

Gloucester County CIACC Meeting April 9,2025

10 AM, in person

Present: Xiomara Lowery, Jennifer Rodriguez, BethAnn Smith, Bethany Vega, Courtney Iantosca, Jonathan Cummings, Lauren Snyder, Andrea Garcia, Michele Musick, Danielle Alia, Keith Miller, Bessie Williams, Chris Hemberger, David Ayers, James Sampson, Tracy Mauriello, Robert Bamford, Michelle Pandolfo

The Gloucester County Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council (CIACC) works to develop and maintain a responsive, accessible, and integrated system of care for children with behavioral or mental health, intellectual or developmental disability, and/or substance use challenges.

Round table introductions.

Michelle Pandolfo asks for a motion to approve the previous February 12, 2025 minutes. Bethany Vega makes a motion, Jennifer Rodriguez seconds, motion passes minutes approved.

Guest Speaker: David Ayers, LPC, Program Coordinator, Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, Coordinated Specialty Care and Community Integration

The Coordinated Specialty Care and Community Integration (CSC-CI) program at Rutgers UBHC assists individuals aged 15-35 experiencing early serious mental illness (formerly First Episode Program). We are taking new clients, and we have no wait list. We take commercial insurance, Medicaid and Medicare and can assist if someone is uninsured. We can assist residents of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem counties. We have a multi-disciplinary team with a prescriber/APN, clinicians, Habilitation Counselors and Peer Support Services. We are ready and available to accept any clients you may see who needs this level of support.

Will send out digital copies of information related to the presentation.

Convener/Coordinator's, Michelle Pandolfo, report:

- Thank you to the voting members that responded about the letter of support request. It was approved and provided to Acenda.
- Attended the Children's System of Care All Partners meeting and some things that came out of that meeting were: an overview from the BOGGS Center which has a lot of valuable resource information readily available on their website, for example a Transition Planning Toolkit for

Youth with IDDs approaching adulthood; also, a speaker from Autism NJ went over information from their website; they have a training library, consultations and much more. The All Partners meeting also provided a presentation from the Office of Resilience; they offer trainings on trauma resilience in healing centered cultures. It's a two-day training that occurs over two different dates, and they will bring it out to groups such as this one. Michelle will send out an inquiry to see if there is interest in having the training for our CIACC.

Care Management Organization (CMO) -James Sampson report:

- For the month of March 2025, the CMO served 1037 youth. 57% were from Gloucester
- In the month of March 584 Gloucester youth were served. 545 (93.00%) home. 41 youth (7%) received residential treatment. With DCP&P, CGS co-managed 51 families (8.70%) and 89 (15.19%) were eligible for DDD services. In March CMO enrolled 52 new families from Gloucester County.
- CGS is fully staffed with 75 care managers, 5 started in March.
- Notable highlights/successes: CGS has been participating in DREAMS collaboration between DCF and DOE. Two CGS DREAMS mentors along with two FSO mentors train in Nurtured Heart Approach and trauma informed practices in the school district and offer coaching and mentoring to the trained teachers and staff throughout the school year. For Gloucester CGS currently works with Washington Twp. School District- Whitman Elementary School and Birches Elementary School. The 2025-2026 school year will be the last year for DREAMS. We are waiting to hear which schools will be approved for the final year.
- Notable challenges: N/A
- Notable Trends: N/A
- Notable gaps in service: N/A
- CGS participated in SEPAG Special Education Resource Fair at James Tomlin School and 2025 Community Resource Fair at Deptford HS.
- CGS has been advocating as a part of NJ CMO which is a collective of CMOs to stop any cuts in Medicaid. As part of NJCMO we have attended assembly and senate budget meetings in Trenton, and we have encouraged staff to contact their Congress Reps.

- **Family Support Organization (FSO) -Jennifer Rodriguez report:**
 - Notable Highlights/Successes: We were able to bring on a previous employee to fill one of our Family Support Partner open spots and reduce our waitlist. Our new Family Support Partner just completed last of her training and will begin taking on a caseload to further reduce our waitlist.
 - April 12th, we have an Egg Hunt Event at our office from 11am to 1pm.
 - Youth Partnership overnight stay will be on April 25th from 9pm to 8AM
 - Family Support Groups are still running in Gloucester on the 4th Monday from 4pm to 5pm at the Mosaic Family Success Center. Also, on Thursday each week from 6pm to 8pm at the United Methodist Church in Pitman.
 - Last Thursday the group moved to Round1 for a family bowling event which we had over 40 individuals present for the event.

Notable Challenges: Family Support Partners have been finding some challenges with our IDD families and helping advocate for available resources. Having challenges with quality respite services, availability of OOH settings for those that are eligible, challenges with finding appropriate educational settings for a select few families.

Notable Trends: none at this time

Noticeable gaps in service pertaining to the Service you provide: We are still down one Family Support Partner currently. Still not at capacity to see our 225 families.

The Gloucester County Division of Human & Special Services would like to thank you for your participation and reporting. It goes a long way to assist in the success of our mission.

- **Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS): Lauren Snyder report-** we saw an increase in March which is good because our numbers were a little low in Jan. and Feb. typically we do trend up in March which we did do. We saw 262 youth in March; 48% of those were from Gloucester; challenges remain the same hiring is a challenge- we were able to hire three staff but we need many more like 5-8 more to be able to handle the busier months effectively. Another challenge is ISC providers its better then it was but not where it was pre Covid. Still finding time to send out an ISC blast to all of our providers saying “hey we still don’t have somebody

identified for this youth is there anyone?" so there is a delay where we are waiting a week or two to fill that just looking for providers.

