



COUNTY of LUZERNE
PENNSYLVANIA
ESTABLISHED 1786

Luzerne County Children and Youth Services

Date/T:

January 9, 2019/noon Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Charles Bonin, Robert Childs, Ciro Cinti, Maggie Farrell, Dennis Gochoel, LeDonne Kelly, Mary Agnes Kratz, Larry Marchetti, Fritz Scarnulis, Eileen Song, Joshua Wilder, Susan Roskos

Absent:

Anthony Bartoli, John Bonin, Martin Dartoe, Barry Finn, Joe Sperazza, Ruth Betty Baltimore, Rosella Fedor-Purcell, James Geiger, Rita Mauriello, Sue Strassman

Children and Youth:

Ceil Bartolai, Janice Bonner, Ellen Dymond, Lisa Fox, Kelly Gaughan, Deanna German, Emily Intelicato, Nicole Litostansky, Georgine Meyers, Robin Ritsick,

Office of Human Services:

John Alunni

Welcome – Secretary Wilder welcomed everyone to the January Advisory Board Meeting.

Approval of Minutes – December meeting minutes approved by Member Scarnulis, seconded by Member Marchetti, all in favor.

Director's Report – Deputy Director German presented the Director's Report. There are currently 25 caseworker vacancies due to several employees that went to work for Welfare. The starting salary at Welfare is \$10,000 more than the agency's starting salary.

The exit interview in regards to the inspection was conducted. It went very well. The Regional Office was complementary and pleased with the agency's progress. There were no safety issues noted in the audit. There are some citations, which were mostly clerical errors.

The Quality Service Review exit interview will take place on Monday at 10am in this conference room. Deputy Director German invited all Advisory Board Members to attend.

Chris Dalessandro is the new Fiscal Officer for the agency. He is currently training and doing well in his first few weeks at the agency.

The agency held a holiday luncheon for staff on December 20th. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed it.

The 5th Manager's position will be posted. The agency requested this posting in July and it went through Civil Service for review and was approved.

Board Members and staff discussed issues with workers leaving for better pay and how the caseloads are redistributed. It was noted that these workers already have Civil Service Status through the agency, which makes the transition to the Welfare Department easier for those leaving the agency. Also discussed was Teamsters Local 401, Civil Service pay ranges and negotiations.

Currently the ratio is 1 caseworker to 30 cases which hasn't changed over the years even though requirements for the positions have been increased. It is being discussed at PCYA of decreasing the caseload ratio for workers as well as the ratio of supervisors to caseworkers.

John Alunni wanted to briefly talk about the Regional exit interview and noted we should celebrate the successes. It is a huge credit to the staff that there were no safety violations noted on the inspection. He thanked all the staff for their hard work. He then discussed the upcoming Family First Prevention Act training taking place on January 30th. He invited everyone to sign up and participate. This training will discuss the shift in money allocated to evidence based prevention services. This is a good opportunity to reach out to community stakeholders. He also noted that providers are invited to the agency to do presentations to staff on Thursdays to present on their services so staff have a better understanding of the programs they have available to help the agency and its families.

Deputy Director German also discussed the Roundtable meetings as it is a forum for service providers, courts, Children and Youth, and schools. This meeting takes places monthly. In addition, there is a State Roundtable that occurs and the agency participates in.

Old Business

- 1. No old business.**

New Business

- 1. Board Processes** – Member Wilder will discuss Board Processes at a later time.

Committee Reports

- 1. Committees** – Member Wilder noted that the C&Y contact for each committee will be as follows: Deanna German for Business Leaders (Eileen Song Chair), Georgine Meyers for Fundraising (Joshua Wilder Chair), and Lisa Fox for Program (Gene Camoni Chair). Chairs for each committee will set the agendas and meet with their groups. A list of folks on each committee and their C&Y contact will be sent out to all Board Members.

Final Questions/Comments – Member Childs discussed recent events in the newspaper. He asked for input and thoughts on what can be brought to lawmakers to be done. It was noted that Children and Youth cannot defend itself in the press, nor can the agency reveal any details of a case or acknowledge if there is a case. Member Song feels that the Board should focus on what is in their control. The Board can educate people.

John Alunni discussed a “C&Y 101” for individuals on the Board to better understand the units and what the agency does. At the April Advisory Board meeting there will be a presentation and brief outline on the agency and he encouraged all Members to attend the meeting.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Member Cinti, seconded by Member Farrell, all in favor.

Reminder: No meeting in February.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 12:00pm.