

Passaic County CIACC
401 Grand Street, Paterson, NJ 07505
Chair: Kelly Hart
Vice-Chair: Ana Maria Rivera
May 11, 2022

Attendance

Present

Kelly Hart, Highlands FSC	Jenny Sierra, DCPD
Ana Maria Rivera, Parent	Natalie Contreras, CFFS
Paulina Dutton, Circle of Care CMO	Joanna O'Rourke, Up in PC
Jaime Jackett, NJDOE	Paulina Vargas,
Tina Miles, St. Joseph's Health	Jaime Jackett,
Bart Chou, PC Mental Health & Addiction	Diahann DeRuggiero, McKinney Vento
D/Lt. James Lane, Passaic PD	Monica Lozano
Jennifer Castaneda-Ardizzone, CMO	Kathi Champagne, FSO
Massiel Sanabria, McKinney Vento	Nancy May, parent
Le'Var Starr, PC YSC	Rachel Kinne, BBBS of Coastal and Northern NJ
Cindy Merced, Supreme Consultants	Donna Glinkin, MRSS
Charisa Moulton,	Nicole Digiore, St. Mary's Hosp
Samual, Parent	Sybil Schreiber, MHCOP
Jo Ponticello, Children's Aid and Family Serv	Narine
Kaprelian, St. Joseph's Health	
Stephanie Drag, Children's Aid and Family Serv	Cynthia Heller, Circle of Care CMO
Nancy Estrada, parent	Debbie O'Brien,
Nancy De La Torre, parent	Emma Ojeda,
Jocelyn Cuff - Passaic and Essex, CFFS	Jenny Vuksic, PC Mental Health

Excused

Marion Golan, CASA	Amanda Compton-Dover, JJC
Francine Vince, PC Human Services	Fanny Ochoa, Parent

Absent

Gabriel Montero, M&S	Xiomara Gonell, DVRS
Duwan Bogert, WIB	Rosy Messineo, Haledon Public Schools
Lisa Vainieri-Marshall, Paterson Schools	JacQueline Mestre, New Destiny
Abire Sibbagh, Palestinian American Ctr	Berenice Lopez, S&N Family Success Ctr

The monthly meeting of the Passaic County CIACC was called to order at 9:30am. The meeting was held via videoconference. *Minutes, agenda, and meeting link is available on the Passaic County website.*

- I. **Minutes:** On a motion by Le'Var Starr and seconded by Paulina Dutton, the April 13, 2022 minutes were approved.
- II. **System Partner Updates:**

- Paulina Dutton, Circle of Care CMO, reported a new milestone having over 1,000 active youth, 1,033 is the highest they have had, 79 new referrals, and 54 transitions. In April, they were invited to Earth Day event held by Highlands FSC, also they were part of the Autism Awareness event the City of Paterson hosted. In May, attending Mental Health Awareness Concert/ Symposium at International HS in Paterson, and holding Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies on May 21st.
- Kathi Champagne, FSO, reported 100 new families referred, 84 initial visits, total of 148 total face to face visits. They have added 2 bilingual PT Peer Support Partners. They held 7 Support Groups and 136 members attended. Youth Partnership had 17 unduplicated youth in groups and have attended events in April. The Upper County Support Group is still meeting on a hybrid schedule. They had the Surrogate Court Judge meet with both English and Spanish Speaking Groups to talk about guardianship and building trust funds. Had a new trained staff person host a Nurtured Heart Approach training session for 10 participating parents. FSO Co-Hosted the Youth Forum through the Racial Equity Subcommittee.
- Donna Glinkin, CMRSS, reported they had 243 requests for dispatches and are currently working with 450 families, they can choose between in person or telehealth. These are record highs for Mobile Response. Zero (0) petitions and 0 placements. They currently have 3 staff openings.
- Jenny Sierra, DCP, reported they held a Child Abuse Prevention presentation for day care centers, one with Ana Maria Rivera. *Events were virtual*. One was from Straight & Narrow FSC, and she also held event over the weekend for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Passaic Central Office received 24 Child Welfare Assessments, and received 136 Child Protective Service Investigations, which is a total 160 referrals in April. Passaic Northern Office received 28 Child Welfare Assessments, and received 153 Child Protective Service Investigations, which is a total 181 referrals in April.
- Discussion around current difficulty in hiring staff, more staff leaving or going on leaves, and the impact on the community. Continue to be in a crisis mode, to meet the needs of the high number that are being referred. More youth with stress, depression, anxiety, likely the result of covid, and recently effected by finances (rising costs of groceries/gas). Discussed the development of work for Professionals that primary language is in Spanish. How can this be addressed? Need advocacy coming out of the Planning Committee to be brought before the CIACC around increasing funding for the community services in addition to CSOC partners.

