

Passaic County CIACC
401 Grand Street, Paterson, NJ 07505
Chair: Kelly Hart
Vice-Chair: Donna Glinkin
February 14, 2024

Attendance

Present

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| Kelly Hart, CFR | Bart Chou, PCHS |
| Laura McCarthy - PCMRSS/FCIU | Sidney Laplante |
| Paulina Dutton, Circle of Care CMO | Erica Pulliam |
| Jenny Sierra, DCPD | Nina Reams, FSO-PC |
| Jeena Williams, DCPD | Donna Glinkin, PCMRSS/FCIU |
| Stephanie Drag, Children's Aid & Family Serv | Bart Chou, PCHS |
| Amanda | Berenice Lopez, S&N Family Success Ctr |
| Jenna Rutherford | Paulina Vargas |
| Sandra Elanani | Davetta Ford, BGC |
| Diahann De Ruggiero | Natalie Contrares |
| Yonette Fredericks, PCHS | Jonathan Augustin, Domestic Sexual Violence Ctr |
| Peter Gorvitz, CWS | Bryan Sheppard, PC YSC |
| Mahmood Bagramwal, CWS | Jenny Vuksic, PCHS |

Excused

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| Amanda Compton-Dover, JJC | Jaime Jackett, NJDOE |
| Sybil Schreiber, MHCoP | Le'Var Starr, PCHS |

Absent

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| Joanna O'Rourke, Up in PC | Dawn Moody, Probation |
| Jill Martorano, Family Courts | Jocelyn Cuff, CFFS |

The monthly meeting of the Passaic County CIACC was called to order at 9:45am. The meeting was held virtually. *Minutes, agenda, and meeting link are available on the Passaic County website.*

- I. **Minutes:** The minutes for January 10, 2024 will be voted on at the March CIACC meeting.
- II. **Presentation by Yonette Fredericks:** Yonette shared a power point with the council describing the referral process to receive NJCOC (Continuum of Care) services. It was explained that the first step is contacting the Board of Social Services to find eligibility for TANF or General Assistance, if not eligible to contact 211 for housing assistance. Also discussed two types of permanent housing through COC, which is Permanent Support Housing and Rapid Re-Housing. It was raised that providers have been encountering abundant housing issues with families, where they are referred back and forth to the same group of agencies. Those not eligible for general assistance because of issues with documentation, then they call 211, 211 tells sends them back....it just circles around again. Then the group questioned who do they go to for youth over 18 who need to call directly.....they may be in crisis and having a hard time articulating what the needs are. There is not enough resources for the need out there, unfortunately there's a Cap to all

the funding streams, funds become exhausted quickly. There is no quick fix, it requires reaching out to many resources to find solutions.

It was questioned what we can do. Is there a housing navigator, one person to contact.

Until we get to a place of funding to meet the need the high barrier shelter placement, this will continue. The issue is that they are all pulling from the same resources. Also, they cannot help until the family is homeless. Discussion on how to remove high barriers to housing.....no one person can do collectively, but as a county.... Federal funding helps, would need change in legislature to service individuals. It is a process to chip away at the barriers. Calling around/ access to out of county resources, and finding resources.

The members suggested that housing have a script/ what and how to say for housing...

this way families can prepare prior to calling 211 and manage the expectation when calling 211. So there is better understanding of the process from A to Z. Many providers can offer resources and referrals, but there's not enough resources or funds to support. Also, encourage families to address housing issues as early as possible.

Impact Passaic is a useful tool for resources. Yonette will reach out to 211 Director with issues raised. She encourages folks to use Impact Passaic. Looking to have a conversation with 211 first, then invite to speak at CIACC.

The group discussed scenarios of families they were working with who were doubling up then asked to leave and became HUD homeless.....families with mental and/or physical disabilities.

