

Passaic County CIACC
401 Grand Street, Paterson, NJ 07505
Chair: Gino Arevalo
Vice-Chair: Kelly Hart
April 14, 2021

Attendance

Present

Gino Arevalo, PC CASA for Children	Rachel Kinne, BBBS
Kelly Hart, Highlands FSC	Marian Golan, PC CASA for Children
Sybil Schreiber, MHCoP	Jeena Williams, DCP&P
Cynthia Heller, CMO	Marlene Nancy Estrada
Ana Maria Rivera, Parent	Nancy May, Northeast Regional Early Intervention
Nell Koramn, PC Special Child Health Unit	Tracy Salmon, PC Judiciary
Fanny Ochoa, Parent	Kyoko Coco, NJ Council Develop Disabil
Helene Simms, DVRS	Jo-Anne Cummings, 4Cs
Xiomara Gonell, DVRS	Lara Denataly, PC special child health serv
Stephanie Drag, Center for Alcohol & Drug	Abire Sibbagh, Palestinian American Center
Stephanie Rimm, McKinney-Vento	Adriana Herrera, P-CASA/ Project Hope
JacQueline Mestre, New Destiny	Carin Leiva, 4Cs
Donna Glinkin, MRSS	Cindy Merced, Supreme Consultants
Sherrine Schudlt, Up in PC	Mounika Prakash, Up in PC
Paulina Dutton, Circle of Care CMO	Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro, FIS/CFS
Abire Sabbagh, Palestinian American Community Ctr	Lori Ruzich, Covenant House
Joanna O'Rourke, Up in PC	Daisy Carrera, Jewish Family Services
James Sawyer, FSO	Brenda Browne, Division of MH&AS
Kathi Champagne, FSO	Le'Var Starr, PC YSC
Berenice Lopez, S&N FSC	Jenny Vuksic, PC Mental Health

Excused

Francine Vince, PC Human Services

Absent

Lisa Vainieri-Marshall, Paterson Public Schools	Santa Dastidar, St. Mary's Hospital PCH
Duwan Bogert, WIB	Rosy Messineo, Haledon Public Schools
Gabriel Montero, M&S	Nicole Digiore, St. Mary's, AWARE

The monthly meeting of the Passaic County CIACC was called to order at 9:35am. The meeting was held via videoconference. *Minutes, agenda, and meeting link is available on the Passaic County website.*

- I. **Minutes:** On a motion by Sybil Schreiber and seconded by Paulina Dutton the March 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

II. **Presentation:** Xiomara Gonell and Helene Sims, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). This is a Department of Labor program that helps people with disabilities to find and maintain employment. They are available throughout the counties of the state, and in every state. Any individual who has a physical, mental, cognitive, or other form of disability and has an impediment to employment. The following are the criteria needed: need to have a disability, an impediment to work & desire to work. In order to receive services, you need to fill out a referral/application form, including documentation. Takes about 60 days to process a referral. Under 18 will need consent from legal guardian/ parent usually referred from schools. The partnership with CIACC is positive to address the other needs families have that they do not provide services for. Will forward a blank referral to Jenny to distribute to CIACC members.

-It was discussed that families are having difficulty accessing services at the age of 14, and they are told to return at when they turn 21. So they would like clarification on eligibility, and the referral process. School and parent need to work together to send the referral. The first step is referral, then intake, then they gather the records records/documentation to determine the disabilities/ impediments, then they make that person eligible (60-day process). At that point they work with the school, they may do pre-employment training, transition services and come up with a realistic vocational goal, and that would be the individual plan of employment (IPE). They process involves collaboration between the school, the parent and the youth.

-Challenges that parents are not receiving all of the information they need. Need to be clear with the parent. Who is responsible....parent or school. Difficult for families that are not given the correct information. Would like clarification what are mandated, what can DVRS provide. Explain parameters so families understand the process. Sometimes the lack of understanding causes the challenges experienced.

-There are two types of referrals (1) pre-employment transition services; includes 5 components. Obligation of the school to provide, if unable then a referral to DVRS for Pre-Employment Transition Services (ETS) services are made (2) General Referral; provides a plan of employment.

-Who can families reach out to when having difficulties. Speak to the DVRS Counselor, if the family feel they are not getting they help the need you can reach out to their supervisor, lastly you can reach out to Helene. We would like DVRS to speak to the Parent Voice Committee.

III. **System Partner Updates:**

- Paulina Dutton, Circle of Care CMO, reported that they are currently working with 890 youth and families, 74 new referrals, and numbers have been increasing at a steady pace. Working hybrid, both in person and virtually. They are partnering with Highlands FSC for Earth Day on April 24, 2021. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Dave Ellis NJ ACEs and spearheading the Action Plan, speaking to CMO on May 6th. The event is called “From Adversity to Healing” and is open to all. Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) has a Family and Engagement Subcommittee, and they are looking to expand membership, create pathways to success, and build collaborations. Looking for Community Members, they meet every 3rd Thursday, and the next meeting is on 4-21 at 6pm.
- Kathi Champagne reported they had 82 new families in February, 22 initial meetings with CMO, 5 initial meetings with Peer Support Workers, and 257 face to face virtual visits with families. They had 91 CFTs and 72 Family Assessments of Needs and Strength. They had completed 15 support groups, with 117 participants including webinars held. 15 unduplicated youth and is growing. They completed support group with girls and interns, and it was very successful.

