

DELAWARE COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS
TUESDAY OCTOBER 21ST, 2025
4:30PM
HYBRID: DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM AND VIRTUAL

Board Members Present:

Kevin Madden, Chair/Council Member	Joanne Phillips, Controller
Dr. Monica Taylor, Council Chair	Candice L. Linehan
Elaine Schaefer, Council Member	Rev. James Turner
Nathaniel Nichols	

Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Madden called the meeting to order at 4:33PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Approval of Minutes: Councilwoman Schaefer motioned to approve the September Meeting Minutes. Board Member Turner seconded the motion. The Meeting Minutes from September 16th were approved.

Reports:

- A. Monthly Detained Youth Report, Danielle DiMatteo- There are currently seven (7) youths in detention. There are one (1) male currently housed at Abraxas Morgantown, one (1) male currently housed at Adelphoi. The remaining five (5) youths are direct file cases with one (1) male being housed at Abraxas Morgantown, two (2) males being housed at George Junior Republic, and two (2) males being housed at George Hill.

There are currently nine (9) youths in detention. There are currently four (4) youths being housed at Abraxas Morgantown with one (1) of those youths being direct file and two (2) of those youths under shelter care. There is also one (1) youth currently being housed at Adelphoi Village, and four (4) youths at George Junior Republic with two (2) of those being direct file cases.

- B. Interim Director of Juvenile Justice Services, Nelson Walker- Mr. Walker noted that there have been several private and county agencies that are amenable to providing beds to Delaware County including Berks County.

Chairman Madden acknowledged the hard work that was accomplished by Mr. Walker and Ms. DiMatteo in finding beds and alleviating worry regarding a lack of placement in the wake of the Lima Facility closing several years ago.

Mr. Walker introduced Rhonda Lee, Program Director Delaware County and Shakeiria Doward, Assistant Program Director (DelcoRising) from Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) to further present on their programming.

Ms. Lee began by discussing the DelcoRising program, which began approximately three (3) years ago. It is an advocate program that takes referrals from both CYS and Juvenile probation. Each referred youth is assigned an advocate who serves both the youth and their family by using the traditional "Wrap Around" method to target core issues the youth may be facing. YAP has enacted a No Reject, No Eject Policy and that YAP works their best to continue the process of providing services, even in the most difficult cases.

Chairman Madden asked if there has ever had to have been a discontinuation of services.

Ms. Lee stated that removal from the program is very rare and that such cases only arise when circumstances are beyond the capabilities of YAP and typically include cases of severe mental illness and a need for a higher level of care.

Ms. Lee continued stating that YAP is neighborhood based and that many staff come from the neighborhoods in which they serve.

The target age for Delco Rising was initially ages 14-18, however CYS noted that the program could also be useful to youth ages 10-13 who could benefit from up-streamed, pro-social programming to avoid escalation at older ages. As a result, YAP implement the Delco STARS program for the younger cohort.

Councilwoman Schaefer asked how many youths have been served in the program.

Ms. Lee stated that over the last three (3) years, YAP has served approximately 45-50 youths through Juvenile Probation and CYS.

Chairman Madden asked what metrics of success are used for the program.

Ms. Lee stated that success is measured differently based on the referring agencies. For example, a referral from Juvenile Probation tracks, probation compliance, have they had contact with police, is school (attendance and grades) are on an upward trajectory, are they utilizing their advocate.

Chairman Madden asked if there could be more measures success metrics moving forward.

Ms. Lee introduced Ms. Doward to discuss the Targeted Intervention and Prevention Services (TIPS) program.

Ms. Doward introduced the TIPS program, based out of Chichester High School, purpose is to prevent entry into the juvenile justice system by building resilience, academic success,

and social skills and supporting both youth and families throughout their participation. The TIPS program serves youth aged 14–18 in Delaware County with three (3) or more suspensions or expulsions in the past year; multiple school infractions, conflicts in home/community; or social/emotional challenges. Each youth has an Individualized Service Plan and 5–20 hours of weekly engagement which includes educational support and socio-emotional mentoring to students.

