organizations
- County Mental Health & Addictions Director
- County Human Services Director/HSAC Staff
- Family Court Division Manager or designee
- Juvenile Justice local representatives
- County Youth Services Administrator/Youth Services Commission
- DCP&P District Office or County Manager or designee
- Child/family representation
- CSOC service providers

In addition, Membership may include:

- County Superintendent of Schools/Supervisor of Child Study Team
- Child Placement Review Board Coordinator
- Child/Family Advocacy Organization Representative
- School Based Youth Services Program Representative
- County/Regional Workforce Investment Board Representative
- Housing Agencies
- Board of Social Service Representative
- Emergency Service Providers
- Civic, Fraternal, Religious, or other community organizations

CIACC 2023 End of Year

- *Planning/ Education Committee:* 9th Annual Conference held on February 3, 2023. The keynote speaker from Rutgers spoke on Immigration and presented stories of experiences. In the afternoon, we had breakout sessions on Immigration (continuing the conversation), KIND, and LGBTQ+.
- *Promise 2 Grant:* The Planning/ Education Committee was given \$5,000 to spread awareness to families on CIACC and its Committees. Resource Tables were set at 3 events to talk with families and distribute information and giveaways. Three events included Scotts Fun Run, Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds and The Circle's Back to School Bash. Also, planned for grant to raise awareness on CIACC and CIACC Subcommittees; and was able to partner with those who are providing events for families, so we can engage with families to promote CIACC and its committees.
- *By-Laws & Membership:* The revised CIACC By-Laws were shared and have been approved by the Passaic County Mental Health.
- Tommy Balistrier, Passaic Community Sheriff's Community Policing Division presented. They give presentations, safety talks, senior IDs, Autism IDs, gang awareness presentations, they offer youth presentations to educate on cyber bullying, sexting, gaming and social media, college safety, senior safety and identity theft.
- *Community Voice:* A concern was raised around the treatment of parents when calling the Board of Social Services (BBS). A letter was sent to address concerns raised. On March 28th, Nina Reams invited her group to Community Voice and we had a great discussion around transportation and available services. There are not many options for transportation within West Milford, especially if residents do not have a car. Also discussed LogistiCare which is now called Modive. They reported how that service is often late and at times will not show up for the ride. Discussed the County Human Service transportation for TANF & Post TANF clients. It was stated that there are not many Up-County residents who are TANF recipients. Also, the roads around the mountain can be difficult to navigate. Long wait times for services, and Mental Health Providers lacking. The one provider that is in the area has a long wait list for services. Also, services differ for those with Medicaid and Private Insurance. To offer Medicaid there needs to be a psychiatrist on staff.... It was also reported that PerformCare providers will not come to West Milford. There may be three (3) IIC providers in the area, so they do not have a lot of availability. Discussed a scenario where a provider came to the home twice and decided it was too far and did not come again. West Milford is part of Passaic County, and services are needed. There is a Lack of services, could benefit from satellite services, but cannot sustain without funding. Discussion around not being able to find space for a practice Up County, anyone that has a resource please reach out to Bart or Jenny. Update PerformCare Outpatient listing, last time it was updated PerformCare needed to provide Medicaid numbers to be included on their list. Jenny will bring issues to statewide CIACC. Bart discussed that they will be conducting Countywide Needs Assessment and providers will be contacted. This is an opportunity to hear the Needs, and Plan for Resources. There is a staff shortage,

clinicians, the county is looking to have a job far, difficult to find a licensed supervisor. There are four (4) certified supervisors in PCHS to lend to the community that need supervision for satellite offices but would have to go through county counsel due to issues around liabilities.

-At December's meeting, Discussion items to be brought to the Human Service Advisory Council (HSAC) meeting. The discussion was around staff retention, housing throughout the county, and lack of accessible services in Upper Passaic County. I was asked to share with the MHB so I reported them to the Passaic County DMHAS Partnership meeting held on December 6th. Arti Kakkar, Human services Director, has responded that these topics have been discussed at HSAC in the last couple of years. Also, several options from the Department have been put out for services, but with no with response. The HSAC will continue to work on addressing these concerns.

- ***Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Community Voice:*** One of members came with me to present to the Wayne SEPAG group, which was a large discussion around the needs of youth with intellectual developmental disabilities. Tammi Kaminski from SPAN presented at our last committee meeting. Gave an overall discussion around resources available and how to access. She also informed the group that they have a Family Resource Specialist, which provides local resources and triages calls to a warm line. They also have a Transition Specialist and work with National and State Programs to work with families. Continuing to look for data and available resources. IDD created a mission statement and goals for the committee. They are currently working on a survey for families to identify the needs and challenges families face. Presentation from Laurna Townsend and Melissa Blanchard, Avidd, their IDD services have been expanded to include transition aged youth 14 to 21.