- Donna Glinkin, CMRSS, reported they had 250 new requests for dispatch. There were 0 petitions and 0 placements. They are almost fully staffed.
- Jeena Williams, DCP&P, reported that in March Central Passaic had 160 referrals, and Northern Passaic had 151 referrals. Services are fully operational. Jeanette Pimentel accepted a promotion as a Supervisor in her office.

IV. **Committee Reports:**

- **Racial Equity:** Kathi Champagne gave updates and requested feedback and input from CIACC members. Questions were sent to members in March from the committee and would like to raise questions and have discussion. First question, what steps has your agency taken to ensure racial equity in the workplace? The intention is to first look into our agencies to ensure that we are taking the steps towards equity, next it needs to be brought into the community, and it all begins with the conversation to evoke change. Discussed where changes take place in organization, top execute vs. front line workers. Also, discussion around how to reflect the different capacities and identities in the community, and also how do we work for people around the idea of charity (pride/privilege) rather than meet the actual needs of the community.
 - FSO had the opportunity to share this with their staff.
 - Abire Sabbagh expressed interest in joining the committee
 - Tracy Salmon spoke about the stressful environment within the past year, the election, corona virus and the killing of George Floyd. The need to be impactful and effective when making change. Change starts with leadership and organizations need to look at their internal policies around bias and acts of aggression. Racial equity institute has in-service on May 6, from 1pm to 4pm.
 - We would like to devote some time in every meeting to have a conversation around exchange and share information around racial equity.
- **PFS II – SOAR:** Joanna O'Rourke, Up in PC. Finished Stage 2 of the strategic prevention framework. Last month questions were asked about Evidenced Based Practices and received good feedback. Next step is to work on Step 3, which is building a Logic Model. This will be from May to September, currently collecting ACES based data, looking at Passaic County trends on substance use and behavioral health. Will then share with CIACC to assist them in their work.
- **Community Voice:** Ana Maria Rivera, Community, reported that they (Ana Maria Rivera & Fanny Ochoa) are representing parents, not based on their job, so they put out a disclaimer that as members they speak based on the opinion of parents in the community. They prepared as a group a participation agreement, they await membership and expect diversity. Working on creating their mission and vision for the group. They are requesting a Community Voice email through CIACC to avoid professional affiliation since they are representing the parents in the community. This will be discussed at the next Executive Committee.
- **Systems Partner Committee** met last month and talked about interagency coordination. Discussed youth that frequent the system and how to address needs and who can be reached in difficult situations. Passaic County Prosecutor, Jason Harding, will be attending the meeting on 4-23 to talk about Juvenile Reform.
- **By-Laws and Membership Committee:** The membership Committee is working on the membership list for approval by the Mental Health Board in June 2021. Also, looking

for volunteers for Nominations Committee for CIACC Officers. James Sawyer or Kathi Champagne and Gino Arevalo volunteered.

- V. **Youth Services Commission:** Le'Var Starr, YSC Administrator, reported that the next Youth Service Commission meeting will be held on April 21, 2021 at 12:30pm. The link is located on the county website. Through the Juvenile Justice Reform Initiative, Passaic County Prosecutor, Jason Harding, will be providing education, training. There is \$8.4million earmarked to 4 cities received pilot programs for Restorative Justice. One is being piloted in Passaic County, and funneled through YSC. Also, will be adding to triennial plan.
- VI. **Staff Report:** Brenda Browne, Division of MH&AS, reported that the Municipal Coordinator has resigned and the position is currently vacant, please reach out to Brenda Browne for any Municipal Alliance issues. Overdose Fatality Review Team started for Passaic County, and will review 2020 data around overdoses. They will be meeting monthly and have started receiving cases for review. There are several RFPs out, and they can be found on the NJDMHAS website. They received the Fiscal Year 2022 Municipal Alliance funding letter. The Hope One Van has recently been in Pompton Lakes, West Milford and Totowa, and is making an impact in the community. Turning Point started a new program in Pompton Plains for those ages 13-18. Aspire Counseling Center. The Addiction and Mental Health Educator position is also vacant. -Jenny Vuksic reported that there were requests to have presentations at future CIACC meetings. Both Sunshine Advantage, ABA Services and Covenant House which have grants to deliver services for human trafficking.
- VII. **Announcements:** Carin Leiva, 4Cs, announced a virtual Books, Balls and Blocks Event on Monday in English 6–7:30pm; and Wednesday in Spanish from 6-7:30pm. They will discuss the importance of the Ages and Stages questionnaire. When families complete the survey, they will receive a Developmental Tote bag with toys inside.
- Berenice Lopez, S&N FSC, announced their Pinwheels for Prevention Event for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Will be held on Saturday, April 24, a drive through event for families providing gifts and food.
 - Kelly Hart, Highlands FSC, announced they will have their Earth Day Event on April 24. Strengthening Families event for child abuse month. Will include workshops on bullying, fishing and hiking, a rock wall, ropes course.
 - Gino Arevalo no longer works for FIS, he is now with CASA for Passaic County.

The CIACC meeting was adjourned at 11:30am. Next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2021 at **6:30pm**. Please note the time of meeting.

Submitted by: *Jenny Vuksic*