



COUNTY of LUZERNE
PENNSYLVANIA
ESTABLISHED 1786

Luzerne County Children and Youth Services

Date/T:

10, 2019/noon Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

In Atte

Charles 1, Gene Camoni, Robert Childs, Ciro Cinti, Martin Dartoe, Maggie Farrell, Barry Finn, Dennis Gochoel, LeDonne Kelly, Larry Marchetti, Fritz Scarnulis, Eileen Song, Josh Wilder, Susan Roskos

Absent:

Anthony Bartoli, Mary Agnes Kratz

Children and Youth:

Janice Bonner, Ellen Dymond, Lisa Fox, Deanna German, Emily Intelicato, Georgine Meyers, Robin Ritsick

Office of Human Services:

John Alunni, Lynn Hill

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

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

Director's Report – Deputy Director German noted that it is Child Abuse Prevention Month as well as County Government Month. The County is doing a clothing collection for C&Y mainly for new clothes sizes 2T-5T but the agency will take any size. Collection bins are in many County buildings and will be out for the month of April. Office of Human Services Director, Lynn Hill, noted that Deputy Director German did a very nice job with the interview on the news.

The agency is currently on emergency hire through Civil Service. If everyone that was recommended follows through and there are no resignations, there will be 14 vacancies. The agency is still waiting to hear from Civil Service on the 5th Manager's position recommendation.

The County Improvement Plan has been completed and was sent to the State. The Regional Representative was a part of the planning process so the agency does not foresee any issues. The agency has already been working on the action steps.

Administration is planning an Easter Egg Hunt for staff next week. The Events Committee has been trying to plan activities to help with morale and retention.

The Agency Retreat will be held on June 6th at Frances Slocum. Advisory Board Members are invited to attend. There will be training and team building activities.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

- 1. School Districts** – Member Camoni met with C&Y staff, local education associations and Intermediate Unit to discuss issues. They discussed streamlining communication between C&Y and schools. A comprehensive plan was developed regarding when foster children are changing schools. The Human Service Division will be meeting with more school districts on the 15th.

John Alunni talked about a project with C&Y. Luzerne County was contacted by the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. They are doing a pilot program that engages the child welfare and drug & alcohol program. They will review sample cases and identify where drug and alcohol was a component. A case by case study to see where Drug and Alcohol services could have intervened and have been more of a resource for a better outcome. A survey will be sent out to Advisory Board Members. Please share with others so Mr. Alunni can capture everyone's thoughts on substance use disorder in Luzerne County. Data will be analyzed and results will be shared with the Advisory Board.

Chairman Finn stated he was approached by a few kids to see if they can do something for C&Y for their Senior Project. They might be able to collect back packs and supplies.

Chairman Finn was also approached by a boy scout who is working on an Eagle Scout project. He thought this child may be able to go to businesses and collect gifts for the Foster Children's Holiday Party.

Member Roskos wanted to note recent articles in the paper. She would like the Advisory Board to do what they can to make a difference in children's lives. Lynn Hill noted that all Advisory Board Members are advocates for the children, staff and community. Many people do not understand the complexity of Human Services. Raising awareness is a part of it. Chairman Finn noted that over the last few years he has heard many good things about C&Y.

Certain schools require specific back pack types. The district sets the standards.

Deputy Director German did a presentation to all Advisory Board Members regarding a C&Y 101.

The Program Committee will meet today at 1pm in the Training Room. The Events Committee will meet today at 1:15pm in Conference room 132.

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

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 12:00pm.