CIACC 2022 End of Year

- 8th Annual Conference Behavioral Health & Educational Partnership Conference in February 2022. Held virtually with 80 in attendance. Spoke to Sexual Education with youth with Developmental Disabilities, Sexting, CSOC & McKinney, and Immigration.
- **Planning** for the 9th Annual Conference. Secured facility at the Passaic County Safety Academy, and Keynote presenter & a few breakout session presenters. Will be held on February 3, 2023.
- The **PFS II** Logic model was completed and submitted in May. Partnered with Joanna O'Rourke, Up in PC, to complete all the steps required.
- **Racial Equity** Committee has held 5 Youth Forums, 3 in-person and 2 virtual. Next steps include 3 more Youth forums; and 3 caregiver workshop sessions around the challenges of bias and microaggressions. This would happen through the partnerships of the Al Moody Academy & the Children's Day Pre-School in the City of Passaic.
- **Community Voice** reported challenges with families accessing services for youth with DVRS ages 14 and over. A letter was sent to Mollie Greene regarding the same concern families are having with DVRS. Mollie Greene provided contact information for an individual from DVRS to work on challenges accessing services.

- Continue to work with **PES**, Children's Service Providers, and Paterson Schools to work on solutions other resources to avoid sending youth to the ER when not appropriate. Next meeting will be held on October 20
- Re-Formed the **Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD)** the three tasks the committee would like to tackle include talking resources, identifying challenges from both parents and providers, and Collect Data.
- Updated **Passaic County By-Laws, Membership, and Resource Directory** for School Partnership.
- Through the **Promise 2.0 grant** CIACC was able to purchase flyers to promote community involvement through the Community Voice Committee. They purchased equipment to hold hybrid meetings to begin early 2023. Purchased snacks to provide families at Family Success Centers as we visited to promote CIACC and its committees.

CIACC 2021 End of Year

Community Voice:

- -The CIACC has been fortunate to have family members join the CIACC membership. The Community Voice Committee became a Standing Committee on the CIACC. They meet twice a month and report monthly to the CIACC. One of the goals is how to guide families, support them in navigating the system, translation and offer meeting flexibility.
- The CIACC changed the time of meeting to be more flexible for members in the community. The CIACC meeting is held at 6:30pm every other month.
- In March, the committee received some feedback on DVRS. When youth are transitioning in the state of NJ, the age to start planning for youth transition is 14. Concerns are the DVRS is not working with & not following up with families, they are told to return when the child is 21. A presentation from DVRS was made, Xiomara Gonell and Helene Sims, DVRS. Who can families reach out to when having difficulties? Speak to the DVRS Counselor. If families feel they are not getting they help the need you can reach out to their supervisor, lastly you can reach out to Xiomara Gonell or Helene Sims. We continue to work on this issue, the new contact given in November was Kathleen Mauer, DVRS Lead Transition Counselor in Passaic County
- They also discussed the importance of primary doctors to provide evaluation referrals on time to receive early intervention services as they need it. To identify the red flags when youth should be evaluated for developmental disabilities.
- In June, it was discussed the inequity for housing in Passaic County is huge, which brings mental health issues not only for the parents but for the children. Passaic County has the highest number of youths with disabilities becoming adults, and housing will be an issue. They discussed the way to bring upon systemic change is though advocating to stakeholders/politicians. It was discussed that those conversations happen all the time, funds are being directed toward change. Need to host a Community Conversation so community voices are heard.
- Lack of the Medical Home Model where all specialists connected with the primary doctor. Discussed having a Nurtured Heart Approach Training for parents, and to

provide the training in Spanish. Invited Brenda Figuoa to their committee to organize and project their goal and vision.

- They also share training from SPAN, on how committees operate and how to participate.

The training has been modified based on the needs. They learn roles and responsibility and identify strengths and weaknesses and how to improve. Stressing the importance of parent participation, providing the tools for them to acknowledge the strengths they already have.

Racial Equity:

- In February 2021, Tracy Salmon gave CIACC a 30-minute brief presentation based from her full day training. It was described that the current environment turned out to be the perfect storm for change. We have learned of major disparities within health, wealth, and education that need to be addressed.
- The committee developed an anti-racism commitment letter that was distributed and gave members tools to assist in the process of racial equity.
- The committee held two (2) Youth Forums. Were able to have youth facilitate the meetings with Youth Leaders to guide the process. This will be an ongoing event.

