

Youth Services Network Meeting

January 12, 2026 – 9:15am

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 September 8, 2025 minutes-**no changes were suggested.
- 3) Guest Presenters**

YMCA Youth Empowerment Program – Samantha Hamilton

Provided an overview of the YMCA Youth Empowerment Program, which offers high school youth paid internship opportunities within the YMCA for a six-week period. Through the program, youth gain valuable knowledge and hands-on experience to prepare them for future employment. The program was originally funded through the New York State Department of Labor and was recognized for its successful implementation and for meeting program goals. Samantha shared that this funding has ended and the program is currently being supported through Jefferson County Youth Bureau funding.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army was scheduled to present but was unable to attend due to a last-minute conflict.

Camp Wabasso – Sabrina DeRue, CCE Jefferson

Shared updates on upcoming youth opportunities at Camp Wabasso, including 2026 summer camp registration, a three-day, two-night camp for youth ages 8–14, and shared information on Camp Wabasso's availability to host additional programs for both youth and adults.

- 4) Program Updates/Announcements**

CCE Jefferson – NYSPEP has launched its spring webinar series, which is free to educators working with parents. Benefits of joining the NYSPEP newsletter were also shared. More information is available at www.NYSPEP.org. The CARE program is seeking additional members for its advisory team, which meets quarterly. The advisory team focuses on programming provided through the CARE grant for youth ages 9–14 and their families in Watertown, Indian River, Fort Drum, and Carthage. Camp Wabasso is partnering with the NYS 4-H Office to develop a character education curriculum that will be available for use by others once completed.

CAPC – has openings for 3- and 4-year-olds in its Home-Based Head Start program. Eligible families are typically low-income or have a child with an identified disability. The program is delivered in the home once per week for 1.5 hours, with families attending peer group sessions twice per month.

NCPPC - Offers monthly teen programs throughout the county. The next Teen Night will be held on January 31 from 6:00–8:00 PM at the Double Play Community Center. The cost is \$5 per person and includes food. NCPPC is also hiring for a Sexual Health Educator position in St. Lawrence County.

Encompass Recreation - Upcoming events include a fundraiser at the Watertown Elks featuring Josh Cox and the Rattlesnakes, a dance program on January 24 at Rhonda's Footworks, Teen Clubs and Tinker Clubs on the first Wednesday of each month at CHJC, and Art Clubs on the first Saturday of each month at local libraries. Additional events include a bowling event in March at Lewis County Lanes and the annual golf tournament on August 3. More information is available at www.encompassrecreation.com

Jefferson County Youth Bureau - Reminders were shared that reporting is due for currently funded programs and that nominations for recreation scholarships are being accepted.

Youth Alliance - Due to the loss of funding, Youth Alliance is currently providing programming only in Belleville Henderson, LaFargeville, Watertown, and Sackets Harbor. They are working with Jefferson Community College on a young adult coalition utilizing Joel Settlement Funds. All programming focuses on anti-vaping education, campaigns, and awareness.

Give Taller - Received a grant through New York State's Prevention Agenda to provide co-workshops with youth through hip hop.

5) Other - Meeting Planning and Discussion

Suggestions for guest presenters for 2026 meetings can be sent to Amy Zukas. Suggested future meeting locations included The Strand Theatre, the new BOCES location, a fall meeting at Camp Wabasso was suggested to allow additional time for networking. Members were encouraged to invite others working with youth to attend future meetings so that we can continue to share and collaborate on all the youth programs that are being offered throughout the county.

6) 2026 Remaining Meeting Date – West Room at CCE, 9:15am

May 11, 2026

September 14, 2026

November 16, 2026