- No notable trends

- **Other Representatives:**

- **Danielle Alia, NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP), report:** we were busier in March no idea why; should start slowing down for the summer; still hiring as well
- **Courtney Iantosca, Functional Family Therapy, report:** we have a 3-6 week wait for our services; we are going in home; we are short staffed but we are bringing in our intern that is working with our program to lessen the waitlist time.
- **Teri Black, Center for Family Guidance, report (submitted via email in advance of meeting):**
 - CFG has hired 2 new clinicians in our out-patient offices and is currently taking new referrals. We have immediate openings for med management as well (managed care insurances only). Referrals to intakecalls@cfgpc.com
 - CFG OP continues to also offer the PSBCBT Adolescent program for treatment of problematic sexual behaviors. We are excited to announce that we are expanding the age range down to age 7. We will begin accepting referrals for ages 7 to 12 in May. Referrals to psbcbt@cfgpc.com
 - The CASTLE children's programs have waitlists for php that varies based on age. We are hiring for an outpatient clinician to address the increased need. 856-246-3013.
 - The A Step Ahead program continues to offer php at Elmer and Bridgeton as well as a virtual IOP for ages 11-17. 856-363-1310

- **Keith Miller, Children's System of Care, report:** CSOC, regarding the community resource development fund with the CMO we completed scoring them and the funds should be coming out pretty soon. Coming up with the contract renewals having some more technical assistance in meetings to discuss how to standardize some of the application to make it easier on both ends.

Standing agenda items

Youth and Family Voice: Michelle Pandolfo, report: we met yesterday and were invited to do a presentation in collaboration with the Commission For

Women and the ARC Gloucester still working on a speaker, it is a parent workshop at Camp Fun N Sun in Williamstown, a flyer will be distributed once it is available. Next local CIACC meeting is August bringing in resources for families and a backpack with school supplies, collaboration with our Drug & Alcohol unit. The event will take place at Budd Blvd. and the WOW (Wellness on Wheels) van will be outside also. Flyer will be distributed to partners early so that families in need have early opportunity to register. Have some plans to work with the SBYS program at GCIT and their family advisory dinners in the fall and in the spring, we are invited to do our local CSOC presentation in the fall. Our presentation on children with IDDs that spans from birth to age 21, we are going to take that presentation and gear it to the high school population/teenage population and work with SBYS leadership to figure out what information in that presentation would be most helpful to SBYS families.

Educational Partnership: Michelle Pandolfo, report: we have done our two presentations they were both offered virtually, one in January and one in March and similar topically to what we are doing in SBYS but these presentations were to educators, the first one was on local CSOC services, the second was on IDD resources for school aged children, we had 20 attend the local CSOC presentation from 7 different school districts, and the second presentation we had 15 attend from 10 different school districts, some of the March participants were returning from the January presentation. Positive feedback was given; they were appreciative of the information. For next school year going to do the local CSOC presentation earlier in the year (October). Then do the IDD resources in March.

Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities: Michelle Pandolfo, report: did a training in March in collaboration with the Ed Partnership committee, next up is presentation to preschools on May 8; the invitation has been sent to 73 preschools in Gloucester County, we have 9 registrations from 3 different schools, going to send two reminder emails to all the preschools about this presentation. Also, we were invited to go to the Woodbury Public School Early Education Advisory Group, happy to be a part of that. We also attended some school district community fairs; Michelle attended the Faith & Prevention group led by Rutgers Cooperative Extension in Gloucester County now Michelle is invited back in May to talk.

Juvenile Justice/Youth Services Commission: no report at this time

Missing & Abused Children: Jennifer Rodriguez, report: met yesterday and we have two projects that we are working on, one is the resource guide we are just waiting for that to be uploaded into the Child Advocacy Center website;

the next project we are working on is gathering a list of topics for a Speakers Bureau that we can provide to local schools in a presentation to the schools in the next school year.

Trends or needs regarding access to /gaps in services: CMO James Sampson expressed need for an African American female clinician to work for CMO. Group discussed, during Code Blue events, huge increase in homelessness in Gloucester County. Transportation as a whole is a problem. Camden Coalition of SJ that is organizing organizations to discuss the Medicaid housing support program coming out on July 1 looking for providers to enroll in that to assist individuals that are at risk of losing their home. Case management to help with their placements.

Old Business/New Business/ Announcements:

- Bessie Williams from Acenda is sending a sports youth flyer and income guide. James Sampson did a year CMO data census report.
- Chris Hemberger, SW Council, has a Tri County quarterly meeting at Seabrook House this Friday from 12-2pm, with a speaker from the DEA.
- Bethany Vega, SW Council, reported they had their youth summit 10 youth attended and received an award for the group that has grown the most during the year. Sticker shock happening soon in Clayton on the 17th.
- Andrea Garcia, Maryville, recipient of a grant from the county for a pilot program offering contingency management to our youth age 11-17 reward program caps at \$300.00

Reminders:

- June 11, 2025 at 11am is a Tri-County CIACC hosted by Gloucester County via zoom
- August 5, 2025 is next local Gloucester County CIACC- in person at Budd Blvd. location- Back to School

Adjournment