

ESSEX COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

THURSDAY, November 10, 2022

2:00PM - via ZOOM

Attendees: Kesha Manning, Anthony Higgins, Michelle Callari, David Sims, Jessica Torres, Director Ramos, Director Hughes, Todd Barcliff, Lori Scott-Pickens, Samantha Washington, Shelton Thurman, Kenneth Douglas, LaQuanda Williams, Amy Godfrey, Nicole Watson, Dr. Jobi Odeneye, Edward Morris, Jenn Remsen, Jessica Cavaco, Joey Drucker, Keisha Walker, Maria Docherty, Pamela Cohen, Reggie Bledsoe, Rev. Bernard Wilkes, Shanell Toomer, Shanique Pace, Stephanie Cedeno, Yolanda Loney, Rosie Hermida, Issac Medina, Joel Torres, Jason Martinez, Wonder Henderson, Alicia Holman, Ron Small

This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 -10:4-21. Notice of this meeting has been provided on the Essex County Website.

Agenda Item I

Reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Approval of Minutes – September 29, 2022

Director Ramos asked for a roll call of voting members which was administered by Administrator Martinez. It was determined that there was a quorum. The Open Public Meeting Act was read by Director Anibal Ramos. Director Ramos asked for a motion to approve the minutes September 29, 2022. Lori Scott Pickens motioned to approve the minutes with the following corrections; the unallocated funds should be \$437,188.00.00 and the correct spelling of Lori Scott-Pickens from September 29, 2022, Jessica Torres 2nd the motion. Minutes were adopted with the amendments.

Subcommittee Reports

Monitoring Committee – Lori Scott Pickens reported that there are some programs that have corrective actions or other recommendations. We are working with those agencies on corrections and recommendations, and she is pleased to report that some have already started. The timeframes will be end of the year or beginning of next year to be completed. Moving along very favorably to make those corrections.

Director Ramos thanked the Chair for her efforts and hard work along with the committee. He asked for members to assist in the process and to see the Administrator if interested. This is the best way to get to know the programs that we fund and get to see firsthand the value of these programs and services provided for our youth.

Allocations Committee – Michelle Callari reported on the unallocated funds and suggestions of the use of funds. The 2022 unallocated funds are \$37,694.00 plus the denial of reward for \$10,000 from Montclair Neighborhood Development Corp. which brings the total unallocated funds to \$47,694.00 for 2022. On 10/25/22 the YSC Administrator sent an email stating funds were available for services in prevention, dispositional options, detention alternative and diversion for 2022. In order to receive the 20% increment for the agencies for current contract the agency has to be on target drawing down funds by the end of the year. Additionally, the agency needs to show how funds will be used to service children in the program. Request will all budget details had to be turned in by November 4, 2022.

The total modification to be discussed is \$16,705.00 for the following request:

UCC after school program would like to have a Family Day Celebration for \$1,300.00 which includes 40 people, DJ and life skill books.

UCC summer program requested games and equipment for \$1,486.00 for game table, electric pump, 5 basket balls, 3 soccer balls, volley balls, PS5 2 controllers and 2 games.

West Orange Police Department requested Fatal Vision Impairment vision goggles, mats and 2 10x10 tents for \$4,800.00.

MDT requested 3 tablets with keyboards totaling \$6,140.10

Leaders For Life requested funding to take youth on college tours for \$2,730.00

NCC Ten requested 5 forensic science kits which are \$49.95 each for total of \$249.75

Substance abuse evaluator (potential increase) The YSC Administrator needs more information from the AOC. Once received the allocations committee will discuss and a email will go out to all members for a vote and ratification at our next meeting.

Director Ramos thanked Ms. Callari for all her efforts and most importantly ensuring that any allocated funding is being put to good use. Its good to see that several organizations are going to benefit from the unallocated funds. Director asked if any had any questions. There were none and he stated this item will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

Planning Committee - LaQuanda Williams stated that there is no report at this time. They are still in process of planning the public meeting and more details will be forthcoming.