PFS II:

- Joanna O'Rourke from UP in PC has lead the process for the PFS grant. There was a survey that was forwarded and completed by CIACC members and there was a great response.
The Completed Logic Model was done in December 2021.
- There was an ACEs Presentation to CIACC in June 2021. Joanna gave a description of ACEs, how to identify early childhood trauma, and the effects on health due to trauma. Further described how childhood trauma is measured by ACEs, and its effects on emotional and physical health.

System Partner Committee:

- Systems Partner Committee discussed interagency coordination. Discussed youth that frequent the system and how to address needs and who or what agencies can be reached in difficult situations. To identify barriers and link families to appropriate services.
- Passaic County Prosecutor, Jason Harding, attended the meeting on 4-23 to talk about Juvenile Reform. In over the last year, in all their meetings, they have had detailed conversations on the challenges faced.
- They reported that have been able to identify a gap in the services. The gap is Behavioral as opposed to Mental Health. Once police are called it becomes a behavioral health issue, it is not clear who the police should refer the matter to, and those in Mental Health are referring to Police Departments. The group initially began to address youth that have runaway behaviors. The police experienced cases where the kids run away again before services are in place. There was discussion around behaviors are

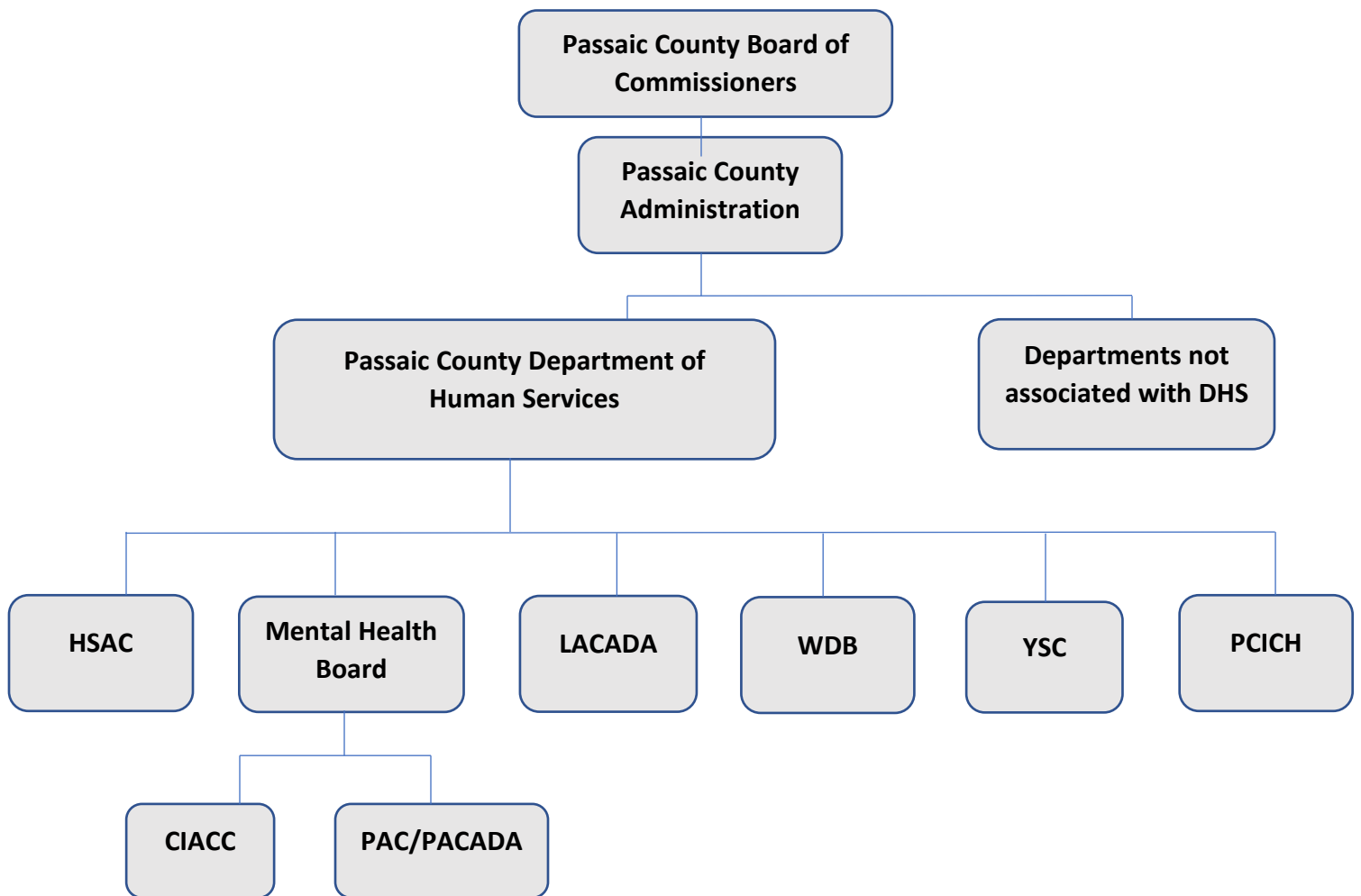
symptoms to Mental Health issues, and really cannot be separated. Jenny will raise with other CIACCs to see if this is an issue in other counties. System Partner Committee will meet as needed when cases arise that need further assistance.

