

ESSEX COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, April 20, 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**, Kenneth James - Family Division, **Ana Rivera**-Chief Probation Officer, **Anthony Higgins** – County Prosecutor Office, **Michelle Callari** – County Public Defender, **David Sims** – County DCP&P District, **Rosa Hermida** – Superintendent of County Vocational Schools, **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, **Lt. John Henriquez** – Law enforcement representative who works with youth/Police, **Colette DeGrezia** – County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, **Apryl Caldwell** – Workforce Investment Board Representative, **Dr. Adejobi Odeneye**, – Business Representative, **Maria Docherty** - Parent or parent organization, **Shelton Thurman**- Community Youth, **Lori Scott-Pickens**, Jasmine Joseph-Forman - Education Sector, **LaQuanda Williams** - victims' rights groups, **Rev. Bernard Wilkes** – Clergy, **Kenneth Douglas** – Civic Organizations, **Samantha Washington** – Representative of major urban areas within the county, **Amy Godfrey** – Other interested persons who deal with children, **Reggie Bledsoe** - Other interested persons who deal with children, Sean Brown, Syreeta Shepherd, Kristen Williams, Kristin Williams, Ron Small – Court Liaison of Juvenile Justice Commission,; Jason Martinez, Administrator of Youth Services Commission, Joey Drucker - Family Connections, , Robert Frascati, Substance Abuse Evaluator - Superior Court of NJ, Shanique Pace – Newark Municipal Court Truancy Alternative Program, Alicia Holman – MDT, Youth Services Commission, Ahyshia Faines - United Community Corporation, Edward

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 – April 20, 2023

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 from January 19, 2023. Lori Scott Pickens motioned to approve the minutes. Jasmine Joseph Foreman 2nd the motion. Minutes were adopted. Director Ramos asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2023. Lori Scott Pickens motioned to approve the minutes. Rosa Hermida 2nd the motion. Minutes were adopted.

Subcommittee Reports:

Allocation/Proposal Committee:

Michelle Callari reported the committee read, scored, and reviewed the proposals for the Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities pilot program in which United Community Corporation has scored the highest. The committee voted to nominate UCC proposal in the amount of \$821,100.00 a year up to 2 years to the full body of the YSC for approval.

Director Ramos asked how many proposals apply for the grants? Administrator Martinez, stated there were six proposals that applied for the RFP with two were denied by the County's Purchasing Department and 1 denied by the JJC.

Director Ramos thanked the committees, Administrator Martinez and the staff that worked on the RTJ Pilot Program. He emphasized there were a lot of steps taken in order for the County to be in receipt of the funds. Director Ramos summarized the steps taken and to be taken regarding the RTJ Pilot Program from receiving funds through JJC, to the RFP process. This includes a discussion that will have to happen with the recommended provider to ensure the provider is able to comply with the requirements of the contract and to request approval from the Board of Commissioners.

Amy Godfrey, asked was there a reason why it was only allocation committee and no other parties part of the not part of the review process?

Administrator Martinez, responded that allocation committee is also the proposal committee. It was a mistake not listing allocation/proposal committee on the subcommittee reports. Also, the administrator invited those that are able to refer youth to the actual RTJ hub with the exception of service providers.

Monitoring Committee:

Lori Scott Pickens reported in the process of setting up dates for monitoring and accepting volunteers for monitoring.

Planning Committee:

LaQuanda Williams reported in the process of scheduling dates to go over comprehensive planning process. At the first meeting, will be determine on who will be taking what section of the plan then to be broken down by sub committees.

Prior to proceeding with the action item Judge Degnan needed to confirm that Essex County Youth Service Commission is following the correct procedures due to amount of funding that will go to into the provider.

Director Ramos, this process follows the same path as SCP Grant Programs. Proposals go before subcommittees to review, score, and to make recommendations to the full YSC. With the understanding that within the YSC we have providers who may have a conflict of interest because they are eligible to apply for funding which is why the committee that is often charged with reviewing the proposals cannot include providers. Director Ramos then deferred to the JJC.

Kristen Williams, stated the process that ECYSC followed are within its bylaws and includes subcommittees to review and make recommendations to the full body of the YSC.

Action Item:

Approval of United Community Corporation for the Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities Pilot Program up to \$821,100.00 a year up to 2 years.

LaQuanda Williams motioned United Community Corporation for the Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities Pilot Program up to \$821,100.00 a year up to 2 years. Director Rev. Dennis Hughes 2nd the motion. Motion passed with 22 in favor and 1 abstaining.

YSC Administrator's Report:

Administrator Martinez gave an update on the Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities pilot program. **May 18** at the next ECYSC meeting. Jessica Taube of New Jersey Bar Foundation will provide an introduction of Professional Development Activity on Restorative Justice. **June 15th** New Jersey Bar Foundation will provide a training on the concept of restorative justice and its positive impact and provide strategies for implementing restorative practices. This training will be available for those that may refer youth to the RTJ Hub.

Juvenile Justice Commission Announcements:

Kristen Williams introduce Sean Brown and Syreeta Shepherd who has joined Safiya Baker's Team. They will assist the four Counties Administrator working with RTJ Pilot Program. The JJC is also waiting for date to release the 3 year Comprehensive Plan and Application.

The Public and Commissioner Announcements:

Anthony Higgins announced Monday, May 24th that Probation will have their graduation for their youth on the first floor at the courthouse. May 9th Training for youth Mental Health in Caldwell NJ.

April Caldwell, On June 1st at Essex County College there will be a Job Fair if anyone who is interested in becoming a vendor or looking for a job. Also, the Summer Youth Employment Program will hire 200 Essex County youth outside of Newark. Applications will closed May 12th.

Warden Barcliff, the Detention Center is stable and no known cases of covid amongst the residents or staff. Currently, using the outdoor recreational areas. Visitation has been continuing on Saturdays.

Reggie Bledsoe, on April 25th the Office of LGBTQ+ will host a name change clinic for transgender, non-binder and gender nonconforming at the Shelia Oliver conference room, Newark NJ.

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