

## ESSEX COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, January 19, 2023

2:00PM - via ZOOM

Attendees: **Hon. Philip Degnan**, Co-Chairman of the Essex County Youth Services Commission – Family Part of the Superior Court, **Kesha Manning**-Family Division, **Keisha Walker**-Chief Probation Officer, **Donna Cameroon** – County Prosecutor Office, **Michelle Callari** – County Public Defender, **Tourae Freeman** – County DCP&P District, **Rosa Hermida** – Superintendent of County Vocational Schools, **Jessica Torres** – Youth Shelter, **Director Anibal Ramos Jr.**, Co-Chairman of the Essex County Youth Services Commission – County Human Services Department Director, **Director Rev. Dennis Hughes**, Todd Barcliff – Youth Detention Center, **Tyrone Tucker** – Juvenile Family Crisis Intervention Unit, **Colette DeGrazia** – County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, **Apryl Caldwell** – Workforce Investment Board Representative, **Dr. Adejobi Odeneye**, – Business Representative, **Maria Docherty** - Parent or parent organization, **Lori Scott-Pickens**, Jasmine Joseph-Forman - Education Sector, **LaQuanda Williams** - victims' rights groups, **Rev. Bernard Wilkes** – Clergy, **Amy Godfrey** – Other interested persons who deal with children, **Reggie Bledsoe** - Other interested persons who deal with children, **Gino Arevalo** -Other interested persons who deal with children, Amanda Compton Dover, Ron Small – Court Liaison of Juvenile Justice Commission, Taieta El-Amin – Community Engagement, Special Events; Jason Martinez, Administrator of Youth Services Commission, Joey Drucker - Family Connections, Amanda Santana - Family Connections, Robert Frascati, Substance Abuse Evaluator - Superior Court of NJ, Altarik White -Leader For Life, Stephanie Ceden, E.Childs20, Shanique Pace – Newark Municipal Court Truancy Alternative Program, Jessica Cavaco - Newark Municipal Court TAP, Jailene Montalvo, Courtney Thomas - Research & Reform Specialist JDAI, Alicia Holman – MDT, Youth Services Commission, Ahyshia Faines - United Community Corporation

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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.

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### Agenda Item I Reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Approval of Minutes – November 10, 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 November 10, 2022. LaQuanda Williams motioned to approve the minutes. Gino Arevalo 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Minutes were adopted.

#### Subcommittee Reports:

**Monitoring Committee** – Lori Scott Pickens reported that there is one 2022 program remaining to monitor which is the Essex County Prosecutor Office, Winter Conference

**Allocations Committee** – 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.

Michelle Callari reported the committee met and review six proposals and recommending three to the Youth Services Commission. The three programs are Leaders for Life – detention alternative program, United Community Corporation – Art Therapy, South Orange Police Department – Junior Police Academy. In addition, it was recommended for fund the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDTs) under the one third set aside from the State Community Partnership Grant in the amount of \$270,198 which is a decrease to the grant amount with the remaining portion to be cover by the County of Essex.

**Planning Committee** – LaQuanda Williams reported the public meeting on RTJ Pilot Program will be February 1<sup>st</sup> at Weequahic Park Community Building in Newark and Jason Martinez will provide the ECYSC with the flier.

Director Ramos requested the YSC administrator to make available the public meeting flier and any relevant information to the ECYSC to assist with publicizing.

Judge Degnan asked Director Ramos if there is a form of local media that may assist publicizing the meeting. Director Ramos the County has a Public Information Department that may connect with media sources such as Tap into or Patch. Furthermore, Director Ramos express there are key communicators within the YSC such as Reggie Bledsoe and Taieta El-Amin and Apryl Caldwell.

### **Action Items:**

#### **2023 Juvenile Justice Programs**

Michelle Callari motioned to approve three new programs that were recommended for funding in 2023 which are Leaders for Life – detention alternative program, United Community Corporation – Art Therapy, South Orange Police Department – Junior Police Academy. Rosa Hermida 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed with 21 ayes.

#### **1/3 Set aside**

Michelle Callari motioned to approve MDTs under the one third set aside. Director Rev. Hughes 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

20 ayes and 1 abstention.

