

CDYCI COMMISSION MEETING
9:00 am, Wednesday, June 18, 2025

The Capital District Youth Center, Inc's June 18th meeting will be held in person at 1 Park Place, Suite 102, virtually through Zoom Meetings and, later, posted on CDPRC's Youtube Channel.

Members Present: William Connors, Kristin Swinton, Jasmine Higgins, Laura Bauer, Mike Stammel, Craig Warner, Susan Costanzo,

Others Present: Luke Jacobs (Together for Youth), Raymond Wilcox (Together for Youth),

Members Present via Zoom Platform:

Others Present via Zoom Platform: Bob Ryan (Harris Beach)

Members / Others Absent: Gary Hughes, Gilah Moses

1. Welcome & Introductions

Vice President Bill Connors introduced everyone.

2. Approval of April 16 2025 meeting minutes

The minutes were distributed before the meeting. No corrections were needed.

Action Taken:

Laura Bauer made a motion to accept the April 16, 2025 meeting minutes and Jasmine Higgins seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Statements Through May 31, 2025

Q1 2025 billings have been partially paid and partial proceeds have been wired to Together for Youth. We await TFY's Q2 expenses to submit to OCFS rate-setting to finalize the Q2 billing.

SD: TFY's reported expenses through April are \$1,918,586 or 28% to budget. The estimated total expenses through May are \$2,426,776.

SSD: Berkshire Farm's reported expenses through April are \$2,925,810 or 21% to budget. The estimated total expenses through May are \$3,705,299.

Action Taken

Kristin Swinton made a motion to approve the Financial Statements through May 31, 2025, and Craig Warner seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

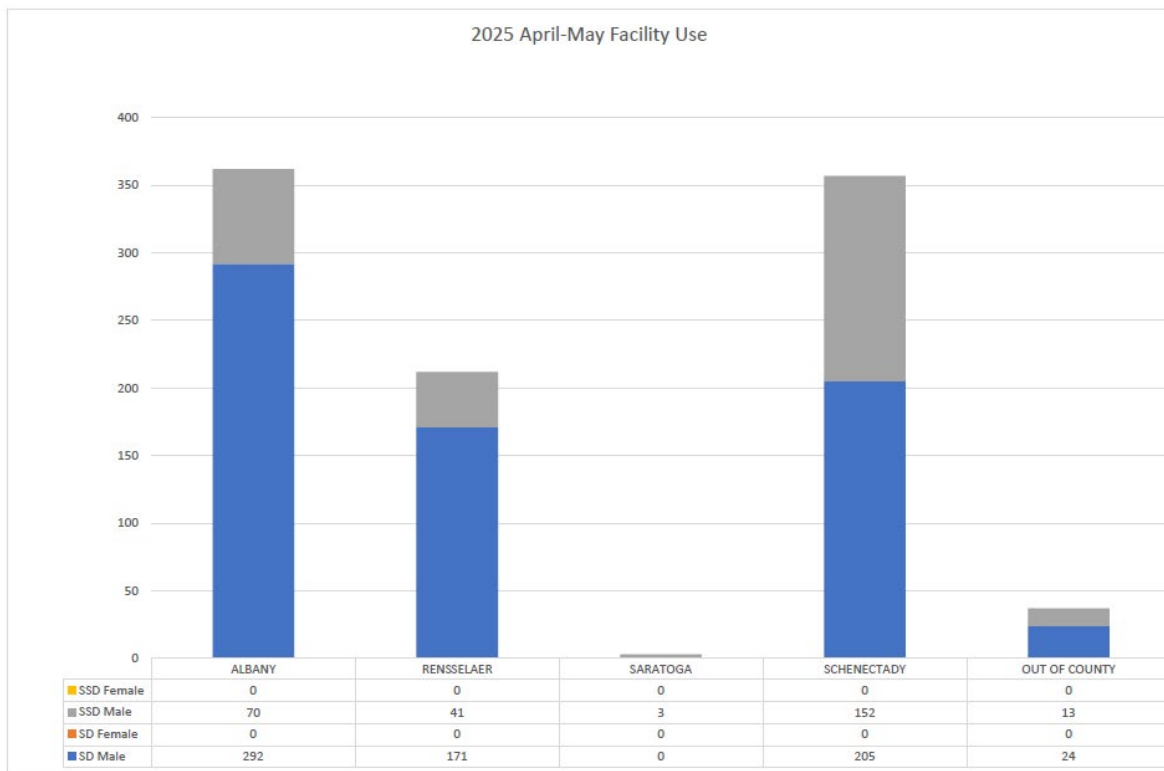
4. 2023 and 2024 Audit Engagement Letters

The Board discussed the finalization of the 2022 audit with Bonadio and moving forward with Bryans & Gramuglia for the 2023 and 2024 audits.

