

Passaic County CIACC
401 Grand Street, Paterson, NJ 07505
Chair: Gino Arevalo
Vice-Chair: Kelly Hart
March 10, 2021

Attendance

Present

Gino Arevalo, FIS /CFS
Kelly Hart, Highlands FSC
Diahann DeRuggiero, McKinney-Vento
Fanny Ochoa, Community
Ana Maria Rivera, Parent
Donna Glinkin, MRSS
Sherrine Schudlt, Up in PC
Stephanie Dragg, McKinney-Vento
Paulina Dutton, Circle of Care CMO
Denise Nausads, DCF
Joanna O'Rourke, Up in PC
Sybil Schreiber, MHCoP
Jenny Sierra, DCP&P
Kathi Champagne, FSO
Cynthia Heller, CMO
Nell Koramn, PC Special Child Health Unit
Rachel Kinne, BBBS

Jeffrey Steigman, FIS/ CFS
Nancy Guerra, Parent
JacQueline Mestre, New Destiny
Carlos Erazo, Center for Family Services
James Sawyer, FSO
Magdalena Muszynska
Paulette Mader, Rutgers University
Patrick Revolus
Abire Sabbagh, Palestinian American Community Ctr
Ms. Perez, Parent
Altorice Frazier, Parent & Parents Engaging Parents
Arnita Trahan, Parent
Alexandra, Parent
Rebecca P.
Marlene Nancy Estrada
Le'Var Starr, PC YSC
Jenny Vuksic, PC Mental Health

Excused

Brenda Browne, Division of MH&AS
Marian Golan, PC CASA for Children

Francine Vince, PC Human Services
Jeena Williams, DCP&P

Absent

Lisa Vainieri-Marshall, Paterson Public Schools
Duwan Bogert, WIB
Gabriel Montero, M&S
Berenice Lopez, S&N FSC

Santa Dastidar, St. Mary's Hospital PCH
Daisy Carrera, Jewish Family Services
Nicole Digiore, St. Mary's, AWARE
Rosy Messineo, Haledon Public Schools

The monthly meeting of the Passaic County CIACC was called to order at 6:36 pm. 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 seconded by Cynthia Heller the February 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

II. **System Partner Updates:**

- Paulina Dutton, Circle of Care CMO, reported that they are currently working with 887 youth and families, 3 new referrals, and numbers have been increasing at a steady pace. Updates include working with Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) with the Family Community Engagement Subcommittee. The next meeting is on 3/17/21 at 6:00pm. The goal is to engage community and families, and to identify the needs of youth. The Youth Town Hall takes place on the first Thursday of the month, which is a partnership with Camden County CMO.
- Kathi Champagne reported they had 79 new families in February, 34 initial meetings with CMO, 18 initial meetings with Peer Support Workers, and working with a total of 219 families. They had 44 CFTs and 52 Family Assessments. They had completed 11 support groups, with 158 participants including webinars held. Statewide outreach on Bridging the Gap between youth and law enforcement, and they finished off the last of the series last night with “The Talk”. The girl’s night support group taking place every Wednesday night.
- Donna Glinkin, CMRSS, reported they had 202 new requests for dispatch. They are currently working with 400 families. There were 0 petitions and 0 placements. They are almost fully staffed.
- Jenny Sierra, DCP&P, reported that the support staff are mainly working from home, and staff do go out for investigations. They are projected to go back to the offices in August 2021. In February they have had 207 Child Protective Service Investigations, and 36 Child Welfare Assessments. Central Passaic had 20 CWAs, and 102 CPS investigations, and Northern Passaic had 16 CWAs, and 105 CPS investigations.

