

THE SOMERSET COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL

The Somerset County Youth Council was established to give the young people of the County a forum where their ideas and concerns could be expressed and be transmitted to the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

County Middle and High school principals as well as Youth Council members and community providers nominate the young people who are appointed.

The Youth Council is completely youth-run. Sub-committees have been formed in the areas of: Environment, Diversity, Youth and Administration, Drugs and Alcohol, and Education. The Council, formed in February 1995, has developed ideas for programming for the community-at-large and the school systems.

The Youth Council meets the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Conference Room #2 at the Somerset County Department of Human Services, 27 Warren Street, Somerville.

2018-2019 officers of the Somerset County Youth Council are:

Natalie Sheik & Jamie Moni, Co-Chairpersons
Francesca Fazio, Vice-Chairperson
Rishi Korde, Secretary

Leadership in Action!

The members of the Somerset County Youth Council are from the following schools or programs:

Bound Brook High School
Bridgewater-Raritan High School
Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School
Hillsborough High School
Hillsborough Middle School
Montgomery High School
Mount Saint Mary Academy
North Plainfield High School
Princeton Day School
Ridge High School
Rutgers Preparatory School
Somerset County Vocational Technical High School
The Pingry School
Watchung Hills Regional High School

The Somerset County Department of Human Services provides support to the Youth Council. Other advisory boards staffed by the Department include: Continuum of Care and HOME Committees, the County Alliance Steering Sub-Committee, Advisory Council on Disabled Issues, Aging Advisory Council, the Local Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Mental Health Board, CIACC, the Youth Services Commission, Commission on Child Abuse and Missing Children and the Human Services Advisory Council.

If you would like more information, please phone the Somerset County Department of Human Services at (908) 704-6307.

2019 Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Brian D. Levine, Freeholder Director
Patricia L. Walsh, Freeholder Deputy Director
Brian G. Gallagher, Freeholder
Shanel Y. Robinson, Freeholder
Sara Sooy, Freeholder
(908) 231-7030

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

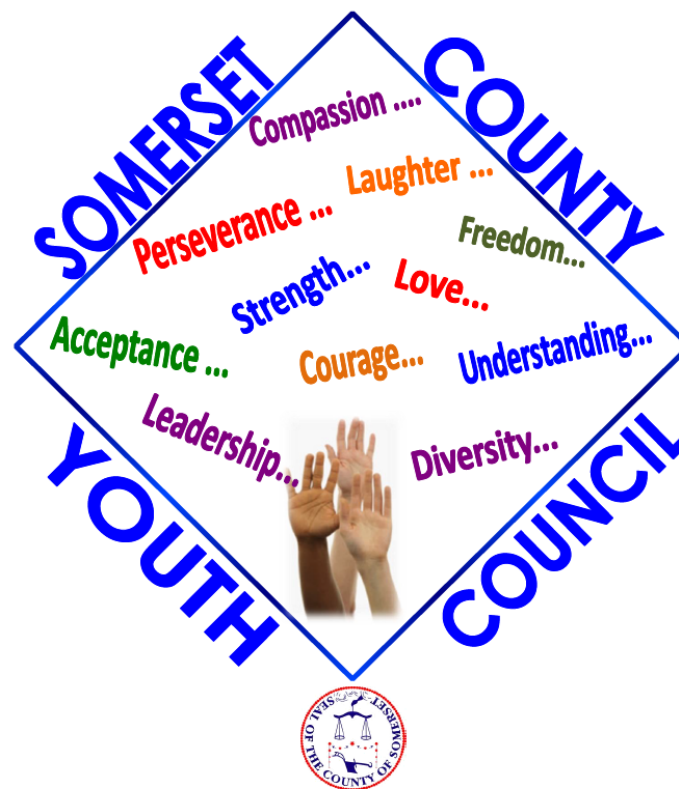
Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center	908-725-2800
FCIU (Family Crisis Intervention Unit)	908-704-6330
Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (PESS)	908-526-4100
Office of Youth Services	908-704-6333
Visions and Pathways (Youth Shelter)	908-526-6605
Somerset Rape Crisis Services	908-526-7444
I Need Help!	2-1-1
Zufall Health Center	908-526-2335

