

DELAWARE COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18TH, 2025
5:30PM

HYBRID: DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM AND VIRTUAL

Board Members Present:

Kevin Madden, Chairman of the Board/Council Member	Kelly Diaz, Deputy Controller
Marie Williams, Vice Chair	Hon. Nathaniel Nichols
Elaine Schaefer, Council Member	Rev. James Turner
Candice Linehan	Chekemma Fulmore Townsend

Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Madden called the meeting to order at 5:35PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only): No public comment

Approval of Minutes: The Meeting Minutes from January 21st, 2025 were approved.

Reports:

- A. Monthly Detained Youth Report, Danielle DiMatteo-There are currently thirteen (13) youths in detention. Two (2) males and one (1) female are currently being housed at Chester County. One (1) male is being house at Adelphi Village. One (1) male is being housed at George Junior Republic. The remaining eight (8) are direct file cases with three (3) males being housed at Delaware County Prison, one (1) female being housed at State Correctional Institution (SCI) Muncy, three (3) males being housed at George Junior Republic and one (1) male being housed at Abraxas Morgantown.
- B. Interim Director of Juvenile Justice Services, Nelson Walker- Mr. Walker stated that he, Board Member Nichols, Board Member Turner and Chief of Human Services, Sandy Garrison did a walkthrough of the facilities at the Clock Tower School in Glen Mills, Pa alongside an architect to assess how existing space could be repurposed and utilized as a community-based center. Walker stated that he is awaiting the final report from the architect and will present those findings once he receives them.

Mr. Walker additionally stated the contract for SCM was approved at the February 4th County Council meeting that will provide programming at Chichester High School and the Lincoln Center Charter School and that the department is partnering with the Upper Darby Police Department for the Teen and Police Services (TAPS) program.

Mr. Walker introduced Ms. Renise Welbon and Ms. Shakira Doward from Youth Advocate Program (YAP) to present to the Board regarding the Delco Rising project Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC).

Ms. Welbon began by the presentation by providing an overview of YAP and its programming. YAP is a nonprofit agency serving thousands of families annually that has been committed to providing home community-based alternatives to out of home care through direct service, advocacy and policy change since 1975.

YAP's model draws from the practice and research base of wraparound, family support, mentoring, positive youth development, and restorative justice fields. We have created a unique model of service delivery based on several central tenets:

- NO REJECT/EJECT POLICY: No youth or family will be refused or ejected from services.
- INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN: Each plan is based on the family's unique needs, strengths, culture and preferences.
- FAMILY FOCUSED: Parents/Caregivers are engaged as partners in their services, and support is offered to help them meet their needs and goals too.
STRENGTH BASED: We look at what strengths and assets kids and families have and seek to build upon them
- NEIGHBORHOOD BASED RECRUITMENT: We recruit staff who live in the same communities as the families we serve
- TRAUMA INFORMED SERVICES: We assume that every family has experienced some form of trauma and implement specific strategies to promote trust, safety, choice, collaboration, and empowerment into all aspects of programming from beginning to end.

YAP's flagship program in Delco is Delco RISING, which aims to provide intensive advocacy, case management, mentoring, family support, life skills training, anger management/coping skills training, and supported work programs for youth and their families. Additionally, programming includes a partnership with Delaware County's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, providing both individual and group services aimed to prepare youth to identify areas of interest and support them in entering the workforce.

YAP's newest program in Delaware County, the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC), launched on February 10th, 2025, and served thirty-five (35) youths and their families within its first week of operations. Located in Chester the NRC is open on weekdays 3pm-8pm, aiming to preventing future serious delinquent acts of youth by providing a safe place for at-risk youth to socialize, learn, engage in prosocial activities, and working with youth to instill respect for self, community, and others.

