



Luzerne County Children and Youth Services

Date/T: March 13, 2019/noon **Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

In Atte

Gene C **ls, Ciro Cinti, Barry Finn, Dennis Gochoel, LeDonne Kelly,**
Fritz Scarnulis, Josh Wilder

Absent:

Charlene Aben, Anthony Bartoli, John Bonin, Martin Dartoe, Maggie Farrell, Mary Agnes Kratz, Larry Marchetti, Susan Roskos, Eileen Song

Children and Youth:

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

Office of Human Services:

John Alunni, Lynn Hill

Welcome – Chairman Finn welcomed everyone to the March Advisory Board Meeting.

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

Director's Report – Director Van Saun reported that our new Fiscal Officer 3, Chris Dalessandro, could not be here today due to the Fiscal Department audit that is currently happening. The agency hired a new Fiscal Officer 2 who will start on Friday. Fiscal submitted their financial reports and the agency received funding in a timely manner.

There were 29 vacancies. The agency was working with the Human Resource Department on emergency hires and will be down to 18 vacancies once those recommended go through the process.

The Quality Assurance Team have been going out to contracted providers and looking at their outcomes and quality of service. Director Van Saun will be looking at Evidence Based Programs to keep children in the home. She is reviewing what barriers there are to permanency.

Deputy Director German noted that the agency is working on the County Improvement Plan (CIP) following the Quality Service Review (QSR). The CIP is an action plan that is looking at three areas of improvement: Teaming; Timeliness to Permanence; and Role & Voice/Engagement.

A candidate was selected for the 5th Manager position. The agency is waiting for Civil Service to approve before making an announcement on who was selected.

With the help of the agency consultant, two work groups were formed to look at worker retention and an Intake to Ongoing Staffing Protocol.

Intermetro is donating clothing racks and shelving units to the Donation Room. The agency also received a large donation of blankets from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas and a girl scout troop is also planning to donate more blankets.

OHS Administration attended a Legislative Breakfast with local legislators to discuss Managed Care carve in/carve out which has to do with the Mental Health system.

Agency staff attended the initial meeting at Geisinger regarding a new program called Free2BMom, which offers help to pregnant women with an opioid use disorder.

The OHS agencies have been holding events to increase morale. The administration/management groups for each agency got together and purchased or baked items for a Valentine's Day Surprise for all staff. Everyone was invited to go to the atrium at noon for a snack and to intermingle. It was very well received.

The agency is selling t-shirts to staff for Child Abuse Prevention month, which occurs in April. Staff who purchase a shirt may wear them every Friday in April to show support for Child Abuse Prevention. T-shirts must be ordered by March 27th. The agency also got in on a group rate for Hershey Park tickets so if any staff wanted to go, they can get a discounted ticket. Tickets must be purchased by March 15th. This will be open for all Advisory Board members as well.

The Events Committee will be meeting sometime in the next 2 weeks to start planning for the Agency Retreat in June. Advisory Board members will be invited to the meeting.

Chairman Finn asked about the seemingly constant turnover of staff. Director Van Saun responded that often times when the Welfare Department hires, we lose many workers due to the higher pay. We also have folks who start that realize that this job is not for them. Chairman Finn suggested that we send out information to all the colleges now to look for students that will be graduating in spring and looking for a job. Director Van Saun noted that HR and one of our staff are currently at a college job fair at a local university.

Mr. Alunni discussed the Family First Prevention Act Training/Webinar. The PowerPoint slides will be shared with all Advisory Board Members. The State is postponing the implementation of Family First until 2020 but Mr. Alunni would still like to get started on looking into prevention. If anyone has questions, feel free to reach out to Mr. Alunni and he will answer as best he can. The group discussed this Act, funding and Evidenced Based Programs as well as lobbying for higher wages for staff due to turnover across the state. Ms. Hill noted that turnover is an enormous problem that the Auditor General identified in his report. It is a nationwide issue.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

- 1. Quarterly Fundraising Report** – Member Wilder noted that in May and June letters will go out for the Children’s Holiday Party. It was suggested that the agency look for a speaker now for the Adoption Celebration in November. The Committee is hoping someone will sponsor the Adoption Celebration. It was suggested that the committee reach out to Senator Baker’s husband as a speaker for the event.

Final Questions/Comments – Chairman Finn noted that he was told that by the end of 2019 the FBI clearance will be required. If any Board Members already have their FBI clearance completed, please get a copy to Georgine Meyers. He would like everyone’s FBI clearances to be completed prior to it becoming mandatory.

Deputy Director German handed out Unit descriptions in advance of the April meeting presentation of C&Y 101, which will assist Advisory Board Members to better understand the agency.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn made by Member Cinti, seconded by Member Gochoel, all in favor.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 12:00pm.