

Gloucester County CIACC May 10th, 2023

Via Zoom

Present: Lisa Cerny, Bethany Vega, Elisa Read, Tracy Mauriello, Courtney Iantosca, Jennifer Rodriguez, Michelle Pandolfo, Lisa Ranieri, Paulette Mader, Bethany D'Amelio, Kyleigh Stevenson, Susana Dias, Elizabeth Bermudez, Danielle Alia, Ginny DeLong, Lydia Ramsey, Josh Durand, Beth Ann Smith, James Sampson, Robert Bamford, Jon Cummings

Meeting was called to order

Ginny DeLong motions to approve February 8, 2023 Minutes, James Sampson seconds, all in favor, motion passed and minutes approved.

Convener/Coordinator's Report –

PerformCare is requesting our assistance in identifying outpatient providers that serve youth under the age of 21 that are available in Gloucester County. Email was sent out with the current list. Please take a look at it and let Michelle Pandolfo know if there is anything to add or change.

Children's System of Care / State Representatives

- **CMO – James Sampson** – Total Census for April has 1055 total served, 591 being in Gloucester County, making up 56.02% of census. 50 were DCP&P involved, 8.46%. Total admissions for April was 57. Total discharge for April was 59. Average LOS 9.96 months, Average LOS out of home 39.14 months, and average LOS in home was 7.03 months, 536 kids are in home making up 90.69%, and 54 out of home making up 9.14%. Since January census is over 1000, able to maintain staff.
 - May 25th is the provider forum at 11AM, going to meet with providers about how to collaborate as a CMO.
 - Maintaining a ratio of 15 families per one care manager.
 - Five new care managers started on 3/20/23
 - Six care managers scheduled to start on 6/26/23
 - Watching stats on the trends of suicide and school refusal, no differences noticed to date.
 - Notable Gaps in service: There is a shortage of IIC clinicians doing in home, face-to-face treatment. Some agencies are relying on telehealth.
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- **FSO – Jennifer Rodriguez** - the Family Support Organization is currently working with 194 families, 102 from Gloucester County, 71 from Cumberland County, and 21 from Salem County. Gloucester County accounts for 52% of families serviced.
 - **Notable Highlights/Successes:** Assisting caregivers in understanding their parental rights in special education so they can effectively advocate for their child has been a huge success

being provided. The stigma with mental health is preventing many caregivers from receiving support, the FSO support groups are a big highlight to prevent the isolation many care givers experience; and school support for youth are becoming more available, Food banks accessible for families.

- **Notable Challenges:** One of the biggest challenges being seen lately is care givers trying to treat their own mental health while caring for high level needs children; Parents Support Group mentioned they were concerned over Nemours ending their agreement with NJ to provide services to Medicaid eligible patients; and Housing, transportation, funding, waiting list for doctors & therapist.
- **Notable Trend:** The most notable trend that is growing very quickly is gender identity dysphoria, care givers are struggling to understand and seeking information what is the best way to support their youth; and School support, No funding available for families need in assistance with utilities, rent emergencies.
- **Noticeable gaps in service:** High case levels contribute to some gaps and sometimes circumstances the family is dealing with contributes to inconsistencies in service; I would say gaps in services are mostly found in Gloucester County. Looking for more available resources to provide our families in Gloucester County. Also holding a workshop later this month on May 22nd the topic is DVRS and Career Information.

Other state representatives – Danielle Alia and Susana Dias

- Gloucester West Intake Referrals for April 2023 is at 125.
- Currently 153 open cases for Gloucester West.
- 86 children in placement for Gloucester West.
- Gloucester East had 95 intakes for April 2023
- Currently Gloucester East has 103 open cases.
- Gloucester East has 84 children in placement.

Standing Agenda Items

- **Partnership for Success – Kyleigh Stevenson** - PFS subcommittee worked diligently on creating a logic model for Gloucester county and SWC recently attended a meeting with NJPN to understand the next steps within this process. A subcommittee meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday June 6th from 10am-11am. Please reach out if another date and time is better. The meeting is to overview the Logic Model, discuss some initiatives that were successful and some challenges that were faced. Also will discuss the sustainability of these initiatives.
- **Educational Partnership – Michelle Pandolfo** - survey summary - Data review from Child Study and Special Ed leaders complete. Requested Superintendent of Schools to circulate to school administrators. Take-away from first round are: Electronic directory of support services is the preferred medium. September and October in service dates were optimal times for workshops, respondents prefer in person speaker presentations; subcommittees are working through that concept working to accomplish that delivery.