III. **Committee Reports:**

- Racial Equity: Jeffrey Steigman, FIS/ CFS, updated members that the subcommittee has been meeting for over a year, and what really got them more into the movement adamantly was the killing of George Floyd in May 2020. Members really wanted to get behind the idea of Racial Equity. The subcommittee invited Tracy Salmon to present to the CIACC last month on racial bias, they developed an anti-racism commitment letter that was distributed and gave members tools to assist in the process. If interested in joining the subcommittee, please reach out to Jenny Vuksic.
- PFS II – SOAR: Joanna O’Rourke, Up in PC. A survey was sent to CIACC members earlier, there was a great response, and she would like to ask members the questions today for more information. Evidenced Based Programs listed included Nurtured Heart Approach, Wraparound Services, Strengthening Families, Why Try and Sources of Strength, Connections Matter, Violence Intervention and Prevention with Paterson Healing Collective. CIACC members who are involved in other prevention work included the YSC Prevention Committees for at-risk youth.
- System Partner Review: Donna Glinkin, MRSS, reported that the committee met on February 26th. They are meeting on the 4th Friday of the month at 1:30pm. It has been a partnership with System of Care Partners and Law Enforcement to identify barriers and link families to appropriate services. Next meeting 4/23 at 1:30pm. If interested, reach out to Jenny Vuksic.
- Community Voice: Ana Maria Rivera, Community, reported that they are meeting Tuesday nights at 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Le’Var Starr, PC YSC, attended the last meeting and provided great information on the Youth Service Commission (YSC) and how

parents can get involved. 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. The committee received some feedback on DVRS. They would like to have a Presentation from the Department of Labor. 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. The other issue discussed was the Department of Housing. Families are not aware of their benefits, they need more information on housing requirements. More information on Section 8, and how often it is re-evaluated. Discussed families having difficulties receiving services from CMO. Also, they are looking for more parents at their meeting. Fanny Ochoa, Community, added the importance of hearing from those from DVRS and Housing. Children are not receiving the tools they need to be productive adults. Depending on the youth's diagnosis will determine what they are eligible for. Due to not making evaluations on time, they are seeing more youth with anxiety, severe depression, and families struggling with chaos in their home. Many components effect the welfare of the family. An email will be addressed to Jenny Vuksic, so all concerns and suggestions can be addressed.

- By-Laws and Membership Committee: The membership Committee will be looking to forward a membership list for approval by the Mental Health Board in June 2021. Sybil Schreiber and Gino Arevalo volunteered to join the committee. If interested in participating, please let Jenny Vuksic know.

IV. **Youth Services Commission:** Le'Var Starr, YSC Administrator, reported that the next Youth Service Commission meeting will be held on March 17, 2021 at 12:30pm. Link is located on the county website.

V. **Staff Report:** Passaic County Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services March 2021 notes:

- Passaic County Behavioral task Force was formed, next meeting will be held 3/11/2021 to solve Mental Health and Addictions issues in the County. An invitation to join was extended to the committee.
- A proclamation from NJ State was received, announcing March 2021 as Gambling Awareness month.
- "Hope One" van was delivered and is being wrapped by the logo. The supplies for retrofitting are due to be delivered soon. On 3/3/2021, Passaic County Commissioner Director visited the site of the project, where Narcan kits (Overdose reversal) and dignity kits were handed out.
- Jail MAT (Medically Assisted Treatment) program will be extended to 2022 through a Government State Grant.
- Application to the State was submitted by "Prevention is Key" to receive Free Narcan Kits that in turn will be provided to the appropriate high-risk population.
- The State provided updated ORP-Overdose Recovery Program data.
- IDRC (Intoxicated Driver Recover) program are in the process of reinstating some of their in-person programs vs virtual.

- VI. **Announcements:** Jeffrey Steigman, FIS/ CFS, discussed that at the April CIACC meeting the Racial Equity Subcommittee would like to further discuss the Commitment Letter that was forwarded to CIACC members and are looking for feedback from the group.
- JacQueline Mestre, Passaic County Council for Young Children. They meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month between 4:00 and 5:30pm. A flyer will be forwarded to CIACC. They have 4 subcommittees that meet to address health, education, safety, and community resource access. It is a parent driven council.
 - Kelly Hart, Highlands FSC usually does an Earth Day Event. They were not able to have one last year but will have an event this year. It will be on April 24 and located at Camp Vacamas in West Milford. Anyone interested in participating can reach out to Kelly Hart. Also, April is Child Abuse and Prevention month.

The CIACC meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm. Next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2021 at **9:30am**. Please note the time of meeting.

Submitted by: *Jenny Vaksic*