Ms. Doward additionally stated that YAP is focused on responding to the expressed needs of youth and their families. As a result, YAPWORX™, a 24-unit strength-based curriculum using the power of experiential, work-based learning experiences is available to youths and young adults. Ms. Doward also listed additional vocational services that are offered through YAP's partnership with OVR:

- Job Shadow

- Job Development
- Job Coaching
- Paid Work Experience Supported Employment Professional Connections Foundations/Experience Community Work Instruction My Work Summer Program Workplace Readiness
- Community Based Work Assessments

Ms. Doward continued to list additional programs which include a twelve (12) week wellness program which covers the following topics:

- Health and Wellness Clinic
- Self-Care and Hygiene
- "Looking Glass" Self-Talk
- Honest Sex Education
- CPR
- Career Day
- Resume Building
- How to Budget
- Serving the Public
- A Check in Day

Ms. Doward additionally emphasized the programs use of interventions including the following:

- **SPARCS (Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress)** -Delco RISING staff are trained to help our youth who are experiencing repeatedly traumatic experiences to navigate and communicate their emotions in an appropriate and manageable way.
- **PATTS (Peaceful Alternatives to Tough Situations)** - A school-based aggression management program designed to help students increase positive conflict resolution skills, increase the ability to forgive transgressions, and reduce aggressive behavior.

Furthermore, Ms. Welbon stated that YAP is working with community partners to bring new programs to Delaware County and to expand current programming to reach a wider range of children and families. Responsive future programming includes:

- **Delco TIPS (Targeted Intensive Prevention Services)** – school-based programming slated for Chichester High School if approved
- **Delco STARS** – programming for youth ages 10-13
- **ID Waiver Services** – Community based services for adults with disabilities

Councilwoman Schaefer asked where the programming is operating from.

Ms. Welbon stated that two days a week, programming is run out of the Chester Crozer Library and that programming is held at YAP's Chester office on 9th Street for the remaining three days. While most programming occurs at those locations, OVR programming, and supported programming occurs across Delaware County at partner business that work with the youth.

Council Woman Schaefer asked if the thirty-five (35) kids served in the first week were individually or repetitively counted.

Ms. Welbon stated that she was unsure as the figure of thirty-five (35) was totaled from daily counts but could include youths who came for programming multiple days. Ms. Welbon additionally stated that the program has yet to be heavily advertised.

Judge Nichols asked if YAP was receiving referrals from the Juvenile Probation Office (JPO).

Ms. Welbon responded affirmatively that they do receive referrals from both JPO and Children and Youth Services (CYS).

Judge Nichols additionally asked if they provide reports to those agencies.

Ms. Welbon again responded affirmatively stating that monthly progress reports are given to JPO and CYS.

Board Member Turner asked what program capacity limits were.

Ms. Welbon answered that program capacity limits vary. For instance, the NRC program at this time is limited to residents with a Chester zip code and that the TIPS program is limited to Chichester High School. YAP does not intend to host youths outside of those specific areas; however, they do intend to start the same type of programming in other identified high need areas. Other programs, such as Delco RISING, has more fluid capacity limits as participants are sent via JPO and CYS.

Board Member Townsend asked how many hours of working hours per week youth were getting through the YAPWORX™ program.

Ms. Welbon responded that the program has experienced reduced funding and that while youths used to work up to 25 hours per week at \$12 an hour, that number has since been cut to 16 hours per week and the program now lasts for four weeks.

Board Member Townsend asked if transportation or lack thereof has hindered any program success for youths.

Ms. Welbon stated that if transportation is a barrier, YAP will provide transportation. Other programs that are drop in, they may provide transportation home and in some cases transportation to programming. The Delco RISING program provides transportation to participating youths countywide. Transportation is provided via SEPTA, YAP staff, and ridesharing options.

Board Member Linehan asked if the Delco RISING program had any measurable data for their program outcomes and rates of success.

Ms. Welbon stated that while she did not have those numbers at this time, she could provide them to the Board at a later time. Ms. Welbon additionally stated that the program is overall successful.

Chairman Madden additionally stated that he would like to get a better understanding of the program success by both looking at the data and by hearing testimonials from those involved in the referring agencies.

Ms. Welbon responded in agreement and additionally stated that while the Delco RISING program is six months, most youths ask for program extensions for another 3-6 months. Ms. Welbon also stated that YAP is looking into a post programming peer mentorship program in place.

Chairman Madden asked if the programs available in Delaware County are specific to Delco or if they have been successfully implemented elsewhere.

Ms. Welbon stated that while programs follow national advocacy models, school and community-based programs reflect the needs of those communities.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Board Member Comment: Board Member Nichols stated that he found the visit to Clock Tower enlightening and that as a Board Member, he has a better visualization of the path being forged regarding juvenile detention and juvenile justice in Delaware County.

Adjourn: Board Member Nichols moved to adjourn. Board Member Fulmore-Townsend seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06pm.