

## **Youth Services Network Meeting**

**September 8, 2025 – 9:15-10:30am**

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County**

#### **Notes**

- 1) Introductions/welcome were made.** A sign-in sheet was present as well as hard copies of the agenda and the previous notes.
- 2) Review of May 12, 2025 minutes** – no suggestions for changes.
- 3) Guest Presenters**

#### **Community School Liaison Program (CSLP) – Chelsea Suarez CHJC**

Chelsea gave an overview of the Community School Liaison Program (CSLP), which started in 2017 to help cut down on unnecessary and often stressful emergency room visits for youth in crisis. Right now, the program has three staff working in Jefferson County, but they're looking at the possibility of expanding. CSLP takes both emergency and non-emergency referrals and usually provides short-term case management for about 90 days, though they'll work with families longer if needed until support is in place for success. The program is free, some of the services available are crisis intervention, safety planning, building coping skills, and discharge planning. CSLP helps stabilize situations, support families in finding the resources they need, and helps them make those connections. They are also available to share information about the program through presentations, community events, and outreach.

#### **Acces-VR – Kathleen Joyce**

Kathleen gave an overview of Acces-VR, a federal program that provides free vocational support to youth and adults. The program serves several counties, including Jefferson, Cortland, Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, and Madison. Services include job application assistance, workplace readiness, career exploration, work-based learning, and career counseling. Access-VR primarily supports transitional youth in 11th–12th grade, but adults of any age can also participate. Youth do not need an IEP or 504 plan to qualify, only an identified barrier to employment. The program can provide financial assistance for training programs under one year, and in some cases longer education if families meet certain financial guidelines. Additional support may also include tools, uniforms, and transportation for work. Referrals can be made by anyone, and vocational goals are set together with the youth, with parent input considered but youth choice prioritized.

#### **Program Updates**

CAPC – Accepting childcare referrals; has recently lost providers.

Head Start – Space available in Carthage program (morning & afternoon) for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Planned Parenthood – New CAPP educator; expanding peer education for youth (13–18) and hygiene programs into Lewis County; annual Trunk or Treat in October (date TBD). Encompass Recreation – Hosting multiple fall events: indoor soccer at YMCA (Sundays), Lego Labs at six libraries, Art Clubs (Jefferson County Oct 18, St. Lawrence County Nov 8), Sensory Friendly Days at the MOST (Sept 21 & Nov 19), Annual Meeting at Tug Hill Vineyards, Pool Noodle Olympics, Indoor Track and other social opportunities. CHJC Teen Center – Now open during school hours (2:30–8:00pm) with dinner and snack provided daily.

CCE Jefferson – Awarded a NYS OCFS BOOST grant to provide educational supports at General Brown Jr/Sr High potentially starting Nov 1. CARE program has launched a Homeschool program (two days/week) with 4-H and Project AIM. Two fall parenting workshops planned (topics: Social Media/Internet Safety, Holiday/Financial Prep). SNAP-Ed program ending 12/31/25 due to budget cuts at the federal level.

YMCA – Received funding to support the Youth Employment Program (YEP). Two sessions planned; first starts this month, second session is looking for adults to be presenters. Annual Festival of Trees moving to State Office Building.

Youth Alliance – Currently funded only until March due to federal funding cuts. Planning Trunk or Treat for Hygiene Collective (date TBD). Hosting talent show benefiting PIVOT (auditions next week at the Strand). PIVOT is now serving Lewis County.

**4) Other** – no other

**5) 2025 Remaining Meeting Date** – West Room at CCE, 9:15am November 17, 2025 – ACR Health (Social Climate Change) still confirming as Hilary has moved to another position. Diane Zikowitz CHJC Mobile Crisis Program is confirmed.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Zukas