

Gloucester County Youth Services Commission
June 18, 2025
“Draft” Meeting Minutes
115 Budd Boulevard
West Deptford, NJ

Call to Order – Co-Chair Kathy Seibert called the meeting to order at 3:07 PM and read the Open Public Records Act statement. The meeting is being taped.

Attendance – Lisa Cerny, Christina Graves, Emily Kohri, Natalie McRae, Judge Susan Olgiati, Ellyse Peterson, Jillian Palladino, Ellyse Peterson, Jacob Rodriguez, James Sampson, Kathy Seibert, and Bessie Williams. **Staff:** Donna Pinto. **JJC:** **Guests:** Tyesha Byrd (CFS Stable Connections), Natasha McRae (UAG), Caroline Mitchell (CFS Stable Connections), Scarlett O’Dell (SWC), Chris Hembeger (SWC).

New Family Court Judge: Kathy introduced our new juvenile judge, Susan Olgiati. Judge Olgiati said she was happy to be here and has been doing the juvenile dockets for a while. She is attending to see the services for dispositional purposes.

Adoption of Agenda / Minute Review - Emily moved, Jillian seconded and the agenda for today’s meeting and February minutes were both approved as distributed with abstentions from Lisa and Ellyse.

Administrator’s Report – Lisa read Rudy’s report:

1. We are currently working on the 2026 Comprehensive & Innovations applications to submit in early October. There will be only minor changes recommended, as this has been a quick turnaround from planning/ programs that were put in to place last year.
2. Things seem to be moving along steady as service appears to be picking up as per program narrative reports and communication with providers. We may be looking to add additional prevention programming and possibly a one-on-one mentoring program in the future, as there remains a need for this service.
3. Remember that JAMs narrative reports are due by July 20th for the 2nd QTR. Please also make a strong effort to be as detailed as possible when completing the reports (the number count, referrals and outcomes) as it is good information for us to share with YJC and also use in planning for the future. Use the comment boxes for anything that may need additional explanation.
4. We are finalizing our 2025 Speaker Series contract will set up presentations for the fall. Also our sports recreation scholarship program is active in Glassboro, Clayton and Paulsboro for low-income families that seek municipal back rec. sport for their children in grades K-8.
5. Rudy wants to thank you all for the well wishes as this is the first time we have met as a group since the passing of his mother.
6. Looking forward, we will complete 2025 monitoring and continue to support our numerous providers with any challenges that may come up during serviced. It has been a pleasure to expand services through the County and it speaks to the dedication of those at the table. We wish you all well and hope to see you soon.

JDAI – Emily said the next subcommittee meetings should be in July. Gina hasn’t sent anything out yet. There is a serious detention center bed issue state-wide. Kelly sent out an email asking for responses by the 25th.

YJC – Jessica was unable to attend but had no update.

PROVIDER REPORTS

All In Therapy – no report.

ACENDA – email is bwilliams@acendahealth.org

Electronic Monitoring – Bessie said there are five youth on EM and none on Home Detention. Acenda is handling the sports registration program. Bessie will send the flyer out again for youth K-8 for summer and fall sports. If they get free lunch, they should be eligible. bwilliams@acendahealth.org

FCIU/Mobile – in May, they saw 244 youth, 124 from Gloucester County. They have one open family crisis petition and no youth at the shelter. It was clarified that we have two slots in the shelter.

BOYS AND GIRLS' CLUBS – no report.

CENTER FOR FAMILY SERVICES –

ACE – they have no youth for coaching, four for transportation, ten 2025 incentives to date and no super incentives. There are 24 slots left. Last month, they took a trip to Staten island in NY and then the ferry to Manhattan for the 9/11 memorial. For all four youth, it was their first time to NYC. Three had never been on a boat before. There are very few coaching referrals. Judge Olgiati asked about the coaching program. It is a case management and counseling service to help youth maintain the conditions of their probation. The Incentives are positive reinforcement for youth on probation in compliance. They usually take quarterly trips with the kids. There are family engagement events throughout the year. Next month, they are planning on a trip on July 3rd to Nifty Fifty's in Turnersville, then the miniature golf place next door. They are inviting four families and each client can bring youth people. If a probation is closing out successfully, they give him a special gift like \$250 for driving lessons or sports equipment.

PASO – the sex offender program did five evaluations so far, one eval is pending, one intake is pending, and five clients are involved with counseling. No discharges in 2025. Four slots are left for both evaluation and counseling. They are hiring.

Stationhouse Adjustment – They have three active cases, one referral pending and 42 slots open. Challenges are that referrals are low. Sometimes they get an “influx” of clients. Jacob just completed his first school year. Many youth come in during the summer. Referrals are from both the schools and the police. Many are from Paulsboro. Ellyse said she hasn't been getting calls regularly as they can do it in house. She will send an email to the police departments reminding of them of Station House services.

