

Chafee Advisory Group

November 6, 2020

Minutes

In Attendance: Jessica Trombetta, Kelli Puryear, Michele Safrin, Niambi London, Susan Radosti, Alice Foulkes-Garcia, Tosca Blandford-Bynoe, Suzanne Kreie, Randi Mandelbaum, Kelly Nestor, Mary Coogan, Tatianna Mickens, Dan Rhoton, David Rosen, Yolanda Allen, Janel Winter

Absent: Dr. Kairys, Durell Clark, Stefanie Thachik, Tyhesha White

1. Welcome, Ice Breaker & Updates

- a. Welcome by Jessica
- b. Membership Updates
 - i. Introduction of Alice Foulkes-Garcia from the JJC as our Co-Chair!
 - ii. Announcement of Anita Costello (The North Ward) leaving the group
 1. Due to budget cuts her program is no longer w/in DCF
 2. OAS will identify a contracted agency representative to fill this spot
 - iii. We continue to look for a Faith-based member
- c. Ice Breaker by Alice
 - i. Rose, Thorn, Bud exercise
 1. Something going well, a challenge and something to look forward to
 - ii. Followed with deep breathing exercises
- d. Review of minutes from August 5, 2020 meeting
 - i. No comments or edits
 - ii. Minutes approved by Jessica

2. DCF/OAS Updates (Jessica)

- a. Moratorium on aging out continues until December 31, 2020
 1. Any extensions past that will be on a case-by-case basis
- b. State has secured Covid19-related relief funds for young adults with a COVID related economic hardship
 - i. OAS working with CP&P and our providers to determine eligibility
 1. Youth must be between 18-23 years of age
 2. Have experienced a Covid19-related hardship
 3. Meet 1 of the below 3 criteria as well
 - a. Currently in foster care through CP&P
 - b. Former foster youth known to DCF & in need of assistance (specifically NJ Foster Care Scholars)
 - c. Be residing in a DCF-contracted youth supportive housing program
 - ii. Youth will be receiving a one-time payment of \$1,850
- c. LifeSet Program (Niambi)
 - i. LifeSet is moving forward and program referrals began October 1, 2020
 1. There are 4 LifeSet providers in New Jersey
 - a. Acenda
 - b. Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen

- c. Care Plus
 - d. Preferred Behavioral Health
 - 2. Each program has 40 slots with a goal of 32 filled in each area
 - a. Currently at 85 youth
 - ii. Services & participation are voluntary
 - 1. Referrals started with the oldest youth first
 - a. Some youth may have declined due to closing their case with CP&P
 - b. Currently working at referring 20 year olds
 - 2. Question arose regarding youth being hesitant to join.
 - a. Too early to know at this point, information is being gathered.
 - 3. NJ LifeSet pilot is the largest implementation that Youth Villages has carried out
 - a. Youth Villages very supportive
 - b. Many implementation meetings taking place
 - c. Program evaluation will begin March/April 2021
 - d. Peer Mentoring and NJYRS
 - i. DCF Youth Council has recommended Peer Mentoring for youth in foster care.
 - 1. DCF Commissioner supports this recommendation, next steps are in process.
 - ii. NJ Youth Resource Spot website
 - 1. Council working to update & make more youth-friendly
 - e. Program Changes
 - i. Due to budget cuts, several programs have been cut
 - 1. Mentoring, Permanency, AfterCare and the Youth Advisory Network (YAN)
 - ii. Services that will continue are LifeSet, PACES, OTARY, Wrap-around and youth supportive housing
 - 1. Wrap-around funds are separate from Aftercare
 - 2. OAS is continuing to review exceptional requests for Wraparound funds
- 3. Chafee Advisory Group Updates**
- a. Chafee Website up on DCF webpage:
 - <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/boards/chafee.html>
 - i. Any questions? What do people want to see?
 - ii. Materials and meeting minutes will get posted there
 - iii. Many thanks to Niambi and the DCF Communications Office for creating
 - b. Chafee Strategy Teams
 - i. "One size fits all" doesn't work for each team
 - 1. Some teams may re-strategize
 - a. Services for Youth 18+
 - i. LifeSet
 - ii. Other housing on pause
 - b. Data Team

- i. Working with Office of Research, Evaluation & Reporting
 - ii. Will be a long-term project
 - 2. Some teams have not met yet
 - a. Will update everyone on who is meeting and determine what is on hold
 - b. Mental Health, Substance Use and Domestic Violence strategy team will be re-strategizing

4. Chafee Philosophy Discussion

- a. Youth Thrive Overview
 - i. Initiative of the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)
 - ii. NJ began integrating Youth Thrive into policy, practice, and services in 2013
 - iii. Played short video on overview of Youth Thrive:
<https://cssp.org/resource/youth-thrive-voices-from-the-network>
 - iv. An opportunity to advance the conversation about healthy development & well-being
 - v. NJ initiatives
 - 1. A 3 day, in-person training has been in place for a few years, it is currently being converted to a virtual training.
 - 2. Youth Thrive supervisory tool is available
 - 3. Youth Thrive Survey - self-assessment tool for young people is available
 - vi. Adolescent Advocacy Certification Program at MSU
 - 1. Youth Thrive & Protective Factors were integrated into this work (due to budget cuts this certificate program ended)
- b. Chafee Philosophy Document
 - i. Goal is to develop a 1-pager or “primer” with each prong of the Chafee philosophy to keep at the forefront of the work
 - 1. The primer would be used during Strategy Team meetings
 - a. Youth Thrive
 - b. Race Equity
 - c. Healing-Centered Engagement
 - 2. Discussion regarding draft document
 - a. Overall recommendations to keep the document short.
 - b. Feedback on document generally positive.
 - c. Recommendations to consider power-sharing and intersectionality in the documents.
 - d. The group decided that 1-2 pages for each prong of the philosophy would be preferable.
 - e. Goal to have these documents finalized by the end of the year, especially since strategy teams will be meeting over the next several months

5. Open Agenda, Announcements, Questions

- a. 2021 Meeting dates have been sent out
 - i. Feb 5
 - ii. May 4
 - iii. Sept 14
 - iv. Dec 9
- b. Anyone not using Outlook or didn't get invites, please let Susan know
- c. Strategy Teams moving forward and will be meeting in the new year
- d. Will send out links to CSSP video
- e. Still looking for a Faith-based rep

6. Meeting Adjourned

Minutes: Susan Radosti

All ideas reflected are not endorsed by the agency.