

Passaic County CIACC
401 Grand Street, Paterson, NJ 07505
Chair: Kelly Hart
Vice-Chair: Ana Maria Rivera
November 10, 2021

Attendance

Present

Kelly Hart, Highlands FSC
Ana Maria Rivera, Parent
Fanny Ochoa, Parent
Cynthia Heller, CMO
Paulina Dutton, Circle of Care CMO
Donna Glinkin, MRSS
Kathi Champagne, FSO
Sybil Schreiber, MHCoP
Dawn Moody, Probation
Rachel Kinne, BBBS
Fernanda Ullauri - Maternal & Child Health
Jaime Jackett, NJDOE
Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro, FIS/CFS
Berenice Lopez, S&N Family Success Center
James Lane, Passaic Police Dept
Joanna O'Rourke, Up in PC

Paulette Mader, Rutgers Univ. PPS 2.0
Iyana Anderson, Region Pract Spec PPS 2.0
Diahann DeRuggiero, McKinneyVento
Natalie Contreras, Ctr for Family Services
Nicole Digiore, St. Mary's Hosp Adol PHP
Jeena Williams, DCP&P
Natalie Contreras, Ctr for Family Services
Emma Ojeda, Parent
Nancy Estrada, Community
Loumarie Vasquez, CFFS
Erica Kaslander, PC CASA for Children
Jason Harding, Chief Prosecutor
Jo Ponticello, Children's Aid
Bart Chou, PC Mental Health & Addiction
Le'Var Starr, PC YSC
Jenny Vuksic, PC Mental Health

Excused

Carin Leiva, 4Cs
Denise Nausedas, DCF

Francine Vince, PC Human Services
Amanda Compton-Dover, JJC

Absent

Lisa Vainieri-Marshall, Paterson Public Schools
Duwan Bogert, WIB

Gabriel Montero, M&S
Rosy Messineo, Haledon Public Schools

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 Le'Var Starr, September & October 2021 minutes were approved.
- II. **System Partner Updates:**
 - Paulina Dutton, Circle of Care CMO, reported that they had 56 new youth, 71 in transition, and total census of 809 youth. Held steady in the summer months and

starting to see an increase in November. They are preparing Food Drive for Thanksgiving and looking to provide 200 food baskets. Anyone looking to volunteer in the delivery of food baskets please reach out to Paulina. They are also having a Holiday Toy Drive for the Youth involved in the CMO.

-Juvenile Detention Alternative Committee (JDAI) Family Engagement

Subcommittee has been working on Community Conversations being held every third Wednesday of the month. The group's focus on those impacted by violence, hoping to bring resources to the community and start meaningful conversations. The next forum talks about Acts of Gratitude, looking to engage the community as a way of healing to be held on November 17th at 6pm.

- Kathi Champagne, FSO, reported they had 61 new referrals in October, 8 initial visits with CMO, 15 face to face with FSO. There have been 166 face-to-face visits. Youth Group is meeting once a month in person at the office. Upper county support group is meeting once a month in person in collaboration with the Highlands Family Success Center. The Passaic and Woodland Park groups are meeting virtually. The second up and coming Youth Forum is taking place on November 16, 2021, the topic of violence and expanding that conversation. One of their interns will be doing a small presentation on her experience on community violence, and two of the Racial Equity committee members will facilitate the group. Please share the flyer that was sent to CIACC earlier.

They have a grant from Project Feed, approved for 325 hot meals for families who have been struggling from Covid-19 from local restaurants. They have their virtual holiday event coming up on December 17. They also are partnering with Frosty & Friends and gifting for 125 of their youth.

- Donna Glinkin, CMRSS, reported they had 275 new requests for dispatches and are currently working with 350 families, and no shelter petitions. They have some vacancies, supervisory positions, and are having a job fair on Friday. They are preparing for the Holidays Drives.
- Jeena Williams, DCP, staff will be returning full time to offices on site on Monday.
- Fanny Ochoa, reported SPAN, NJ Inclusive Childcare Project, which the task is to promote inclusion of children with disabilities in early childhood centers and supporting the professionals as well. They are also hosting for parents monthly Parent Circles and providing support & resources. Fanny will forward the Flyer for upcoming events, next week it will be on the transition of children from early intervention into the school system. Be on the lookout for a project that focuses juvenile justice system and the child welfare system. Starting in December, they will be launching IEP clinics and trainings around the rights of parents that have children with disabilities.
- Jo Ponticello, Children's Aid, has a grant for Aging-Out youth. It will cover residents in Essex, Union, and Passaic for provide peers for youth. Using Brave Life Institute Model, which will train youth who have successfully navigated through the system to become peers for youth.