CGS FSO – Jennifer sent a report. **Their** annual contracted level of service is 25 youth. They have 12 active clients presently and have served 32 this year. They will continue to add new ones. Notable highlights are that youth are building healthy relationships amongst their peers. They recently graduated five youths from the group with a recent celebration. They have been building partnerships with other community and YSC providers. They continue to have All in Therapy out to provide services each quarter. Recently, Success 1st came out to do a word play activity which the youth enjoyed. They continue to partner with NJ4S and Gloucester SNAP-ED for upcoming events. Clients have been

working on creating items to sell at their Craft Sale on July 12th at the FSO office. The youth have made lip scrubs, face scrubs, candles, jewelry, tic tac toe board games, and photo holders. Challenges: rebuilding attendance as some have graduated.

Girl Scouts – [Holly sent the following report: Scout Troops 67120, 67420, 68115 & 68116 concluded their school year Troop meetings at the end of May / start of June. They are in the process of securing Troop meeting locations for the fall at Billingsport, Loudenslager & Dorothy L Bullock for Troops 67420, 68115 & 67120 to start in October. Below is the summer schedule for all Girl Scout Summer Partners this summer in Gloucester County. Troops 67420 & 67120 have been invited to attend Earth, Moon & Sun at the Edelman Planetarium on August 21st as a fun summer event.

Loudenslager Elementary School, Paulsboro: 6/24, 7/1, 7/8, 7/15 10-11am

YMCA of the Pines, Woodbury: 6/25, 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30, 8/6, 8/13 11-12pm

YMCA of the Pines, Clayton: 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31 11-12pm

Boys & Girls Club Glassboro: 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29 4-5pm

Boys & Girls Club Paulsboro: 7/24, 7/31, 8/7, 8/14 2:30-3:30

They are still waiting on confirmation of Girl Scout Programs at the Dorothy L Bullock School & J Harvey Rodgers School, Glassboro.]

PROBATION

Parent Orientation Resource Nights –

In addition to incentives, they had a parent orientation on June 11th. They planned for six youth, five showed up and played tabletop games. They are planning to bring in additional speakers; if your agency is interested, please let Ann know. Getting public health to speak and have incentives and an ongoing collaboration on health and nutrition for additional resources. GC Health is helping. They are engaging kids more. This is ongoing, not just at reporting. In the Summer, engagement needs to increase as they are out of school. They are looking for more resources. Probation does referrals for coaching to Jacob. They have been meeting with Rudy about other solutions and services / speakers that can be used.

SCHOOLS:

PTAH / Clayton / Paulsboro / Glassboro – no report

Woodbury – Monthly report from Dr. Adams says all GALS / Blues Brothers groups closed out for a successful year. Students maintained attendance throughout the programs and got to enjoy some great programming this year that included our continued partnership with Rutgers Snap Ed Healthy Foods as well as newer initiatives like STEM based learning unit. They are currently set for summer programming to run from July 7 – July 28 Monday – Thursday from 12:00 – 2:30. Currently, they have 20 students enrolled and are gathering more registrations. They expect enrollment of 25-30 students for the summer.

Success First – no report.

UNITED ADVOCACY: Email natasha@unitedadvocacygroup.org

Family Assistance Home Supervision – Natasha said their level of service is 20; and they have provided seven this first quarter including two new referrals. Of the four discharges, three were positive and one negative. They are continuing to try to engage the youth to remain court compliant and exploring community resources to keep them out of trouble. Does career and education coaching to see about working for a trade school, community colleges, going out to bigger colleges. In response to questions, FAHS just for kids on electronic monitoring or home detention. It's additional support for Acenda. Bessie's team takes a whole family approach with all of the families they work with. Sometimes they assist siblings if it is within the household to support each part of the family.

Employment and Education - their LOS is 20 and they've served nine including three new referrals and two discharges. When they get a job, UAG gives them incentives to finish school and get employment. She wants them to get a second paycheck before any rewards. Their LOS is 15, they have had seven kids but most are carried over from last year. Challenges are getting referrals and connecting with the juveniles and their families. If they are more court connected, there's more of a requirement piece to help. They go into the schools to try to help with challenging placement issues, especially when a youth is "thrown out" of school and placed on homebound instruction. UAG is the umbrella problem solver, assisting with paperwork and the system to get social security switched when the kid gets "of age".

