

DELAWARE COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS
TUESDAY MARCH 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
Elaine Schaefer, Council Member	Hon. Nathaniel Nichols
	Rev. James Turner

Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Madden called the meeting to order at 5:34PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only): No public comment

Approval of Minutes: Board Member Nichols motioned to approve the February Meeting Minutes. Board Member Turner seconded the motion. The Meeting Minutes from February 18th were approved.

Reports:

- A. Monthly Detained Youth Report, Danielle DiMatteo-There are currently twelve (12) youths in detention. Two (2) females and one (1) male are currently being housed at Chester County. One (1) male is being house at Adelphi Village. Two (2) males are being housed at George Junior Republic. The remaining six (6) are direct file cases with three (3) males being housed at Delaware County Prison, two (2) 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 introduced Jonathan King and Risa DeSilva-King to present on the Safe Corridors program.

Mr. King introduced Ms. DeSilva-King, the CEO and Program Director of Safe Corridors.

Ms. DeSilva-King began by introducing Safe Corridors, a project aimed at fostering safe communities and supporting education outcomes in schools by providing safety solutions for students and personnel. Since her tenure began in 2022, Ms. DeSilva-King reported a 500% expansion with operations now running before and after school, as well as during the school day. Safe Corridors partners with school faculty and administrators as well as community members and mentors to operate under a community-based approach. Since partnering with existing school sites, Safe Corridors reports a decrease in armed security presence to zero (0).

Ms. DeSilva-King also reported that Safe Corridors Staff conducts their own method of incident reporting and reports interactions that are both positive and adjustment oriented. Ms. DeSilva-King reported that over the last two years, the monthly average of adjusting interaction reports decreased from one hundred forty-four (144) to twenty-five (25).

Ms. DeSilva-King reported that one school site has seen a 25% decrease in negative verbal altercations. Safe Corridors has been successful in teaching and helping youth implement pro-social, conflict resolution skills and has seen a decrease in altercations escalating to physical fights.

Additionally, Ms. DeSilva-King reported that Safe Corridors now manages the crossing guard staff in the city of Chester and that this program expansion has been instrumental in further extending the program's reach into the community.

Judge Nichols asked if there was data that was specific to the numbers of youth in the program who had been in contact with Law enforcement following some type of incident.

Ms. DeSilva-King stated that at this time there is not, however Safe Corridors will be partnering with the Juvenile Department of the Public Defender's office and that while awaiting the contract to with the County to be approved, they are finalizing programs for those instances.

Councilwoman Schaefer asked what grade levels and how many schools are being served by Safe Corridors.

Ms. DeSilva-King responded that they serve K-12 students across all campuses of Chester Community Charter Schools, CCSA, the majority of Southeast Delco School District, and Chichester High School.

Councilwoman Schaefer asked if Safe Corridors has a working relationship with the Youth Advocate Program (YAP) operating at Chichester High School.

Ms. DeSilva-King stated that at this time there was no collaboration between Safe Corridors and YAP.

Councilwoman Schaefer asked who the mentors within the Safe Corridors Program are.

Ms. DeSilva-King stated that the mentors are handpicked community members of various backgrounds that provide guidance to youth and keep a pulse on what is happening with the youth in school and in the community.

Board Member Turner asked if the Safe Corridors mentees are self-selected or if they are referred through teachers and administrators.

Ms. DeSilva-King stated that schools provide a list of students that could benefit from their program and that non instructional school time is utilized for programming.

Board Member Turner asked how much capacity Safe Corridors needs to run programming.

Ms. DeSilva-King stated that their capacity is limited to the number of Safety Advocates that can be placed in a school. For example, partnerships with the County as well as their own funding allow for Chichester High School to have six (6) safety advocates in the school. Ms. DeSilva-King additionally stated that she hopes the future will allow for more staff to reach a wider range of students including those who may not have behavioral issues.

Mr. King added that Safe Corridors will be working with Chester Upland School district and the Lincoln Center to expand their services throughout the Chester Community. Mr. King additionally stated the need for all students to have readily available mentors.

Councilwoman Schaefer thanked Ms. DeSilva-King for the presentation.

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 Turner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56pm.