



COUNTY of LUZERNE
PENNSYLVANIA
ESTABLISHED 1786

Luzerne County Children and Youth Services

Date/T: 8, 2019/noon/ ~~Advisory Board~~ **Meeting Minutes**

In Atte

Charle 1, Robert Childs, Ciro Cinti, Maggie Farrell, Barry Finn, Fritz Scarnulis, Eileen Song, Susan Roskos

Absent:

Anthony Bartoli, Gene Camoni, Martin Dartoe, Dennis Gochoel, LeDonne Kelly, Mary Agnes Kratz, Larry Marchetti, Josh Wilder

Children and Youth:

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

Office of Human Services:

John Alunni

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

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

Director's Report – Director Van Saun announced that the OCYF Deputy Secretary, Cathy Utz, has resigned. She was very supportive of the counties. She has been involved for the past 30 years. She will be missed.

The CPS 2018 Report on Luzerne County was handed out to Advisory Board Members. Director Van Saun reviewed with everyone. Luzerne is comparable with other 3rd class counties.

The agency currently has 21 casework vacancies. There are interviews scheduled for next week. The agency continues to be on emergency hire status. Interested candidates can apply through the county website and Human Resources will help them go through the process.

Children and Youth has been working with Office of Human Services and other categoricals to develop a new onboarding process to retain staff. Once it is developed, it will be shared with the Advisory Board group.

Team members visited the Hope Center in Luzerne. Pastor Pat gave a tour of the center. They offer medical, dental, eye, chiropractic care, legal consultation as well as offer religious services and meals. OHS is collecting old eyeglasses to give to the Hope Center to recycle to their clients. They have a bingo night to help raise funds for the center. They offer services to anyone

who walks in their doors. They will not turn anyone in need away. Any extra donations that they have they will be shipping to Africa.

Director Van Saun talked about the Auditor General Report regarding the investigation of 67 counties. There were several areas that the Auditor General made recommendations on. One area was for the Office of Children, Youth and Families to revise the manner in which they train staff. OCYF and the Child Welfare Training Center revised their training to make it experience oriented. They will have on-line topics for pre-work and then they will have training. Staff will learn to de-escalate situations and ensure their safety. There will be less lectures and more experience. This will roll out in July.

The PA Children's Roundtable was held at Seven Springs. The speaker was outstanding. She presented Bridges Out of Poverty. She will be speaking at our Systems of Care Expo 2019 at the Woodlands on September 25, 2019. Director Van Saun recommended everyone attend.

The agency will be working on Requests for Proposals and Needs Based Budget for the next few months. The law is changing in regards to residential facilities. Older youth (11yo and up) are hard to find resources for. Residential placements are not successful or a solution. The environment the children are coming from needs to change. The agency is reaching out to the community for new programs for prevention services. The agency needs to help the parents and the children. Truancy is also an issue. The PASS Program has been helpful. The agency needs an innovative way to do things differently. The vision is that a team goes in and helps the family in crisis. Family Group referrals are being made to help the family find supports to sustain the family. The agency needs to find healthy resources and work with the family in the home.

Children's Services Center is developing a program for moms with drug addicted babies so they understand how D&A affects their ability to parent. They will develop skills and we will have services together.

The agency is looking at the California Clearinghouse for prevention services.

Member Roskos mentioned SWAN services called Connected Child. They have camp, meetings and they come to the home. They help the family stay together. This is post permanency services and beyond. Janice Bonner to talk to Roberta Daniels for more information.

Deputy Director German noted that the committee is still working on the Retreat. The Committee is working out minor details. The Retreat is on June 6th at Frances Slocum State Park. The first week in June is Caseworker Appreciation Week and the Events Committee has ideas in the works for each day of the week to honor staff.

Director Van Saun noted that staff took the Independent Living kids to New York on a day trip. They had a guide that took the kids sightseeing and rode the subway. Director Van Saun is very proud of her staff.

Member Cinti noted that the SAP meeting was yesterday and Joe Kloss brought speakers in to talk about the CYC Respite Care program and Children's Service Center program.

Old Business

1. Chairman Finn spoke about 2 boys that want to collaborate with C&Y regarding their Eagle Scout program. They will contact us to meet and figure out a project.

New Business

1. No New Business

Final Questions/Comments – No final comments.

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

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 12:00pm.