



COUNTY of LUZERNE  
PENNSYLVANIA  
ESTABLISHED 1786

## Luzerne County Children and Youth Services

**Date/T:**

**13, 2018/noon/ Confidential Board Agenda**

**In Atte**  
Joshua

Barry Finn, Dennis Gochoel, LeDonne Kelly, Fritz Scarnulis,

**Absent:** Joe Sperazza, John Bonin, Rosella Fedor-Purcell, James Geiger, Rita Mauriello, Susan Roskos, Sue Strassman, Ruth Betty Baltimore

**Children and Youth:** Lisa Fox, Kelly Gaughan, Deanna German, Nicole Litostansky, Georgine Meyers, Joanne Van Saun

**Welcome** – Chairman Finn welcome everyone to the June Meeting.

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

**Director's Report** – Director Van Saun noted that the fiscal department was able to complete their part for the auditors to come back on Monday and they will be here for a full week.

Currently there are 18 casework vacancies. The agency had a supervisor retire and a supervisor resigned to go to a State job. Two caseworkers will move up to fill those supervisor vacancies. We also had a worker resign to go to a State job. Civil Service has completed their conversion to NeoGov. Testing will be opening up and we hope the process will be easier for everyone.

Deputy Director German discussed the events that occurred for Child Welfare Appreciation Week. Administration tried to build morale and show appreciation to all workers by have a small event each day of the week. She thanked the Advisory Board members that helped the agency.

Director Van Saun noted that Needs Based Budget for 2019-2020 is the next task to tackle. There will be a meeting with the Regional Office to train for the upcoming Needs Based Budget preparation.

Deputy Director German announced that at last night's County Council meeting, they presented a Proclamation that the first week in June will be Child Welfare Appreciation Week the first week of June each year.

Janice Reindel, a 33 year employee at the agency, won Caseworker of the Year for Independent Living. She will be recognized at the annual SWAN conference. Director Van Saun noted that she attended different events with youth involved and every event a youth would ask to speak and each time was about Janice, her commitment and how she changed their life. She is in awe

of the work she does, her compassion, dedication, and empathy for the IL youth. The next Council meeting will have a Proclamation for Janice.

Next week is the IL graduation and all Advisory Board Members are invited. Ms. Meyers will forward the invitation to all Board Members.

Deputy Director German explained that there are court issues due to parent attorneys and Guardian Ad Litem's continuing hearings because of the turnover and there are newly assigned GALs and parent attorneys. C&Y staff have been objecting to continuances.

There will be an Active Shooter Training for all county staff over the next few months. Chairman Finn feels the C&Y building is high risk and feels that the Active Shooter Training should be done right in our building. He has someone in mind that he would like to come do the training. The agency will alert the Sheriff's Dept of Chairman Finn's suggestion.

WNEP 16 recently did a news story regarding S.M.I.L.E. who have been donating backpacks and other needed items to our agency for children going into foster care. The agency needs a few clothing racks to arrange clothing on and keep things organized. Chairman Finn will reach out to Bon Ton.

The Dallas Art Club came to the agency and painted a mural in the visitation center hallway. They did a fantastic job and it has brightened up the hall. There will also be an article in the Dallas Post on this.

The agency is working up setting up a small training room in the main building.

### **Old Business**

1. Children's Holiday Party – Chairman Finn noted we have \$675 in donations for the Holiday Party/Adoption Celebration. Chairman Finn received a letter from an attorney group that would be interested in sponsoring the Holiday Party. He will call to meet with them and would like Mr. Gaugler, Advisory Board members and staff to discuss their interest. Chairman Finn also contacted Unico about a donation. Member Scarnulis noted that the Retreat was a success and everyone did a great job!

### **New Business**

1. **New Members** – Member Cinti asked if there were new members coming on board anytime soon. Ms. Meyers noted that Member Bonin was out on vacation this month, new member Ms. Farrell will be joining the group shortly, and the agency is trying to reach out to Mr. Bartoli but may need to contact the Council Secretary to confirm his email/phone number.
2. **Governmental Information Letter** –Member Wilder is trying to get a governmental information letter for the agency. Basically private funding sources will only give to 501c3 but some will give to government agencies. It is just a letter that proves we are who we say we are.

**Final Questions/Comments** – Director Van Saun learned that other agencies serve lunch at their Board Meetings so we will start to serve lunch again to all the Board volunteers.

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

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 12:00pm.**