



Luzerne County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time/Location: November 4, 2020/noon/ Conference Room 132 (MS
Teams/Conference Call Meeting)

In Attendance: Robert Childs, Dennis Gochoel, Larry Marchetti, Olga Papa, Eileen Song, Josh Wilder, Susan Roskos

Absent: Charlene Aben, Ciro Cinti, Martin Dartoe, Maggie Farrell, Mary Agnes Kratz, Alex Milanes, Francis Scarnulis

Children and Youth: Ceil Bartolai, Janice Bonner, Donna Domiano, Deanna German, Caitlyn Holland, Lisa Koval, Georgine Meyers, Robin Ritsick

Office of Human Services: John Alunni

Welcome – Chairman Song welcomed everyone to the November meeting. Ms. Meyers took attendance.

Approval of Minutes – October meeting minutes approved by Member Wilder, seconded by Member Gochoel, all in favor.

Director's Report – Deputy Director German noted that Director Van Saun is unable to attend today. Deputy Director German talked about the exit conference with the State regarding the inspection. Management, Quality Assurance Department and all staff did a phenomenal job with the inspection and did this during the pandemic, working remotely and still going into client homes. Administration is preparing to present the C&Y budget to County Council on November 16th. Council can ask any questions so Administration is preparing data. Anyone can join. Go to luzernecounty.org and click County Council. It can also be accessed through Service Electric and YouTube. The RFP Bidders Conference was held last month. All proposals have been received and scored. Fiscal will start contract negotiations. The Adoption Celebration usually was held in person, however due to the pandemic the Events Committee decided to give a tree seedling and a framed personalized poem to each adoptive family this year. The Judge gave a commemorative watering can as well and the workers are delivering the gift bags to the families. The Foster Childrens Holiday Party also cannot be in person this year. The Events Committee are working on a drive by Santa theme in conjunction with Loftus-Vergari on Saturday, December 12th. A tent will be set up and gifts will be handed out to families as they drive by in their cars. There are 25 casework vacancies. We had resignations/retirements and we have new staff starting but it continues to remain around the same number. There is still an issue with FBI clearances getting done in a timely manner. Staff continue to work remotely. The office is currently open with visits. Windbreakers were handed out to staff. During the holiday there will be another surprise gift for the workers.

Committee Reports

- 1. Events and Fundraising (Wilder)** – Secretary Wilder noted that the fundraising account is currently at \$1,253. There is a meeting with Mr. Rodgers as he is willing to work with the agency. Repeat donors were down this year. Member Wilder noted that this committee will be working on this going forward. Member Childs noted that he clarified with Ollie's store and they are collecting for children in need, not specifically for Children and Youth. He suggested reaching out to local stores to see if C&Y could do the same type of fundraising.
- 2. Strategic Planning and ByLaws (Gochoel)** – Vice Chairman Gochoel is emailing out the survey results. He discussed the overall results and priorities for 2021. An invite will be sent out for the next committee meeting. ByLaws are going to be reviewed if anyone would like to participate and make suggestions.
- 3. Recruiting and Community Advocacy (Song)** – Chairman Song discussed the high priority to review ByLaws. Meeting to be scheduled for November 13th at noon to suggest updates. She encouraged everyone to work together.

Old/New Business – Chairman Song discussed terms expiring and the need to focus on what the Board can control. There are 2 new members coming on board soon however, the one new member's term may expire before she starts. The Board needs stability and help. She would like to meet with Council ABC Committee to discuss concerns, terms and recruiting. She would like to request public relations through the newspaper on the Adoption Celebration and Foster Childrens Holiday Party.

Fiscal Update (Dalessandro/Holland) – Ms. Holland noted that fiscal is preparing for the Budget meeting. They are also closing the first quarter of 2020-2021. Fiscal is currently finishing up the RFP Process.

Final Questions/Comments – Discussion on what happens when a CPS call comes into the agency is postponed to a later date.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Secretary Wilder, seconded by Member Childs, all in favor.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 12:00pm.