III. **System Partner Updates:**

- Paulina Dutton, Circle of Care CMO: reported they had a total of 1,098 active youth. In the month of January, they received 91 new referrals, and had 82 transitions. They are planning a Community Baby Shower... if you are aware of any new or expectant parents under 25, the event will take place on March 16th from 11am to 2pm at the Circle, Center City Mall. They are also planning for their Healthy Bodies Health Minds event in partnership with Bergen and Hudson Counties on June 8th at Overpeck Park in Leonia.
- Nina Reams, FSO: Nina let members know they held a HBHM art contest last year to design T-shirts. In the month of January, they had 86 referrals from PerformCare, no meetings were scheduled with the CMO, 18 without Care Managers, and 119 face-to-face visits. Reported having 7 support meetings, 175 Support group participants, 5 community meetings, 5 Youth Group meetings, and 10 hours of family engagement. They will also have the Nurtured Heart Approach training in person on 2/24 & 3/2. FSO will have their NHA Notching Up Trainings after they are trained in NHA (Must attend both sessions).
- Laura McCarthy, MRSS: In December they had 207 requests for dispatches and went out to 196. They currently have 1 CIS opening.
- Jeena Williams, DCP: DCF currently has a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) open for camp and recreational services for youth with IDD this summer. Also looking for providers to provide one-to-one support at these camps and recreational services. These RFQs can be found on the DCF website. For the month of January, Passaic Central Office responded to 199 referrals, 45 Child Welfare Assessments (CWS) and 154 Child Protective Services (CPS). The Northern Local Office responded to 201 referrals, 37 Child Welfare Assessments (CWS) and 164 Child Protective Services (CPS).

IV. **Committee Reports:**

- Community Voice: We continue to work on having the Community Voice heard. Met with the support group at Highlands FSC on 1/23/24, which was a Relax and Paint event. Had an opportunity to meet members from the community. Then will meet with the

virtual group in March. Will also host a county run a virtual meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

- Planning/Education Committee: The Conference on February 2nd was successful. Thank you all...presenters, CMO for cake, Bart for food, the use of the Safety Academy, and to all that joined us to make it a successful event. Diahann further stated the Domestic Violence breakout was well attended, goes hand in hand with displacement & homelessness.
- Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Community Voice: The committee sent the survey to a small group of individuals, and only received 1 response. Will forward to CIACC please forward as appropriate. Will also send to Special Education Directors, MHB, NJ4S, CMO, SPAN, etc. Looking for CIACC participation from DDD and/or DVRS. With data, we can reach out to council persons to express the needs of the community.

- IV. **Youth Services Commission**: Jenny let members know that the Youth Services Commission will take place next week for their February meeting. Also, flyers went out for the 4th Annual Leadership Retreat taking place from June 30th through July 3rd at Camp Hope in West Milford.
- V. **Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services**: The Mental Health First Aid Training will be available for public and agency-specific individuals every month, and the dates and registration information will be announced one month prior. Our next training is on 2/22, and it's full. The February Outreach Calendar was sent earlier. Please let us know if you have any ideas about the locations. Jewish Family & Children's Services of Northern New Jersey and Jewish Family Service & Children's Center of Clifton-Passaic have the Youth Demonstration Grants, which will provide screening, referral, and intervention within 48 hours. Services will be provided within 24 hours if it's a school referral. I will share the program information once I receive it from them.
- VI. **Stakeholder Updates**: No report
- VII. **Announcements**: Paulina Dutton will be sending providers and stakeholders a survey stakeholders surveys to assess how the CMO is working with youth and families, and community partnerships. Jenny will forward surveys to members.
-Peter Gorvitz, briefly discussed Church World Service as a refugee resettlement agency and the populations served.
- VIII. **Old/New Business**: No report.

On a motion by Paulina Dutton and seconded by Diahann De Ruggiero, the CIACC meeting was adjourned at 10:50am. Next meeting is scheduled for **March 13, 2024, at 9:30am**. The meeting will be hybrid at DCP&P, 201 Willow brook Blvd 4th Fl. (Willow brook Center) Wayne, NJ 07470.

Submitted by: *Jenny Vuksic*