Incorporate United Advocacy – there have been plans to have UAG at probation reporting on Wednesdays. When they are on deferred disposition, they don't usually come out to probation. They will try to get them all at once. They do come in to sign their conditions so we can see if we can get more kids. Referrals come from Lynette usually. Natasha said Victor Jiminez is their new advocate. The Assistant Prosecutor is making the referrals.

YMCA / Viola's Place – no report

ROUNDTABLE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stable Connections - Caroline Mitchell of CFS reviewed the new program. They focus on Camden and Gloucester County runaway / homeless youth between 16-22 in Camden and Gloucester Counties. They focus on prevention and use a 3-tier approach. 1. Not homeless but looking for activities and workshop looking for employment.

2. linkages to resources kids who are headed in that direction, they need more resources.

They do intakes on kids tier one and two to assess additional resources, financial literacy, etc.

3. this tier is kids with imminent homelessness within 30 days. They have a case manager. Kids ages 16-17, they work with the whole family. For ages 18-22, they can sign off on paperwork themselves. If they have a stable home, we will work with the entire family.

The main three focuses are family conflict, financial hardship and mental health issues. This is a We are prevention program to prevent this. Financial assistance with renter (if they are eligible) and case management. It is move about prevention not picking up kids off the street. It's helping mom when she is behind on rent. It's not just about housing, it's about utility assistance, workforce development to be on the road to independence. They look to help kids with job opportunities. Referrals come from anyone. They can be self-referred, link to the form. Internally from CFS programs, schools, social workers. Ellyse asked if there was a 17-year-old having strife in the home trying to run away no charges yet but there may be a mental health piece. They can help. She runs away, comes home for a short time, then makes things happen a crisis, then runaway pattern. She is "making" herself homeless and she's indicated she doesn't want to be in the home as the mother might be a trigger. They do have a temporary shelter together. The youth is 17. The older kids' beds are full but they can connect her with Stacey. They are open with CMO and mobile response. CFS would meet with the other services. We only have mom's version of things going on. Charges were declined over the weekend. They are trying to engage youth employees to help them. They can get the mom's name and phone number. FCIU would like to assess her but she is never in one place to get out and dispatch. She is constantly in patient or elsewhere. They hire a youth advocate but have case managers in their 20's who are more relatable. Kids get burned out with programs by the time they are 17. James asked if the youth is within a household but in danger of being homeless... they would qualify. Lisa asked if there is one shot four

months later, they can't come back? It depends, if the kid ins in their 3 the take 3-6 months and can extend beyond that. If there's a household where the youth is at risk but intake has info about the family as well if they are at risk. If they are losing their home within 30 days, they can be referred more than once. It's on a case-by-case basis. They want to educate them on better fiscal areas. Lisa how long do you follow the family. It's case by case and we don't close immediately after a security deposit. I f it's a kid, 6 months to a year. The family is a month or two but they can be re-referred. Emily asked if the courts aren't involved how do I follow up? CFS: if we have barriers we'll stay in touch. CMO call to the case manager to see how things are going Email stableconnections@centerffs.org or call (877) 922-2377.



JSA - Judge loves the assignment and hearing about information for services that are available to help the families. Emily will pass info along if you need her.

Youth Substance Abuse Survey - Chris with SW council Gloucester Regional substance prevention. Michelle referred him at CIACC. They are doing a youth substance use survey. They are developing it to reach out to kids from the entire county. There are 10-12 questions and they want to get localized data for prevention. Scan the code. They welcome partners. Scan and take the survey. Data is available to everyone involved in the project. They have meetings frequently one in July. It is an anonymous survey. It's been revised. Gloucester Cumberland and Salem county. Coalition work. Just to gather information within prevention. Assessment is the first part of their project. Window is not closed yet. It will be open all the time until they get 400-500 results then open it again after six months after a year as that's how long some type of change takes place. They are reaching out to schools. It will be "on tables". They are asking for 12-25. Older kids are included too. NJ For Us youth advisory board. Trying to connect everywhere. Koana Ice goes to all the sporting events so hook up with them.

Incorruptible Gloucester - Scarlett also works with SW Council for GRASP as youth coordinator. She distributed a flyer about "We Are Incorruptible Gloucester" which is open to ages 13-18 in Gloucester County. It is a state wide organization open to 13-18 kids for prevention focused on tobacco vaping also underage drinking, giving back to the community. Their group is steadily growing. they have 16 and they earn community services. They love creating focus forms for kids. Email scarlett@southwestcouncil.org.

DHSS – 10th annual candlelight vigil on august 26th with resources Robert Munson will send out notices and they have resources. It's a great event to recognize people who have been lost to substances.

ADJOURNMENT - Lisa moved, Emily seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM. The next YSC meeting is scheduled for August 20th.

2025 dates: Aug 20, Oct 15, Dec 17.