Action Taken:

Craig Warner made a motion authorize the Chief Administrator and Treasurer to engage a new auditing firm for the completion of the 2023 and 2024 audits, as well as to close our the 2022 audit as explained and Mike Stammel seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Facility Use



The facility is operating at 39 beds.

6. RTA Capital Project Closeout

The June 5, 2025 rededication of the detention facility was a success. The construction phase of the renovation and expansion project began in January 2023 and was completed in May 2025.

- The recreation yard was doubled in size and now features a regulation basketball court, outdoor gym, and picnic tables for youth.
- Exterior additions to the facility include a new 12-bed dorm, a new administrative wing, new family visitation space, and a new enclosed sally port and youth intake area ensuring privacy and required separation of youth.
- The facility was brought up to current code standards, including the installation of a building-wide fire suppression system and smoke alarm system.
- New technology upgrades were implemented, including the installation of fiber internet service and Wi-Fi in previously unserved areas, ensuring youth have access to state-of-the-art tools for education and vocational training.
- A new state-of-the-art security camera and intercom system was implemented, increasing the number of cameras from 8 to 136.
- A new rooftop PV system was activated, lowering the facility's carbon footprint and energy costs.

Raise the Age Law:

These renovations and upgrades directly implement the requirements of New York's Raise the Age law, ensuring that youth are housed in age-appropriate, rehabilitative environments that support their development and future success.

7. Education Program Update

BOCES has declined to extend their contract beyond the current year as they have been unsuccessful recruiting teachers. Therefore, Together for Youth has taken over the hiring of all teachers. TFY are recruiting through indeed and attending local job fairs. Also, as a result of the issues with JobCorps programs, TFY has been doing targeted advertising for the teaching staff at local JobCorps which includes geofencing their location and targeted social media advertisements. JobCorps teachers already know our population and they would be an excellent fit for the facility's school. TFY's recruiting department is also targeting local colleges and their alumni associations as teachers looking for work and retired teachers often utilize colleges to find positions. TFY's current salary range for the teaching position is \$75,000 - \$90,000 which is above what BOCES could offer.

TFY currently has one teacher in the background check process and who would be handling the GED program. TFY will be contracting directly with BOCES when this teacher starts as BOCES can provide the technical support to start a GED program as well as all the testing and scoring assistance to ensure our youth get full credit.

For the summer, TFY has set up a course of study that will be providing an arts education program provided by the Albany Center Gallery. Many of our youth are interested in art and we think this will be positively received and while still providing education.

TFY continues to meet regularly with South Colonie School District to get the credit recovery and diploma provision set up. There have been some road blocks but Luke Jacobs has engaged former S. Colonie Assistant Superintendent Tim Backus to act as an intermediary and this has helped to get this process moving.

8. Site Visit and SSD Evaluation

The facility was evaluated by SCOC April 29, 2025. A letter with most significant issues found during the Minimum Standard Evaluation was sent to the facility. Since this letter was received, Together for Youth has met with SCOC to discuss their concerns and what steps will be taken to mitigate the problem. Further steps have been taken by Together For Youth to ensure the safety and well-being of the youth.

OCFS also visited the site in February of 2025 and many of the issues raised by them have also been resolved. Anything related to policy changes are being discussed with the leadership within the facility.

9. Facility Operation

The facility is focusing on the education programs for the summer. This includes the Albany Center Gallery having a 38 session program where the youth work on a project and continue to expand on it.

10. Other Business

No other business to discuss.

11. Adjournment

Action Taken

Mike Stammel made a motion to adjourn and Craig Warner seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting of the CDYCI Board will be October 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Weinstock, Office Manager

Reviewed and approved by
Laura Bauer, Secretary