III. **Committee Reports:**

- Racial Equity Committee will have their second Youth Forum to be held on November 16th. Would like to discuss the commitment letter to pursue racial

equity in Passaic county. Please feel to discuss whether provider agencies have been able to share with their agency, and what the outcomes have been. Jenny will re-send the commitment letter, and the resources to achieve outcomes. It is a way to bring about change around social injustice. Racial Equity Committee meets every Tuesday at 3pm, please reach out if you are interested in joining.

- PFS II: Joanna O'Rourke, no updates on the PFS logic model. Up in PC is hosting a virtual Town Hall on Thursday on underage drinking. The flyer was sent out yesterday. Speakers on early substance misuse, and another speaker talking about their personal experience. Please share the flyer.
- Systems Partner Committee: James Lane reported that they did not have a meeting but did speak to each other. In over the last year, in all their meetings, they have had detailed conversations on the challenges faced. They 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.
- Community Voice: Ana Maria Rivera reported that they meet twice a month, on every second and last Tuesday at 6pm. Planning outreach to parents, updating flyers, and will ask Jenny to distribute....and CIACC can share as well with families they support. They will have bilingual meetings as needed. They also share a 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.
-Jenny raised the issue of Passaic County having difficulty getting families into transitional services through DVRS. A contact person was given, which is Kathleen Mauer, DVRS Lead Transition Counselor in Passaic County.
- By-Laws & Membership: No report
- Planning/Education Committee: Planning Committee will meet after CIACC meeting.

IV. **Youth Services Commission:** Le'Var Starr, YSC Administrator, reported that the Youth Service Commission meeting is on 11-10-21 at 12:30pm. 7th Annual Youth Service Conference will be held on December 2nd and 3rd. Save the date flyer has gone out. A thank you was given to James Lane on Presenting at the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). A thank you was given to Fanny Ochoa for connecting them with SPAN. They will be presenting a workshop at this year's conference. There will also be a workshop on Restorative and Healing Circles, which offers a certification. Will start to have listening sessions regarding the Restorative Transformative grant. If there are community conservations happening that you are aware of, Le'Var requested to be invited. Started a

food distribution with Silk City Community Fridge, will be filling it for families in need.

- V. **Staff Report:** Jenny Vuksic introduced Bart Chou the new Director of Mental Health & Addictions Services. He was in attendance earlier but had to leave for another meeting. Welcome.
- VI. **Announcements:** Nicole Digiore, St. Mary's Hosp, announced that they are in the process of opening an Adolescent Partial Hospital Program during the day.
- Berenice Lopez, S&N Family Success Center, is in the process of getting turkeys for families. They have 80 turkeys, please contact Bernice if you have families that could use a turkey, fresh not frozen.
 - Ana Maria Rivera, when families need ABA services and have Medicaid let Ana know.
 - Kelly Hart, Highlands FSC, doing baskets for Thanksgiving, looking to donate 75. Also working on the Giving Santa in collaboration with Home Depot.
- VII. **New Business:**
- *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.
 - *Collaborative Safety Orientation.* Cynthia Heller discussed that Department of Children and Families (DCF), uses a strength-based approach. Collaborative Safety is a continuation of a strength-based approach. It is more investigative, not punitive.
 - Promising Path to Success 2.0 Funds/RPS.* Passaic County CIACC was given an opportunity for a grant in the amount of \$10,000. The purpose is to elevate youth and family voice through increased participation in CIACCs and their subcommittees. Paulette expressed how CIACC is a county that has been able to engage families and wanted to acknowledge Passaic County on their successes.
 - Jeena Williams wanted to take the time to thank Cynthia Heller, Paulina Dutton and CMO staff that were able to train DCPD Resource Families on the Nurtured Heart Approach.

The CIACC meeting was adjourned at 11:00am. Next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2021 at **6:30pm**. *Will be held virtually.* Please note the time of meeting.

Submitted by: *Jenny Vuksic*