



COUNTY of LUZERNE
PENNSYLVANIA
ESTABLISHED 1786

Luzerne County Children and Youth Services

Date/T:

11, 2018/noon/ Confidential Board Agenda

In Attendance:

Joe Calabrese, Kerry Finn (via phone), Dennis Gochoel, LeDonne Kelly, Fritz Scarnulis, Joshua Wilder

Absent:

Joe Sperazza, Rosella Fedor-Purcell, James Geiger, Rita Mauriello, Susan Roskos, Patty Searfoss, Sue Strassman, Ruth Betty Baltimore

Children and Youth:

Ceil Bartolai, Ellen Dymond, Lisa Fox, Kelly Gaughan, Deanna German, Paul Guido, Emily Intelicato, Nicole Litostansky, Georgine Meyers, Jessica Timek, Joanne Van Saun

Welcome – Vice Chairman Kelly welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Chairman Finn was unable to attend in person. Chairman Finn is participating via phone.

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

Director's Report – Director Van Saun noted that the agency received its license from the inspection. She sent an email out to staff thanking them for their hard work.

Director Van Saun discussed the Fiscal Department. We are currently under 2 audits, Maher Deusel and the Auditor General.

Consultant Gutterman has been meeting with staff and reaching out to the Courts and the Solicitor's Office. There are approximately 430 children in care. Consultant Gutterman is helping to identify why the back door is closed and how to move children to permanency. She is also reviewing screened out calls. The State gives little guidance on screen outs. We are reaching out to other counties and will form a workgroup to develop clear guidelines. The Northeast Regional Office and Advisory Board Members are invited to join the workgroup.

The Auditor General did a report on the status of Child Welfare. County Administrators met and discussed the issues and determine what they felt were the solutions. This was presented to the Auditor General as well as the Governor. This will be sent out to all Board Members. Director Van Saun asked that they support the solutions. The solutions would help retain staff. There were 10 key points in the report. Also addressed were licensing citations that were not regulatory. Regional Offices are citing for different things depending on the region instead of citations being across the board.

The Teamsters contract was signed and approved by Council. Caseworker starting salaries were raised to \$36,000. This should make our County competitive with other local counties.

Currently there are 25 vacancies. Human Resources reported they have 9 people waiting to come on board. Some vacancies are a result of disciplinary action but most are new workers that realize that the work is not for them.

The Hanover Storage facility has opened and we have sent our closed files for storage. The adoption files are currently being scanned. We have eliminated paperwork and freed up office areas. All records, scanned and stored, are easily accessible.

CarePortal launched yesterday. Workers can request items for families in need on their caseloads. Churches are involved in CarePortal. It was started by a foster/adopt mother. She brought it to our attention and did the legwork to get it up and running.

Deputy Director German noted that the agency has been reaching out to providers to strengthen our relationships. This will improve communications with our agencies and providers.

On April 30th, the Independent Living and at risk youth (ages 16-21) will attend “Transition to Adulthood” day at Kings College. Speakers will talk about life skills and how to access resources. In addition, there will be a college fair at Kings the same day so any of the youth will be able to attend that as well.

The Events Committee meeting is tomorrow at 9am. Retreat Day and the speakers will be the topic. Ideas for venues and details to be discussed at the meeting.

The agency has recently received donations totaling \$450 for the Adoption Celebration and Foster Childrens Holiday Party. The agency is very thankful to Board Members for reaching out to the community and to those who donated.

Deputy Director noted that the agency is in the process of scheduling consistent CPP meetings. Once a schedule is finalized, all Board Members will be informed. Some Board Members have participated in the 10 day meetings. Member Gochoel suggested a checklist so it would be easier to follow along on what is being covered.

Concurrent Permanency Planning and Kinship Ongoing Supervisors did presentations on their units.

Old Business

- 1. Attendance resolution** –There are Members that are not meeting the minimum requirements for Voluntary Member status. We will send out an email to ask if they intend to remain Voluntary status and remind them of the minimum requirements.
- 2. Active Members** – Members that are expiring need to reapply via the website application. Ms. Meyers will contact the Council Secretary to let her know to expect a few applications.

3. **Fundraising** – Member Wilder noted that the donor list is being finalized and donations are being tracked. The purpose is to have donor engagement and it will help to forecast future activities to determine what is a good use of our time. Member Wilder will send information out to all Advisory Board Members.

New Business

1. No new business.

Final Questions/Comments – Member Cinti asked about the Truancy SAIP meetings. Deputy Director German provided suggestions and a contact person.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the May Advisory Board Meeting will be moved to Wednesday, May 16th at noon. Ms. Meyers will get the new date posted on the County website and publish in a local newspaper.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Member Caffrey, seconded by Member Wilder, all in favor.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 12:00pm.