

DELAWARE COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS
MONDAY MAY 19TH, 2025
5:30PM
HYBRID: DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM AND VIRTUAL

Board Members Present:

Kevin Madden, Chair/Council Member	Hon. Nathaniel Nichols
Dr. Monica Taylor, Council Chair	Chekemma Fulmore Townsend
Kelly Diaz, Deputy Controller	Rev. James Turner

Call Meeting to Order: Councilman Madden called the meeting to order at 5:33PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only): No public comment.

Approval of Minutes: Board Member Turner motioned to approve the March Meeting Minutes. Board Member Diaz seconded the motion. The Meeting Minutes from April 15th were approved.

Reports:

- A. Monthly Detained Youth Report, Danielle DiMatteo-There are currently nine (9) youths in detention. There are two (2) males currently being housed at Chester County, one (1) male being housed at Jefferson County (Ohio), and two (2) males are being held at Abraxas Morgantown. The remaining four (4) youth are direct file cases with two (2) males being held at George W. Hill (Delaware County), one (1) male at George Junior Republic (Grove City) and one (1) female at Montgomery County.
- B. Interim Director of Juvenile Justice Services, Nelson Walker- Mr. Walker reported that progress is being made regarding the shelter care facility within the Clocktower facility. The shelter care facility would house youth who scored for detention; however, a judge would remand them to shelter care. Mr. Walker reported licensing still needs to be obtained and that there have already been meetings with architects to assist with the project.

Mr. Walker additionally updated the Board on the Youth Advocate Programs running in Delaware County. Beginning with the Targeted Intervention Prevention Services (TIPS) Program at Chichester High School. Since launching in April of 2025, TIPS attendance was slow to begin, however within the several weeks that the program has been operating, the enrollment has increased to 13. Overall attendance has been consistent, with most sessions seeing steady participation. A few youths stagger their attendance with their extracurricular activities, and we are looking into how to support a youth with severe social anxiety who was referred to the program.

Mr. Walker reported that participant engagement has been generally positive, with active involvement in program activities and support. Teachers have also become active supporters of the program, frequently issuing passes to allow students to attend group sessions and complete assignments in a focused, supportive environment. Many participants begin their day by texting their advocate to confirm that group will be held, demonstrating not only enthusiasm but also a growing sense of accountability and connection.

One of the most notable improvements has been in academic performance. Advocates actively support students by logging into their school portals, assisting with makeup assignments, and monitoring progress. As a result, many participants have experienced meaningful grade increases. Mr. Walker noted one student who was failing a class when he joined the program on April 1st has since raised his grade to an A.

Truancy has also been a key area of progress. Every youth referred for truancy has shown substantial improvement in school attendance. One participant, who had been truant for 50 days as of April 1st, is now attending school consistently. A key expectation of the program is that students must attend school to participate, which has been a strong motivator. School staff have noted the positive impact as well, with several teachers visiting the program to express their appreciation and build rapport with TIPS staff. In addition to academic and attendance outcomes, the program has identified and addressed critical family needs. Food insecurity has been a recurring issue; staff have stepped in to provide meals for families in need. One participant had been saving his dinner to take home to his younger sibling, this discovery led staff to include the sibling in the meal count moving forward.

Mr. Walker additionally reported that the school is very supportive of the program and has committed to providing more space for programming.

Regarding the Neighborhood Resource Center Program (NRC) Mr. Walker also reported the program was running strong since its mid-February launch. Mr. Walker reported that NRC has served a total of 26 unduplicated youth, with a consistent core group of 16 participants regularly attends the program and daily attendance typically ranging between 16 and 21 youth.

Participant engagement has been notably strong, with youth showing consistent interest and involvement in daily activities, discussions, and special projects. Youth participate in structured activities including academic support, arts and crafts, peer-led groups, and YAPWORX® employment-readiness projects. One of the most impactful initiatives has been the youth-led planning of a monthly social event designed for neurodiverse individuals and individuals with disabilities (both youth and adults). This event, which began as a one-time spring social, was so successful that it is now held monthly. It offers youth the chance to learn event planning, promote inclusion, and build empathy through meaningful interactions with others who may experience the world differently. Youth have also expressed excitement and gratitude for outings, including visits to the Hibachi Grill, where many

experienced new dining environments for the first time. Additionally, a theater performance arranged by the library director sparked interest in the performing arts, with several youth expressing a desire to attend future plays.

In addition to the activities, there is targeted time in program to focus on youth academic areas of need, homework assistance, and ensuring that youth assignments are completed. This time assists youth who are often unstructured when at home in focusing on tasks and safely engaging. Clinical support is also now being provided as we have engaged the clinician from our Delco RISING program to provide additional services to youth and families in the NRC program after identifying a critical need for this support within this program. Looking forward, we hope to integrate this service on a permanent basis within NRC. Clinical support is also now being provided as we have engaged the clinician from the Delco RISING program to provide additional services to youth and families in the NRC program after identifying a critical need for this support within this program. Looking forward, we hope to integrate this service on a permanent basis within NRC.

Mr. Walker additionally reported that the NRC program has achieved positive outcomes. Youth have demonstrated increased confidence, social-emotional growth, social engagement, self-expression, and leadership through consistent involvement. Many participants have shown greater ability to manage conflicts, communicate effectively, and express their needs. Youth have not been engaged in negative behaviors during times that were previously unstructured and unsupervised and have connected with the NRC team to the point where they have been referring their friends and requesting assistance to attend. The monthly social events have promoted inclusiveness and service learning, while outings and cultural experiences have broadened their worldviews. Increased caregiver involvement has supported family communication and goal achievement.

NRC is increasingly recognized by youth as a safe space, and there have been no community-based incidents related to youth enrolled in the program during the timeframe of operation. Most youth are consistently attending school and safely residing in their communities. NRC even has begun transporting youth to the program as well as home from the program to allow as many as possible to participate if they desire.

While an overall success, NRC is experiencing some challenges as reported by Mr. Walker. The most pressing challenge has been the lack of a permanent facility. Ongoing heating and cooling issues at the NRC site have forced the program to rotate between the YAP office, now too small for daily attendance, and the Chester Library, on Tuesday and Thursday. These space limitations impact consistency and limit the program's ability to grow. As participation increases, there is a need for additional staff and resources to maintain a high level of support. Some youth require more intensive mental health services. Coordination with families and outside agencies continues to be critical. Addressing bullying and school-related stress also remains a priority, requiring continuous attention and emotional support from NRC staff. Food insecurity has also been identified as an issue to be addressed with several of the youth attending NRC.

Board Member Turner asked if TIP program participants can attend the NRC program.

Nelson responded that programming runs at the same time.

Board Member Turner asked if programming could merge since TIPS has lower numbers.

Nelson responded that there is some programming overlap, but that the TIPS program is slightly more targeted, and referral based.

Board Member Turner additionally stated that he knew of recreational spaced that YAP could use for its programming.

Board Member Nichols asked how many of the students being served are involved with law enforcement or are under the supervision of Juvenile Probation.

Mr. Walker stated that he did not have that information at this time but could get that information.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Board Member Comment: No Board Member comment.

Adjourn: Board Member Turner moved to adjourn. Board Member Townsend seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54pm.