At this time Administrator Martinez asked that all the providers requesting additional funding to please leave the meeting and request to rejoin the meeting he will let them in after the vote has been taken.

Action Item I

Budget Modification for 2022 Juvenile Justice Programs in the amount of \$16, 705.00

Laquanda Williams motioned to approve the modification for 2022 juvenile justice programs. Pam Cohen 2nd the motion. Motion passed with 15 ayes and 1 abstention.

Administrator Martinez stated that he received revision request from JJC and will forward corrections back within the week on the Restorative Justice Transformation program. He is in the midst of setting up the public meeting and asked for support in marketing the upcoming meeting. He is waiting on the recommendations or revisions from JJC for the Comprehensive Plan. Once received he will notify the YSC as to what corrections must be made. Currently, effective Tuesday, November 8th the 2023 Juvenile Justice programs were released in RFP for diversion, dispositional options and alternative detention programs. There will be a bidders' conference on November 22nd and all proposals are due back by November 29th. The innovations for JDAI grant will be coming soon.

Director Ramos asked to send out a notification for the members of where to find the RFP when it becomes available in case they want to share with any other networks. The Administrator advised that it will be in star ledger and that they need to register to the Essex County Purchasing Portal as well. Director Ramos asked if anyone had questions on the Administrators report.

Updates:

Nicole Graves-Watson of the ECPO advised they will be holding an in-person youth conference November 16th at NJIT. This conference is for middle school aged youth in Essex County. Topic of discussion will be Making positive choices and Career readiness. In addition, there will be other community resources there to have dialogue with our youth.

Warden Barcliff of the ECDC advised currently in the process of scheduling a meeting with the current provider BI in reference to issues they are having with the devices. Director Ramos asked to advise him of the date so he may be present. Director Higgins explain how staff explained there is a big gap of performance provided as to what was told the performance would be. Director advised the Administrator to investigate the State contract to see if there are any other providers that can be used.

Joey Drucker of Family Connections advised he received 3 new referrals from MDT. He also had a successful completion from before.

Shanell Toomer asked if all youth can attend the conference. Ms. Watson advised the youth are invited through the schools. She gave her email for further information.

Kesha Manning advised that she received the approval for the telephone notification position and will know by Monday if it will be ready to post. Also advised that as of October 24th Jodi has been reassigned and Kenneth James will assume the role over juvenile.

Keisha Walker advised that last month they held the Juvenile Commencement Ceremony and the speaker was from Montclair University and the topic was Change your perception and walk in your own truth. There were 8 graduates. This coming Monday they will have Thanksgiving lunch for the youth.

MDT Convenor Holman advised that they have serviced a total of 162 youth with 55 completions. Director Ramos thanked Ms. Holman and commended her and Ms. Henderson. He knows they have been very active in the courts and trying to assist getting youth in various programming. We are continuing to look for another mentoring program.

Director Ramos announced that Jessica Torres placed in the chat the County's Haystack food distribution being held on Friday, November 18th at 9:00am. 1000 food boxes and turkeys will be distributed. Will the Administrator send the flyer to all members.

Administrator advised providers seeking the allocation not to budget any of the funds until he receives a response from JJC.

JJC Updates:

There were none.

Public and Commissioner Announcements:

Altarik White of Leaders for Life advised Ms. Holman he would like to offer services for mentoring. Happy to be back and advised of graduating 9 youth who graduated with their high school diploma. Will also be working with the WIO program. Also explained the program going to college campuses and exposing the youth to the Colleges and universities. Will visit three in one day.

Ms. Walker asked if they provide the prep and testing for youth aged 16-24 yrs old. Responded yes.

Director Ramos acknowledged Reggie Bledsoe of the LGBTQ Affairs as well as Judge Degnan. Advised Judge Degnan he will forward information to him, so he is abreast of the meeting.

Director Ramos asked for a motion to adjourn. LaQuanda Williams moved and Dr. Jobi Odeneye second the motion.