Councilwoman Schaefer asked how and where the interventions are conducted.

Ms. Doward responded that interventions take place during and after school in a designated space and that advocates ensure they get home safely after the program.

Ms. Lee additionally stated that Chichester's renovation plans included a permanent and larger space to operate the program.

Board Member Linehan asked if Chichester High School's TIPS program is a pilot program and if it could be replicated at other area high schools.

Mr. Walker responded that the program was a pilot at Chichester and with adequate funding could be replicated in other schools.

Councilwoman Schaeffer asked about demographics regarding the TIPS staff.

Ms. Lee responded that staff ranges from younger to older adults who are community based and come from various backgrounds. There is also a master's level clinician who provides clinical support sessions on a weekly basis.

Ms. Doward additionally introduced the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) program which purpose is to prevent entry into the juvenile justice system by providing a safe, structured and supported space for youth ages 8-18. This program works to build resilience, academic success, and social skills and provides supports for both participants and their families. Its primary goals aim to prevent delinquent acts and engagement with the juvenile justice system; reduce at risk/high risk behaviors in the community; improve educational outcomes; promote prosocial behaviors and community engagement; and strengthen family and community connections. NRC is based in Chester and is a self-referral program. Initially slated to serve fifteen (15) youth, NRC saw twenty-five (25) unduplicated youth in its first week.

NRC provides healthy, balanced meals and transportation to and from programming.

Ms. Lee additionally stated that all programs operate under the Trauma Informed Care Model and utilize engagement in prosocial activities, structured groups, academic support, and community partnerships.

Ms. Lee noted that DelcoRising staff are Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress (SPARCS) certified and are trained to help our youth who are experiencing repeatedly traumatic experiences to navigate and communicate their emotions in an appropriate and manageable way. Staff also use Peaceful Alternatives to Tough Situations (PATTS), 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.

Ms. Lee additionally discussed the Delco OVR program, a partnership with the Office of Vocational Services which provides both individual and group services aimed to prepare youth and adults with disabilities to identify areas of interest and support them in their desire to enter the workforce. YAP Employment Specialists work with youth and adults to implement Workplace Readiness curriculums and provide OVR and waiver services along a continuum based on interests and needs of the youth and adults in Delaware and Montgomery Counties.

Ms. Lee also stated that many participants attend school regularly or graduate; see very low rates of new convictions or justice system involvement; and youth demonstrate improved social, academic, and emotional abilities.

Ms. Lee additionally stated YAPS future expansion plans which include:

- **Delco TIPS #2** – possibility of expanding to additional target schools within identified areas of need and/or increase capacity in current programs.
- **Delco NRC #2** - possibility of expanding to additional target zip codes within identified areas of need.
- **Delco STARS** – Increasing capacity for the younger youth program that is just starting this year

Ms. Lee stated that YAP is currently working with their partners to bring new programs to Delco and expand current programming to serve more children and families.

Board Member Nichols asked if there were any referrals specifically from Juvenile probation.

Ms. Lee responded affirmatively and stated that they are currently working with five (5) youth who are currently on juvenile probation.

Board Member Nichols asked if there were any formal partnerships with existing community organizations.

Ms. Lee responded that their community-based staff assist with the implementation of any community service requirements that a youth may have.

Board Member Nichols asked if they could refer community organizations to YAP to provide assistance.

Ms. Lee responded yes and that she would leave information to contact YAP and its staff.

Councilwoman Schaefer asked for further clarification regarding transportation. Ms. Lee stated that over the summer, YAP rented vans to transport students. Since the school year has started, YAP staff provide transportation in their personal vehicles.

The Board thanked Ms. Lee and Ms. Doward for their time.

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 Nichols moved to adjourn. Board Member Townsend seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13pm.