

Gloucester County CIACC Reorganization Meeting February 12, 2025

10 AM, ZOOM

Present: Ron Hudak, Bethany Vega, Nicole Hall, Jennifer Rodriguez, Lisa Ranieri, Christopher Hemberger, Jonathan Cummings, Heather Costello, Andrea Garcia, Brandis Childs, Tracy Mauriello, Rudolph Aikens, Kristen B. Cervantes, Scott Burns, Scarlett O'Dell, Robert Bamford, Michelle Pandolfo, Courtney Iantosca, Michele Musick, Lori Morris, Dr. Monica Lallo, Khaleha Blackmore, Stacy Reid, Lauren Snyder, Teri Black, Dwayne Taylor, Beverly Lynch, Bessie Williams, Erica Pulliam, Joseph Jacob, Lisa Cerny

Michelle Pandolfo calls meeting to order.

Swearing in of 2025 voting members of the CIACC: Rudolph Aikens, Kristen B. Cervantes, Andrea Garcia, Tracy Mauriello, Bethany Vega, Joseph Jacob, Nicole Hall, Director/designee Gloucester County CMO, Director/designee Mobile Response Lauren Synder, Director/designee Family Support Organization Jennifer Rodriguez. Scott Burns from Gloucester County Council administers the oath. Oaths of office forms will be distributed to the members for their signatures and then the forms will be returned to County Administration for notary services.

Michelle asks for a motion to approve the previous December 11, 2024 meeting minutes. Rudolph Aikens makes a motion, Bethany Vega seconds, motion passes.

Convener/Coordinator's Report: Annual Dashboard Data Review

Monthly the CIACC Dashboard is sent to us from our Department of Children and Families from the Childrens' System of Care Preform Care and we in turn share it out to everyone. This report provides an overview of activity specific to our county for the last month.

Annually Michelle pulls together portions of the report and charts it in order to look back on the year, compare the previous years, look at the ebb and flow throughout the year, etc. (hard copies will be available at the next meeting)

- Call Activity highest call volume in March,
 - higher numbers in the spring and fall during the school year
 - low in summer
 - Call volume overall down 7%, newly registered down 24% compared to last year
 - Agencies are trying to determine what is bringing the numbers down
- Age clusters (what age groups are these calls related to)
 - Similar to last year the highest group is the 5-10-year olds
 - 14-17-year olds are next highest
 - Followed by 11-13-year olds

- Who's making the calls to Preform care? Childrens In Patient and hospital providers, followed by DCPP, then some other groups, not a lot through the schools
- External Partners
 - Very similar to last year. Michelle keeps the school data in here in hopes we will see more outreach as we continue our Educational Partnership efforts.
- Caregivers and providers bulk of calls come in from parent or legal guardian as expected
- Call reasons
 - Bulk of calls are for behavioral assistance, intensive and community care, followed by case management
 - Reasons why people are calling? in home services followed by IDD inquiries
 - She is also tracking the substance use related calls in support of our efforts with Partnerships for Success
- Authorized CSOC services most of them connected to the calls for intensive in community that's where most of the authorized services also reside
- Special populations IDD
 - This gives you a look at averages of IDD applications
 - This odd dip coincides with the launch of cyber 2.0
 - Transitional period where applications were not going through as smoothly- based on this chart we rebounded, processing those applications and climbing back to typical levels.
- Substance Use Demographics trend more with males than females
 - Sometimes they are on par with each other, but generally more males than females.
 - Biggest age group 14-17-year olds
- Substance Usage Distribution
 - Several months data was not provided but nonetheless cannabis appears to be the biggest drug of choice, followed by alcohol and tobacco

Youth Substance Use Concerns- LOGIC MODEL

Chris Hemberger, Gloucester Regional Addictive Substance Prevention (GRASP)
Coalition Coordinator with the SouthWest Council

- Are prescription opioids still a relevant concern? Cannabis has been a more relevant concern.
- Are the root causes still present-(1) Availability and Access to Youth and (2) Peer influence/community norms? Root causes related to Opioid use may be diminishing or overtaken by the availability and access to cannabis. Peer influence/community norms around alcohol and vaping have also moved to the forefront.

- Multiple CIACC members including Andrea, Jennifer and Michele voiced concerns about Cannabis.
- Nicole pointed out that cannabis and vaping are a concern.
- Michelle, as a parent of a teenager, I hear about the presence of vaping in school and drinking.
- Joe messaged that we see drinking and vaping in the high schools
- Christopher advised that Gloucester County has 7 cannabis dispensaries and over 200 liquor stores
- Ron brought up "Neptune's Fix" being accessed from mom and pop convenience stores.
- Monica put in the chat that 7 eleven stocks it.
- Christopher describes these products as essentially "gas station heroin". The real drug is called "tianeptine." It acts like an opioid and is banned but may still be found on store shelves. Other OTC products discussed were Kratom (a supplement that is sold as an energy booster, mood lifter, pain reliever) flavored vape products, and delta-8 (often manufactured out of cannabidiol from hemp rather than marijuana and has no federal minimum age requirement to purchase this product)
- Michelle reiterated that the dashboard data on substance use reinforces the input of the CIACC with regard to cannabis, alcohol and tobacco.
- In follow-up to the meeting, Ron communicated that the Operations Directors have shared that they have seen an increase in vaping. We are still seeing alcohol use and marijuana most frequently when there is substance use in addition to vaping.