Top topics were resiliency training for staff, and deescalating behaviors on the spot. Out of educational partnerships is the desire to collaborate between partial care hospitals services and develop a best practice model. Next step for survey is to collaborate with county superintendent of schools and see if it can be circulated to the county school administrators.

Intellectual Developmental Subcommittee will be held today following the CIACC meeting and there will be a presentation from NJ Able.

COMA – Ginny DeLong

- Discussed the results from survey and how to meet those needs. One idea from survey was to hold shorter presentations and record presentations to show to teachers during in-service times. Discussed contacts for online resources, identified CMO, CGS, and Aunt Bertha also known as find help, and nj.org as resources.

Courtney Iantosca - FFT

Short two therapists, only have two therapists who are maintaining a caseload wait list is about 13 families. Actively accepting referrals at this time.

Partial Care - not present

Recruiting Youth and Promising Paths to Success - Paulette Mader

- May 18th workforce development will be highlighting some practices seen. Grant ends in September, held two highlights already, one will be in September on Youth and Family Engagement. Ask the OT for resources if you need advice around sensory needs or need an OT perspective faculty member from Rutgers they are able to help. NHA support available as well, canvas site, trainings available. Working on project “what you need to know if you want to be trauma informed”.

Discussion of Trends and Needs

Josh Durand

At this point in school year they've seen a steep divide of students who are chronically absent, goal is 90% attendance rate for students, as students creep towards that measure, schools have to address it. More concerning are the students who are hitting those numbers early on in the school year. Courts have been inundated with the kids not going to school. Many schools are experiencing this problem with kids from middle school through high school. Wants to utilize wrap around services to improve that situation. Definitely seeing a mental health crisis for teens. State put out NJ4S program is not supposed to replace school-based youth services

but enhance them. Acenda was awarded that program for the vicinage so hopefully that can be utilized when it is up and running.

Paulette describes the school attendance review board she ran in California which was successful so maybe some of the things from that could benefit kids here as well.

Lydia Ramsey

Educational advocate is seeing so much school refusal, seeing anxiety contribute to these students experiencing truancy. Trauma is also holding these students back due to home life.

Solutions could be ACE training families would need to be the target audience, the schools have already had the ACES trainings. Josh Durand adds to consider asking at the County level to add to survey, how schools are dealing with chronic absenteeism. Lydia Ramsey Cumberland County is working a lot around trauma informed care.

Susana Dias adds DCP&P has a program called PACES, which is like a mentor program to help kids stay involved in school, as well as a next step to try and assist in where the youth see themselves in the future. Kids seem reluctant at first but really enjoy it once they get to experience it. But the program is specifically for DCP&P adolescents who are in placement. A similar program for any youth in need would be optimal.

Nurtured Heart will be going into Gloucester County schools, which assists in deescalating on the spot. Ginny DeLong asks about a roadblock they are experiencing where kids need to be referred to PerformCare, but that involves a lengthy summary that requires a diagnosis but Peaceful Tomorrows does not do a diagnosis and asks for any ideas on who could do a diagnosis to work through this roadblock. Possibly mobile response PerformCare is suggested to assist in that diagnosis.

Old business

- Chairperson's vacancy, if anyone is interested in filling that roll please email Lisa and Michelle.
- Flyer for Violas Place is shared with everyone the flyer for Viola's Place Summer camp is for kids ages 10-15 in Williamstown NJ from 6/26 to 8/18 from 10am to 3pm. Scholarships will be given to kids that are financially struggling. Would need documentation that they receive free school lunches. For more information, email Lydia@unitedadvocaygroup.org on the summer camp. Also, looking for vendors for family fun day
- 5k anti bullying event will be May 13, in Woodbury at lot 323
- James Sampson community resource development funds have been awarded.
- Parent education workshop may 16th flyer to be distributed. Will distribute flyer for family fun day, and violas place summer camp happening

Announcement

The Community Resource Development Funds made available to the CMOs through CSOC have been awarded. The funds of \$67,788.07 were divided by 3 and awarded to Revive South Jersey, United Advocacy Group and Gateway Community Action Program.

Lisa Cerny asks for motion to adjourn meeting, Ginny DeLong makes motion, Bethany Vega seconds and meeting is adjourned.

Tri-County meeting June 14th 2023 at 10:00am Gloucester County is hosting.