

Monmouth County Youth Services Commission

Agenda for Tuesday October 7th, 2025

4:00 PM First Floor Conference Room,

Human Services Building with Zoom Link Option Available

Attendance: Honorable Lourdes Lucas, Prosecutor Raymond Santiago, Achille Dejean, Aklima Baksh, Caitlyn Mejia, Chanta Jackson, Christine Talbot, Dustin Knoblauch, Ivan Kaplan, Kathleen Peterson, Kaitlyn Silagyi, Laurie Gerhardt, Marty Krupnick, Stephanie Cella, Tara Buckley, and Tom Fichter.

I. CALL TO ORDER: OPEN PUBLIC MEETING'S ACT Honorable Judge Lucas

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of YSC Minutes from September 2025 (Action)

A motion was made, seconded and carried (Peterson: Knoblauch) to approve the Youth Services Commission Meeting Minutes from September 2025.

II. YSC Co-Chairs Report

Prosecutor Raymond Santiago / Honorable Lourdes Lucas

Judge Lucas acknowledged the work of the YSC and administration to move forward approvals including budget, contracts, and the YSC Plan. She recognized the willingness of all involved to work in the best interest of the youth.

Prosecutor Santiago thanked those who coordinated/facilitated the Youth Violence Prevention Awareness training that took place last week. Further acknowledged the Attorney General's Violence Intervention Program and the partnership with hospital-based programming, Project HEAL. YSC members encouraged to attend the Community Based Violence Intervention Session on 10/22/25 @ 1:30pm via Zoom; email reminder to be sent.

Prior roll call votes approved (Jackson; Silagyi).

III. Division of Child and Youth Services Report

Dustin Knoblauch

CIACC

- Ed Partnership – Systems that Care 9/26/25: Panel presentation of several youth serving agencies including Crisis / Immediate Services and Intensive Community Based Support and School Services. Approximately 50 school personnel attendees.
- Continue with Youth Service Presentations – successful and a shift over the last couple of years. Agencies can better differentiate their services and willingness to work together. Requests come through the CIACC to the Division to coordinate and track outreach. (Completed/Upcoming: Ed P/SAC's/LB/CIT/Middletown/Rumson).
- McKinney Vento – 10/26/25
- Meeting – 10/15/25. Medicaid-related presentation (HRN1): There are exemptions, which are important to understand. Concern for shift in 12-month verifications to 6-month verifications. Concern for 18–21-year-olds as it relates to mandatory work requirements. The importance of families to ensure they are choosing an MCO at each verification period. Cover All Kids Act mirrors NJ Family Care for the immigration population, 100% state covered; will depend on what the state chooses.

Youth Behavioral Health & Contracting

- Postvention Team – County based contract lead by Susan Tellone. All referrals directed to Division to coordinate next steps. Can provide support/consultation to schools/youth serving organizations for up to 18 months, ideally following a TLC crisis stabilization period. Case by case with the understanding that each loss and school is unique. We are not meant to respond but guide.
- September CIT Youth Services Panel was a success.
- Division to coordinate a similar presentation at the Juvenile Officers Meeting in December.

PYD

- 10/3 Youth Violence Prevention Awareness took place last Friday. Overall positive feedback. A steering committee is being gathered to plan training related human trafficking/sextortion prior to World Cup, June – July 2026.
- Next Meeting – Nov. 14th @ 10am via Zoom.

IV. YSC Administrator's Update

Dustin Knoblauch

- Funding application for YSC programming has been complete. Contract renewal submissions; the review team has set a date. (The competitive RFP's will also be reviewed).
- Division is waiting on the state did accept IEP funding shift for their problematic sexual behavior programming; this is presenting as a need within multigenerational households and the Spanish Speaking population.
- Youth Services Plan has been submitted for final approval.

V. Family Division - Court Processing Update

Tara Buckley

No major updates; acknowledged that staff are working exceptionally hard.

VI. Probation Update

Caitlyn Mejia

Meeting held with IEP Youth Services to discuss how to effectively utilize PMT services. Probation hosted a Wellness Nutrition Program and pumpkin decorating activity, which was well received by the youth. Also working with Boys and Girls Club, Community Builders Program to ensure support for youth beyond Probation. Juvenile Youth Graduation Ceremony to take place in December.

VII. Overview Presentations

➤ **IEP Youth Services**

Marty Krupnick and Aklima Baksh

Materials dispersed to the group.

POP – Added a bilingual therapist. Reported low recidivism rates in Monmouth County. Seeing those pre-adjudicated based on recommendation.

PMT – Group topics shift according to need; flexibility to adapt the program.

Suggestion to combine POP and PMT funding; a budget modification request completed to adjust funding. Awaiting YSC state approval.

➤ **Effect of Social Media on Adolescents**

Chanta Jackson

Chanta participated in the study, which measured the negative impact of social media on youth. Information sent via email.

VIII. YSC Planning Committee

Trude Arnette

YSC Plan has been approved and distributed.

X. New Business

Kaitlyn Silagyi – Division of Behavioral Health Director continues to be on extended leave; please reach out to Kaitlyn during this absence.

XI. Old Business N/A

XII. Public Comment N/A

XIII. Adjournment- The next meeting of the Monmouth County Youth Services Commission is scheduled for Tuesday December 2nd, 2025, at 4:00 PM.