Children's System of Care

- **CMO**- Ron Hudak report: month of January served 1,062 families; 592 GC families served; 556 which is 93.2% received in home services; 36 youth 6.8% received residential treatment; DCPP and CMO comanaged families for GC were 53 at 8.95%; children with special needs who were eligible for services in GC were 88 which is 14.69%; new enrollment for month of January out of GC are 69 new families; currently staffed 70 care managers and next hiring stage is in March.
- **FSO**- Jennifer Rodriguez report: have 7 family support partners, currently down 2 looking to hire in next few weeks, currently have a waitlist of 45 individuals, 23 are from GC, serving 162 individuals and 49 are from GC specifically; continue to do family support groups in Pitman United Methodist Church every Thursday from 6-8pm and the third Monday of each month we are at the Mosaic Family Success Center in Glassboro at 4pm that's a group for the whole family to come we have a caregiver support group, our youth partnership ages 5-13 and then older partnership 14-21 years old. Next month we will be adding a parent café model, more theme based and guided discussions with the group. We are still doing workshops in the communities this week we have a caregiver support group to do QPR-question persuade and refer training for suicide prevention.

Food pantry and clothing closet. Thanks to CMO for providing clothing and dry foods to replenish the stocks.

- **Mobile Response-** Lauren Synder report: 2,368 dispatches down 184 from year 2023; steady decline; 202 youth were seen in January on part from last January; GC calls down slightly 56% last January; down to 50% this January; still several openings for Bachelors and Masters level mobile response positions
- **No State Report**
- **Partial Care** Beverly Lynch/Teri Black reports: both of our partial programs had an unusual fall early winter- typically get busy late October this year we didn't get really busy until December early January; we saw a different trend this year didn't get a lot of referrals from school this year until December. We currently have 15 kids in the programs. More room since recent discharges lots of openings coming up. If people want to refer. Autism center just hired another staff member for the autism diagnostic center and a patient navigator who will be handling all of the intakes. Clinicians are going to lower the age group of the children they are going to be testing 18 month and up. Really large waitlist. MCO billing mixed messages in cyber/authorizations. Far less treatment time with new regulations coming down the pike. PHP rates \$3.00 increased rates- fighting for higher rates. Elmer serves children from GC the trend is the same that our referrals didn't take a jump until December/ January we are pretty full have 15 enrolled right now and a brief waitlist depending on the age. Some families don't have active Medicaid and wont start services until they do. Do have virtual IOP.
- **Subcommittee**
 - **Youth &Family** Michelle report - will participate in upcoming 3/25/25, School Districts of Harrison, Mantua, and Clearview 7th annual Community Fair from 6:30-8:00pm and the 4/3/25 Deptford Twp. School district community resource fair from 6-8pm. Staff lined up for both. Subcommittee looking to team up with the Family Support Organization and do a brief needs assessment with their parent support group to see how the CIACC can assist them, and sometime thereafter doing the same with the youth groups. And developing Fall/spring connections with GCIT SBYS. (send fair info to Nicole)
 - **Educational Partnership:** Michelle report - delivered virtual presentation to over 20 school staff members, primarily counselors from 7 different districts in January. Coming up is 3/17/25 IDD presentation previously mentioned above and will look also to collaborate with COMA's speaker bureau initiative.
 - **Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities:** Tracy report - two upcoming presentations 3/17/25 for schools on school aged children with IDDs (in collaboration with ED Partnership subcommittee), aiming to get advertising out no later than 2/20 so that it gets circulated to the special Ed directors meeting, and 5/8/25 for preschools on 3 to 5-year-old

children, identifying signs of IDD and resources (aiming to have advertising prepped to go out on 3/18/25).

- **Juvenile Justice/ Youth Services Commission:** Rudolph report-meeting next week for reorganization, finalizing new contracts for projects to support municipal sports in GC for a few regions as well as family court for youth that maybe moderate to low income; as well as working with Claytons' high school alternative school; we are in the process of finalizing a contract to do some work with Maryville as well. (trying to expand their adolescent program) Annually consistently servicing 225-250 youths. Heavy in prevention programs we have 21 programs in all and about 14-15 are prevention programs throughout the county. Also looking to add prevention programs in the southern part of GC as well. Court programs are there once the youth enters the court system. Diversion programs that are provided so youth does not have to get involved in formal court. Look on GC website for all the programs for youth services.
- **Missing & Abused Children:** Jennifer report- starting a resource guide with Children's Advocacy Center we provided feedback which will be published on their website - that was submitted to them and is being updated and put on the Children Advocacy Center website for GC. Looking to make that the main resource guide for GC. Planning for new year looking to do more workshops based on schools needs and interests.
- **Trends or needs:** No additional noted
- **Old business:** none
- **New Business:**
 - NJ4S has new programs coming up, link provided.
 - South West Council GRASP coalition meeting schedule for 2025 was shared. They are also running their Tuxedo contest
- **Reminders**
 - February 26, 2025 is a Tri-County CIACC hosted by Cumberland invitation will go out soon with details
 - April 9, 2025 is next local GC CIACC in person at Budd Blvd. location
- **Adjournment:** Michelle asked for a motion to close the meeting Nicole Hall motioned to close and Dwayne Taylor seconded, meeting closed at 11:11am.