



COUNTY of LUZERNE
PENNSYLVANIA
ESTABLISHED 1786

Luzerne County Children and Youth Services

Date/T:

16, 2018/noon/ Confidential Board Agenda

In Atte

John Bonin, Cary Finn, LeDonne Kelly, Joshua Wilder (via phone), John Bonin, Rita Mauriello, Susan Roskoss

Absent:

Dennis Gochoel, Fritz Scarnulis, Joe Sperrazza, Rosella Fedor-Purcell, James Geiger, Sue Strassman, Ruth Betty Baltimore

Children and Youth:

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

Office of Human Services:

Lynn Hill

Welcome – Chairman Finn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Director's Report – Director Van Saun announced that the agency Retreat will be at Frances Slocum on June 7th. Manager Ritsick announced the agenda for the day. Two speakers will attend in the morning for employee training. Lunch will be provided with activities planned for the afternoon. All Board Members are invited to attend. Director Van Saun noted it was successful last year.

Director Van Saun provided an update on the Fiscal Department. The agency brought on consultants while preparing for the audit. In the near future, the Fiscal Supervisor positions will be posted.

Cathy Utz met with Supervisors and Caseworkers to discuss issues in the Auditor General's Report regarding barriers/obstacles for them to do their job. Staff presented very well and Cathy Utz was receptive. She is willing to come back and meet with us again. Discussed was computer systems and paperwork that other counties use. Fran Gutterman is consulting for the clinical side. She reviewed our practice and addressed issues with permanency timeliness. Her focus is on screen outs at this time and reviewing how other counties address this issue.

Casework vacancies are down to 14.

The Independent Living review was conducted. The children interviewed gave the agency's IL unit a rave review. Janice Reindel has been recognized by the state as Caseworker of the Year for services she provides to youth in the agency's IL program. She will be honored at the SWAN Conference on June 13th.

The agency website is almost completed. Manager Litostansky noted there are some fine tuning and tweaking that needs to be done. It is user friendly and the links are very easy to access.

John Bonin was introduced and welcomed as the newest Advisory Board Member.

The Auditor General will be holding a press conference to discuss the recommendations to counties and Children, Youth and Families. The agency is looking forward to changes that will occur as a result of his findings.

Ongoing Protective Service Supervisor, Lisa Koval, did a presentation on her unit.

Director Van Saun discussed the agency's recruitment events for foster families. The new website will have an area to gather information for foster/kinship care.

Old Business

1. **Donations** – Falvello Law and Neil O'Donnell made donations to the Foster Childrens' Holiday Party and Adoption Celebration.

New Business

1. **Holiday Party for foster children** – Chairman Finn noted that he recruited Wyoming Area and WWV Key Clubs to assist with the party to set up, serve and clean up. Chairman Finn noted Member Wilder is making fundraising an ongoing effort. All Board Members were given letters to send out to friends, family and business associates. Anyone can donate at any time. Last year the Holiday Party was in December.

Final Questions/Comments – Chairman Finn announced that Member Caffrey has resigned. Everyone would like to thank him for his service to the Board and his input has been invaluable.

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

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 12:00pm.