Committee Reports:

- Kathi Champaign, Racial Equity, reported on updates from the most recent in person Youth Forum at the Al Moody Academy on May 5th. They are working on providing outcomes from the surveys that were completed from the participants in the youth Forum. Nine youth attended, they focused on the incident that occurred at Bridgewater Mall, where police responded drastically different between the black and white youth. Youth responded on the racial bias they face in their community the students were very outspoken and engaged. For Mental Health Awareness month, they showed a video how to cope with mental health challenges. They discussed their challenges and how they are able to address issues. They were invited to return for future forums.
- Joanna O'Rourke, PFS II, gave updates, and the Logic model was forwarded to CIACC members prior to this meeting. The Logic Model has been completed and will be submitted in May and will need to be approved by the CIACC to be able to move forward. Listed some of the interventions from the model to utilize in the future.

Providing a wish for future tasks. They started doing vaping presentations in the schools (JFK/Lakeland HS/Wanaque) Will also be implementing the model “We’re Not Buying It” for Middle Schools. On a motion by Kelly Hart and seconded by Sybil Schreiber the Logic Model was approved for the Logic Model to be submitted. A survey from the state will be sent in September.

- Ana Maria Rivera, Community Voice, reported they are still meeting twice a month. This month they participated in a county webinar from Paulette Mader, Rutgers Trainers on strategies for partnering with CIACCs. Building connections/relationships....next step to replicate presentation for Spanish speaking parents in the committee. They would like to ensure the importance of participating with CIACCs. The flyers the Family Voice Committee was approved and will be shared with the community.
- Planning/Education Committee: Will meet after the CIACC meeting today to continue discussion on the Promising Path to Success Funds. Will also talk about the issue around resources for families discussed earlier. Diahann DeRuggiero wanted to thank Kelly Hart for hosting her and Massiel Sanabria at the FSC to chat with parents. In the process of applying for funds, for Passaic County, they have partnered with Catholic Charities to help families who are in hotels after becoming homeless.
- By-Laws & Membership: Jenny Vuksic let members know they are updating the CIACC By-Laws manual to present to the Mental Health Board Members for approval. Also, updating membership for the June meeting as well.

III. **Youth Services Commission:** Le’Var Starr thanked System Partners for insight/direction around the Restorative Justice Application which was submitted on May 9, 2022. Le’Var asked members if they were aware of any spaces available in Paterson that are 24/7 accessible, accessible to recreation, and possibly have classrooms. They are looking for HUB locations located in the City of Paterson. Also, would like to promote the upcoming Youth Leadership Retreat. They are still accepting students to join on June 28 through July1, with 3 overnight stays at Camp Hope in West Milford. The Mental Health Conference and Concert is happening on May 14 on Breaking the Stigma. The next Youth Service Commission meeting will be held on May 18, 2022.

-Cynthia Heller, CMO, added that they are opening a Youth Center in the Paterson Mall. It will be an opportunity for agencies in our county to have groups and/or meetings. Appointments will need to be scheduled it is not meant to be a drop-in center. The place will be a friendly, open, safe space to hold groups, they are hoping for a September opening.

IV. **Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services:** Bart Chou reported that the Hope One Van the will partner with Paterson Police Department and expand the Hope One Van from two days to four days. Please let the Division know if there is an event that you would like the Hope One Van to participate in, please email Erin Short erinsh@passaiccountynj.org
-If you have brochures you would like for the Division to distribute at resource tables at events, please reach out to Shannon Ferray ShannonF@passaiccountynj.org
-The county has a resource hub, reach out to Shannon to learn how to add your agency.
-Mental Health and Addiction Grants are currently in the contracting process, which has recently been extended due to a new contracting process.

V. **Stakeholder Updates:** No report

- VI. **Announcements:** Stephanie Drag, Children's Aid and Family Services, announced they have a new Strengthening Families Coordinator. They are running a cycle for youth touched by the Juvenile Justice System for youth ages 10 -17. Sessions are held on Mondays 6pm to 8:30pm at Boys & Girl's Club in Paterson. They work on Life Skill, along with parents receiving skills, and activities to reinforce what they have learned.
- Jo Ponticello, Children's Aid and Family Services, announced of new staff in the office.
 - Natalie Contreras, CFFS, announced new staff they have added to their program who are also bilingual.
 - Kelly Hart, Highlands FSC, proclamation declared May as Mental Health Awareness month. The Scott's Fun Run is on May 22nd, the Hope One Van will be there.
- VII. **Old Business:** No DVRS updates, conversations took place with Helene Sims and parents were directed to reach out to her when challenges arise.
- A Meeting for youth entering ER and clearance letters has been scheduled for May 23, 2022. Tina Miles added that numbers are still high. PES staff are meeting with Paterson schools to talk about these issues and clearance letters. They are also down a child therapist, which makes it more difficult. Narine reminded members that St. Joseph's are also able to have a mobile unit respond when needed.

On a motion by Le'Var Starr and seconded by Diahann DeRuggiero, the CIACC meeting was adjourned at 10:30am. Next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2022 at **9:30am**. *Will be held virtually*. Please note the time of meeting.

Submitted by: *Jenny Vuksic*