By-Laws & Membership:

- CIACC has their first Chairperson a family member from Family Success Center and their Vice-Chair Community Member.
- Updated the Passaic County Orientation Packet for CIACC Members.

Planning/ Education

- Discussed looking at the needs for children and youth. There are many needs that we all know about that continue to surface.
- It was reported that they have increasing referrals for children and adolescents. The rate of teenage pregnancy is also increasing. These are related to the pandemic, and we should discuss and hopefully address issues identified.
- Increase of children/youth involved in our system going to Emergency Room for services. It was discussed that there has been an increase in depression and anxiety among youth since covid started. Wouldn't be surprised if there was an increase in ER visits because parents don't recognize these symptoms. It was discussed that a parent was in a very depressed state but cannot get help because they have no insurance. Discussed resources available for families without insurance. Kids may be getting services but parents struggling to access. Also, there are long wait lists. FSO, has a warm line that families can access.
- Education Committee is working on getting presenters for the Annual Conference taking place on February 4th. Keynote speaker to discuss Sexuality especially youth with developmental disabilities, Breakout Sessions will include sexting/social media and immigration.



NJ State sets the regulations and provides the funding:

- *Department of Human Services: Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS), **Division of Family Development (DFD)**, Division of Disability Services (DDS)*
- *Department of Community Affairs (DCA)*
- *Housing Urban Development (HUD)*
- *Department of Children and Families (DCF)*
- *Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC)*
- *Department of Labor (DOL)*

Passaic County Department of Human Services: The Passaic County Department of Human Services is a social service agency concerned with the planning and funding of services for the county's disadvantaged and homeless citizens. Programs operate out of four divisions which include, Mental Health & Addiction Services; Community Outreach and Family Services; Juvenile Administration; and Workforce Development Board (WDB). [Passaic County Human Services \(passaiccountynj.org\)](https://passaiccountynj.org). [The Human Services Advisory Council \(HSAC\) is the planning body for the Department.](#)

Passaic County Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services: receives state and county funding to ensure the availability of treatment services, particularly for the indigent. [Mental Health and Addiction Services \(passaiccountynj.org\)](https://passaiccountynj.org)

Passaic County Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC): The CIACC is an advisory body working towards the development & maintenance of a responsive, accessible, and integrated system of care for children, youth and young adults and their families with emotional & behavioral challenges, substance use issues, and intellectual developmental disabilities. [CIACC Passaic County Childrens Interagency Coordinating Council \(passaiccountynj.org\)](https://passaiccountynj.org)

Passaic County Mental Health Board: A group of concerned citizens and professionals who provide input on policy and needs for mental health. Members identify priorities in Passaic County for the comprehensive treatment, education, and promotion of public awareness of mental health needs. [Mental Health Board \(passaiccountynj.org\)](https://passaiccountynj.org)

Local Advisory Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse (LACADA): A group of concerned citizens and professionals who provide input on policy and needs for substance misuse. Members identify priorities in Passaic County for the comprehensive treatment, education, and promotion of public awareness of alcohol and drug abuse needs. [Local Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse \(passaiccountynj.org\)](https://passaiccountynj.org)

Professional Advisory Committee (PAC/PACADA): Passaic County Providers planning around the needs of Passaic County residents with Mental Illness receiving grants through the Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services.

Workforce Development Board (WDB): Dedicated to supporting workforce and economic development by connecting Passaic County New Jersey residents to jobs and ensuring that employers have the skilled workers they need to grow, compete, and prosper. [Workforce Development Board \(passaiccountynj.org\)](https://passaiccountynj.org)

Youth Service Commission (YSC): Youth Services Commission (YSC) which serves as the planning body for the development of programs for court-involved, at-risk and low-income youth. Programs address needs at each point in the continuum of care, prevention, diversion, detention alternatives, disposition, and re-entry. [Youth Services Commission \(passaiccountynj.org\)](https://passaiccountynj.org)

Passaic County Council on Homelessness (PCICH): The council PCICH recognizes that homelessness is an issue that affects the entire county, not just the urban areas.

New Jersey Division of Children and Families (DCF): the state agency devoted to serving and supporting at-risk children and families who are focused on and committed to assisting and empowering residents to be safe, healthy, and connected. [DCF | About Us \(nj.gov\)](https://nj.gov)