



Luzerne County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time/Location: March 9, 2022/noon/ Conference Room 132 (MS Teams/Conference Call Meeting)

In Attendance: Denise Acosta, Robert Childs, Maylan Nicholson, Olga Papa, Eileen Song, Joshua Wilder, Susan Roskos, Dennis Gochoel

Absent: Charlene Aben, Mary Agnes Kratz, Alex Milanes

Children and Youth: John Alunni, Ellen Dymond, Kelly Gaughan, David Gaugler, Caitlyn Holland, Georgine Meyers, Brian Steve

Office of Human Services:

Welcome – Chairman Wilder welcomed everyone to the March meeting. Ms. Meyers announced that participants on the phone will need to press *6 to unmute to speak and all Advisory Board meetings are recorded in order to do the meeting minutes. Please stay muted to reduce background noise which interferes with the meeting. If we hear excessive background noise, we will try to mute the person so please only unmute yourself to speak. Ms. Meyers took attendance.

Approval of Minutes – February meeting minutes approved by Member Papa, seconded by Secretary Song, all in favor.

Director's Report – Acting Deputy Director Gaughan discussed workgroups. The Act 33 workgroup deals with fatality and near fatality cases. They are reviewing the cases for practice, policy or procedural changes. They are waiting for the reports from Regional. This is an ongoing workgroup to review for themes and internal recommendations. The Electronic Filing Workgroup is working on moving to paperless in the future. This could change some job duties. Chairman Wilder asked if Advisory Board Members can participate in the Act 33 meetings. Ms. Meyers will check on how the panel members are invited and if there is a commitment to serving on the panel. The final reports from the Act 33 meetings are on the DHS website and available to the public. Acting Director Alunni provided an update on Carl Ayers' (Casey Family Foundation) work with the agency. He noted that all findings were based off of the interviews. A finalized report has not been provided yet. Mr. Ayers is 100% committed to the agency and will see how the new Director will want to proceed. Mr. Ayers also assisted on the Act 33 Workgroup in finding common themes to effectuate change. Casey Family Foundation has also offered their data network team to help the agency analyze data. Their services are free to the agency. Acting Director Alunni will share the link with the Advisory Board regarding the Casey Family Foundation website. The agency continues to see new hires come on board but also have received resignations. There have been several job fairs to promote vacant positions at the

agency. He had a conversation with a representative from Misericordia Career Services Department and they might be interested in having C&Y talk to classes about social service jobs. The agency had representatives meet with Penn State Hazleton classes in the past so this would be the same idea. Upcoming job fairs are Luzerne County Career Fair on March 8th, Misericordia University On Campus Job and Internship Fair on March 23rd, Wilkes University Virtual Job and Internship Fair on March 29th, and Marywood University Virtual Job Fair on March 30th. Chairman Wilder asked about Civil Service testing. Acting Director Alunni stated that Civil Service previously used test scores, however they now use materials, experience, etc to score the applicant. Chairman Wilder offered to reach out to Luzerne County Community College department chair to see if they are interested in having a C&Y representative come to discuss C&Y positions. Acting Director Alunni noted that they are looking at efforts to keep people at C&Y. There are a few upcoming meetings regarding this so hopefully he will have more to report next month. Chairman Wilder wanted to remind the Board that there is a Caseworker Retention Ad Hoc workgroup if any Board Members are interested in joining to please reach out to him. Acting Director Alunni noted that with COVID numbers dropping, more meetings are starting to open up. Upcoming conferences include PACHSA, PCYA, Leadership Roundtable and Children's Roundtable. Resignations are affecting all counties.

Fiscal Update – Ms. Holland noted that the fiscal department is preparing for the financial audit in a few weeks. The audit will take place remotely and on site. The final report will be done about mid May.

Committee Reports

1. **Events and Fundraising** – Chairman Wilder announced that 39 tshirts have been ordered so far. Member Papa has order forms going out to the district. Deadline will be March 24th and orders will be given to AxelRad on March 25th. Secretary Song encouraged everyone to order for yourself or give away. She would like to raffle extra to staff.
2. **Strategic Planning and ByLaws** - Member Gochoel is setting up a meeting for this committee on March 25th at 4:30pm via MS Teams. All are invited to attend.
3. **Recruiting and Community Advocacy** – Member Acosta discussed the Spring Affair Event. The event will be held at Coal Street Park on Sunday April 10th. There will be a bike giveaway, hot dogs, hamburgers, and Easter basket raffles. She is reaching out to Target and Walmart for gift cards. If anyone can assist, please contact Member Acosta. She also noted she is attending an event tomorrow at the Woodlands regarding single mothers.

Old/New Business – No old/new business.

Final Questions/Comments – No final questions or comments.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by Member Papa, seconded by Secretary Song, all in favor.

NEXT MEETING: Next meeting April 13, 2022.