

ESSEX COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

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THURSDAY, April 17, 2025

2:00 PM – Via ZOOM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85956421449>

and In Person 50 So. Clinton St. East Orange, NJ

Suite Samuel Okparaekwe, 2nd Fl

Attendees: Designee for Presiding Judge -**Hon. Philip J. Degnan**, **Kesha Manning** - Family

Division Manager, **Ana Rivera**, Kesha Walker –Chief Probation Officer, **Asmerett**

Ghebremicael – Designee for Highest Elect Official of County Government, **Anthony R.**

Higgins - Designee for County Prosecutor, **Michelle Callari** – County Public Defender, **Lenora**

Humphrey – Designee for County DCP&P District Manager, **Rosi Hermida** - Designee for

Superintendent of the County Vocational School, **Anibal Ramos, Jr.** – County Human Services

Department, **Dennis Hughes**, Todd Barcliff – Youth Detention Center Director, **Lt. John**

Henriquez - Law enforcement representative who works primarily with youth/police, **Apryl**

Caldwell - Workforce Investment Board representative, **Alle Reis** – Business Representative,

David Armstrong – Parent or parent organization of at-risk or justice involved youth,

Laquanda Williams – Child Advocacy, Domestic Violence, and/or Victims' Rights Group, **Rev.**

Bernard Wilkes – Clergy, **Lori Scott Pickens**, **Jasmine Joseph-Foreman**, **Erica Cashaw** -

Educator Sector, **David Sims** – Mental Health, **Sarah Cruz**, **Reggie Bledsoe**, **Taieta El-Amin**,

Adejobi Odeneye, **Josephine Garcia**, – Representative with knowledge, experience, or interest

in local youth, the local community, or the juvenile justice system, Ron Small - JJC Court

Liaison, Susian Beigen – UCC, RTJ program, Nayellie Collazo – MDT Conveners, Camila

Harris – EC Detention Alternatives, Karina Silva – Community Service Aide, *Jason Martinez* -

Administrator of Essex County Youth Services Commission

“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.”

Approval of Minutes: The motion to approve the minutes was made by Lori Scott-Pickens and seconded by Jasmine Joseph-Foreman.

New Business: Mr. Martinez stated that there was no new business report on at this time.

Subcommittee’s Report Summary:

1. *Planning:*

Laquanda Williams reported that the Planning Committee met and decided to continue with the current Triennial Plan. No updates are planned for the 2026 Plan Update at this time.

2. *Monitoring:*

Lori Scott Pickens reported that monitoring sessions have been scheduled for the upcoming months, with only a few remaining programs to be scheduled.

3. *Allocation/Proposal:*

Michelle Callari shared that the Proposal Committee has reviewed and scored submissions and is endorsing two proposals for YSC funding consideration (listed in the action items). Additionally, the Allocation Committee reviewed the 2025 SCP/FC budget and recommended an increase in funding for Track Group Electronic Monitoring.

Action Items:

Mr. Martinez begins by conducting a roll call vote for all three programs recommended for funding through the Youth Service Commission. Mr. Martinez explained how voting members may respond 'yes' to approve all three or indicate if they wish to vote 'no' on any specific program.

I. Approval of Youth Advocacy Program – Family Engagement for \$107,000.

II. Approval of Team Resurrection – New Pathways for \$140,000.

III. Approval of increasing Track Group Electronic Monitoring Units to \$129,434.00.

Voting members voted in favor of approving all three programs.

ECYSC Updates: Jason Martinez, YSC-Administrator:

Mr. Martinez stated that there were no updates at this time but expressed his appreciation to everyone involved in volunteering during the monitoring process.

Mr. Martinez also states, “On a positive note, as indicated in Attachment A, we have approximately \$30,000 remaining, marking a potential record for Essex County in terms of fund utilization. If agencies continue to draw down funds in a timely and efficient manner, we may be able to increase funding for current programs or issue a small RFP or MOU with a government agency to allocate the remaining funds. This progress reflects well for Essex County, and we hope it encourages the State to consider increased funding for next year and beyond, including for our JDAI grant. That concludes my update.”

Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities Pilot Program

Updates:

No updates

State Community Partnership and Family Court Programs (Updates/Announcements):

No updates

Youth Justice Commission Announcements:

I. Court Liaisons: - No Updates

II. JDAI: - No Updates

III. RTJ: - No Updates

Public and/or Youth Service Commissioner Announcements: Public Portion of the Meeting:

Adjournment:

Next Meeting: May 15th, 2025

Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85956421449>

Or In Person:

50 South Clinton, East Orange, New Jersey, 07018 – Suite Samuel Okparaekwe, 2nd FL