ADOLESCENT DROP-IN CENTERS

Middle Earth (Bound Brook)	908-625-0650
Middle Earth (Bridgewater)	908-723-7223

CHILD DAY CARE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Child Care Solutions - Unified Child Care Agency	908-927-0869
Martin Luther King Youth Center	908-526-3688
Somerset Community Action Program (SCAP)	732-846-8888
Somerset County Head Start Program (Hopes Inc.)	732-568-5053
The Learning Gate Association, Inc.	908-722-6789



Leadership in Action

Michael Frost, Director

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humanservices@co.somerset.nj.us

Free e-mail subscriptions:

www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe.html



**AMENDED
SOMERSET COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL
BY-LAWS
(Updated September 2010)**

The Somerset County Youth Council Objectives:

- ❖ to provide an open forum to foster communication, education, and information concerning youth and youth-related issues to the Board of Chosen Freeholders, and to the community
- ❖ to advise on planning, policy, and programs where appropriate
- ❖ to be involved as an action-group in the County in cooperation with government, other Councils/Boards, and community programs

ORGANIZATION

It is the goal of the Council to have membership representative of Somerset County by encouraging each municipality to have at least one and no more than three representatives if possible. There shall be at least 20 and not more than 50 members.

Representatives shall range in age from 12 to 18 years or in grades 7 to 12. School principals, guidance counselors, agencies, and other Youth Council members may nominate students. Interested youth may contact the Somerset County Department of Human Services to complete a nomination form.

The policy for participation in the Youth Council is consistent with overall County policy.

County Officials

- 1) Freeholder liaison to the Somerset County Department of Human Services
- 2) Director of Somerset County Department of Human Services

Terms of Council Members

- A. Terms of appointment shall be one year.
- B. Reappointment of each member will be yearly until he or she reaches the age of 18 or achieves High School graduation or a maximum term of six years.
- C. Member terms will run from September 1st to August 31st.

Nominations

- A. Nominations for membership shall be directed to the Council chair and the Somerset County Department of Human Services staff.
- B. Nominations will be forwarded to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for appointment to the Council.

Officers

- A. An officer may hold an office for only one year.
- B. In the event an office holds no nomination at the time of an election, an officer may hold the office for a consecutive year.
- C. All nominees must meet all the requirements of member attendance.

Co-Chairpersons

- 1.) Participate as a voting member
- 2.) Preside at meetings
- 3.) Appoint special committees as needed
- 4.) Serve as ex-officio on sub-committees and special committees
- 5.) Must be a member for at least one year prior to appointment

Vice-chair

- 1.) Participates as a voting member
- 2.) Performs all duties and responsibilities of the co-chairpersons in the absence of the co-chairpersons
- 3.) Serves in such capacities as assigned by the co-chairpersons
- 4.) Informs members if they are not meeting attendance requirements
- 5.) Inform members of the required and planned activities and events of the council

Secretary

- 1.) Participates as a voting member
- 2.) Records the minutes of all Council meetings and is be responsible for all correspondence and notices of meetings. The secretary may delegate these responsibilities to the staff person, as needed.
- 3.) Presides at any Council meeting in the absence of both the co-chairpersons and vice-chair
- 4.) Serves in such capacities as assigned by the co-chairpersons

Co-Chairpersons for committees will be appointed as needed.

Committees

The following committees are designated as standing committees to the Council.

Environmental:

To collect and share information related to a wide variety of environmental issues and to organize volunteer projects/workshops for educational purposes as well as providing service to the community. Will sponsor a minimum of one environmental awareness program a year.

Youth and Administration:

To maintain relationships with the county freeholders, community agencies, and school administration for purposes of sharing and relating youth concerns and issues pertaining to education and administration.

Diversity:

Collect and share information related to diversity issues. Will sponsor a minimum of one diversity awareness program each year.

Drug and Alcohol:

Collect and share information related to drug, alcohol, and tobacco issues. Will sponsor a minimum of one drug, alcohol, and/or tobacco awareness program.

Education:

To organize speakers for the Youth Council as requested. To organize the annual youth conference.