#### **YSC Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Martinez gave an update on the Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities pilot program. Regarding the Pilot Program, about five to six weeks after submitting the application to the JJC grants unit he received an application review comment letter to edit and clarify some concerns of the application. After submitting corrections to JJC response letter, he received an email stating the JCC has completed processing (RTJ Pilot Program) with an application package with an award notice, award conditions, and certified assurances. The award notice will be presented to the Board of Commissioners on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The public meeting for the RTJ Pilot Program will be February 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM in a County facility at Newark' Weequahic Park the Feldman Middleton Jr. Community Center. Administrator Martinez will give an update on State Community Partnership and Innovation Grants in February ECYSC meeting.

### **Presentation from the Council of State Governments Justice Center**

CSG is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, representing state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.

Nina Solomon, Deputy Division Director of the Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG) presented on behalf of the organization. Nina stated she will be short due to timing as well as presenting at the last CJJSI meeting. Nina introduce the background of CSG which is working with State policy members on juvenile criminal justice issues. CSG is a larger umbrella organization like an association for State Legislators, Governors, policy staff, and government officials, as well as State Judiciary. Under the juvenile justice team they have partnered with counties around the county to help conduct assessments in the juvenile justice systems and help state and policy makers come up with recommendations for improvement. About five months ago, CSG received a grant award from the Prudential Foundation to engage in an initiative with Essex County and Newark focus on trying to divert additional low risk young people from the juvenile justice system. The goal is to conduct an assessment of the County's Juvenile Justice System with respect to the frontend of the system thinking about are there additional opportunities for young people to be diverted at different points of the system, what are best practices in terms of supervisor and services for young people to get better outcomes for youth and families as well as to improve community and public safety. Throughout the month, CSG has spoken to individual and in groups including stakeholders present at the ECYSC meeting to shape the direction of the initiative and partnership with stakeholders of Newark and Essex County to find the best home for this work to make sure this work is meaningful and helpful. The goal is to work in partnership with people in Essex County, for the work to be driven by folks in Essex County and for the work to be meaningful in driving your work forward and improving the lives of families, youths strengthen communities and public safety. Conversations will be engage within the next couple of weeks to talk more of the direction of this work and to take shape the scope of work and what it looks like. An invitation will go out to those that would like to share with the CSG their priorities, potential challenges and opportunities. The CSG would like to be seen as additional resource for the YSC, Courts, and Probation or other committees. CSG has research capabilities, able to conduct case level data analyze, look at system trends, and have a nation perspective on juvenile criminal justice in having work at different counties throughout the county. CSG would like to serve as a resource, provide outcomes in terms of potential recommendations for improve and helping to create a sustainable action plan.

Judge Degnan, emphasize today's presentation is to advertise the CSG goals and grant to be known with the hopes of anyone who has experience or exposure in the front end diversion programs that are beyond court involvement who will like to participate or had questions about the work that is being done.

Director Ramos asked to Nina to send Jason more information of the grant from Prudential to share with the ECYSC and agencies to be able to get more knowledge and potential participates of CSG initiative.

### **The Public and Commissioner Announcements:**

Rosi Hermida announced the Essex County Schools of Technology is still accepting applications for students. To apply please visit [essextech.org](http://essextech.org). If you have any questions, please contact Rosi Hermida at 973-412-2248 or [rhermida@essextech.org](mailto:rhermida@essextech.org)

Reggie Bledsoe announced the Civil Lights LGBTQ+ Art Exhibit - Spreading Light, Hope, Empowerment, & Justice through the arts. Thu, January 26, 2023, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST Location  
495 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd 495 Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard Newark, NJ 07103

Jessica Torres, announced that the 17<sup>TH</sup> Annual Essex County Project Homeless Connect Day will be Wednesday, January 25th inside the Essex County College gymnasium from 10am to 2pm. For more info, call 973 395-8350.

Kesha Manning announced there was a job posting for the Telephone Notification position and resumes is currently being look at by a panel and will keep the YSC informed.

Dr. Jobi announced the Essex County Office of Small Business will be having a seminar February 8th 5PM to 8PM at the Leroy Smith Public Safety Building 60 Nelson Place, Newark.

Apryl Caldwell announced the WIO Services does have funding for individuals looking to go to school and have upcoming job announcements that will be forward to Jason to share with the ECYSC.

Director Ramos asked for a motion to adjourn. Reggie Bledsoe moved to adjourn and Jessica Torres second the motion.