



## Luzerne County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time/Location:** March 10, 2021/noon/ Conference Room 132 (MS Teams/Conference Call Meeting)

**In Attendance:** Denise Acosta, Nicole Buckman, Robert Childs, Dennis Gochoel, Maylan Nicholson, Eileen Song, Joshua Wilder

**Absent:** Charlene Aben, Mary Agnes Kratz, Larry Marchetti, Alex Milanes, Olga Papa, Susan Roskos

**Children and Youth:** Ceil Bartolai, Janice Bonner, Chris Dalessandro, Donna Domiano, Kelly Gaughan, Deanna German, Lisa Koval, Dave Maslowski, Georgine Meyers, Robin Ritsick, Joanne Van Saun, Sam John

**Office of Human Services:** John Alunni, Jerrod Gutowski

**Welcome** – Chairwoman Song welcomed everyone to the March meeting. Ms. Meyers announced that Members 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. Chairwoman Song welcomed the newest Board Member, Maylan Nicholson. Introductions were made. Ms. Meyers took attendance.

**Approval of Minutes** – February meeting minutes approved by Member Childs, seconded by Vice Chairman Gochoel, all in favor.

**Director's Report** – Deputy Director German presented the Director's Report. She noted that staff have continued to work remotely. In person visitation between parents and children resumed in the office last week. Four caseworkers were hired since the last Board Meeting with two starting next week. There were three employees that retired over the past month with two having over 30 years of experience. The Director and Deputy Director will be participating virtually this month in the PCYA conference and the Leadership Roundtable.

### **Committee Reports**

1. **Events and Fundraising** – Secretary Wilder noted he will be setting up a meeting late April/early May to plan out the year.
2. **Strategic Planning and ByLaws** – Vice Chairman Gochoel reviewed the draft of the ByLaws that were sent to everyone earlier. He went paragraph by paragraph to discuss changes/revisions. Chairwoman Song made a motion to accept the ByLaws, Member Childs seconded, all in favor. The updated ByLaws will be forwarded to Sharon Lawrence.
3. **Recruiting and Community Advocacy** – Chairwoman Song asked that Members consider stepping up to chair this subcommittee.

**Old/New Business** – Member Childs asked about the status of the new Board Member waiting to come on the Board. Ms. Meyers let him know that we are just waiting for paperwork.

**Fiscal Update (Dalessandro/Holland)** – Chairwoman Song asked fiscal about funding. Mr. Dalessandro noted there was some funding that was COVID related purchases. Director Van Saun noted the money that was talked about in the press is not money for Human Services.

**Final Questions/Comments** – Chairwoman Song asked that new members review the committees and decide where their interests lie and let her know what committee they would like to participate in. She also asked if there is any kind of need for our agency to please reach out and she will see how the Advisory Board can assist.

**Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn made by Vice Chairman Gochoel, seconded by Member Childs, all in favor.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 12:00pm.**