Each committee will have two co-chairpersons as needed

The Co-Chairpersons shall designate special committees as needed.

All committees will receive guidance and support from the Youth Council co-chairpersons and Somerset County Human Services staff.

County Staff to the Youth Council

- A. The Somerset County Department of Human Services will attend all meetings and events and assist the Youth Council as needed
- B. Staff shall be employed by county government to support Council activities and will be supervised by the Human Services Director
- C. Staff shall not have voting privileges at meetings of the Council
- D. A Human Services staff member shall serve as the Youth Council representative to the Somerset County Youth Services Commission and report on Youth Council Activities to the Commission
- E. Matters concerning the staffing of the Council shall be decided by the County government

MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

All meetings of the Council shall be open to the public.

All regular meetings shall be by call of a Co-Chairperson in consultation with the Somerset County Human Services Director, or designee. The agenda will be prepared in collaboration with the Human Services staff person assigned to the Council. All members shall receive notice in writing at least 5 days in advance of the meeting date.

Meetings shall be held monthly on a date to be fixed by the Council. The council will hold a minimum of ten meetings a year.

The June meeting shall be the annual organizational meeting. Annual elections and committee appointments shall take place at this meeting.

A quorum shall be (1/3) of the voting membership. No official business can be conducted at any Council meeting unless a quorum has been reached.

All decisions of the Council shall be arrived at by majority vote of the members present.

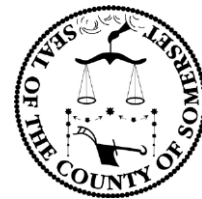
Members of the Somerset County Youth Council must comply with the following attendance requirements:

1. Members shall attend at least 8 or 75% of the Youth Council meetings in a year.
2. Members are required to attend the Somerset County Youth Council's Conference and Somerset County Safe Night.
3. Members must attend at least one Adopt-A-Road activity each year.
4. Members must sign-up for two Youth Council 4-H Fair booth shifts.
5. Members must attend any large Somerset County Youth Council sponsored event.
6. They shall not miss more than 3 consecutive meetings without being excused. An absence will be excused if a member contacts a co-chairperson or the Department of Human Services staff person prior to the meeting date or event.

Persons failing to meet these criteria may be asked to resign.



COUNTY OF SOMERSET DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



OFFICE OF OPERATIONS & PLANNING

27 Warren Street • P.O. Box 3000
Somerville, New Jersey 08876-1262
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HumanServices@co.somerset.nj.us
www.co.somerset.nj.us

Human Services Director
MICHAEL FROST

Administrator of Contract & Fiscal Operations
ROBERT J. WOODWARD

Planning Administrator
JULIE DeSIMONE

Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Coordinator
IVANA PAREJA

Aging & Disability Services
JOANNE FETZKO

Community Development
KIMBERLY COWART

One Stop Career Center
Juvenile Institutional Services
MONICA MULLIGAN

Richard Hall Community MHC
NICCI SPINAZZOLA

Rutgers Cooperative Extension
DARYL MINCH

Veterans Services
PETER NIEMIEC

Volunteer Services
WILLIAM F. CROSBY

Youth Services
LINDA M. PORCARO

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: *(home)* _____ *(cell)* _____ E-MAIL: _____

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE: _____ AGE: _____

LIST GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES STUDENT IS INVOLVED IN:

LIST INTERESTS, HOBBIES, TALENTS, ETC.:

PHOTO POLICY:

Photographs may be taken of Somerset County Youth Council Members. These photographs may be sent to newspapers or used for brochures, displays, or web pages. Photos placed on websites will not be accompanied by any personal information about the youth in the photo. If you do or do not wish to have a photograph used for promotional or educational purposes, please check the appropriate box below.

NO, do not use my photograph

Yes, my photograph may be used

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

DATE: _____

PRINCIPAL / GUIDANCE COUNSELOR SIGNATURE

PHONE NUMBER

DATE

- Mission Statement -

The County of Somerset is committed to excellence and innovation in public service, promoting the well-being of all residents and communities by providing effective, efficient and responsive leadership.

Somerset County Is An Equal Opportunity Employer