



## Luzerne County Children and Youth Services

**Date/T:** 10, 2019/noon/Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

### **In Atte**

**Gene C Dennis Gochoel, LeDonne Kelly, Larry Marchetti, Fritz Scarnulis, Eileen Song, Josh Wilder (via phone), Susan Roskos**

### **Absent:**

**Charlene Aben, Anthony Bartoli, John Bonin, Robert Childs, Ciro Cinti, Martin Dartoe, Maggie Farrell, Mary Agnes Kratz**

### **Children and Youth:**

**Ceil Bartolai, Janice Bonner, Lisa Fox, Kelly Gaughan, Deanna German, Lisa Koval, Nicole Litostansky, Georgine Meyers, Robin Ritsick**

### **Office of Human Services:**

**John Alunni, Lynn Hill**

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

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

**Director's Report** – Deputy Director German presented the Director's Report.

The agency currently has 20 casework vacancies. Three new people starting next week but there are also resignations. The agency continues to be on emergency hiring.

The administrative staff is working on the Needs Based Budget. The public hearing is scheduled for Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. The Advisory Board is invited to attend. As a part of the Needs Based Budget, the agency is looking at new programs that can be utilized for clients next year. The Request for Proposal process will begin right after the completion of the Needs Based Budget.

Deputy Director German introduced Lisa Koval as the newest Manager. She will oversee the Resource Units and the Ongoing Unit. Gina Bellanca has been assigned as temporary supervisor over the Ongoing Unit. The Supervisor position will be posted soon and management will be interviewing.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Independent Living graduation was held at Newberry Estates. There were 20 youth who graduated. Speakers selected were 2 IL youth that graduated from college and were formerly in the program.

The agency Director and Deputy Director attended the PCYA Conference in June.

Computers are back on line from the cyber attack issue. There are a few programs that need to be restored but staff are able to complete work.

The Events Committee continues to work on staff morale. This month the committee is planning an all staff picnic lunch. There are events every month scheduled until the end of the year.

The OHS Culture Committee is planning an ice cream social for all agencies in the building sometime in August. They have asked management from the agencies to donate ice cream products. This is a way to have everyone come together and get to know each other.

The agency received an overwhelming amount of donations since April when a request for donations went out. Last week students volunteered to organize the room. We will now only accept new items. There is a need for school uniforms currently.

The Independent Living grant will be used to update the Parenting Center kitchen. The kitchen has been the same since the building was built and was in need of updates and repairs. With the grant, the IL group will be ordering new countertops, hardware and appliances. This area is used for the IL group meetings. They budget and prep meals and learn life skills.

The Visitation grant is being used for morale events as well as updating a second floor kitchenette that has broken.

### **Old Business**

1. October visits for college students is coming. Kids from local schools will learn about job opportunities and walk through the Civil Service process.
2. Lehigh County was not at the PCYA meeting so administration was unable to secure their Public Service Announcement video. Staff reached out to Kings College and Artemis Media. There is a meeting today at 2pm to formulate a plan.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Alunni discussed the survey link that was sent out to everyone. The survey was changed slightly, a QR code was added, and he asked that when the updated survey is sent to the Advisory Board members to please share with others. This survey is designed to address service area gaps.

**Final Questions/Comments** – No meeting in August.

**Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn approved by Member Scarnulis, seconded by Member Camoni, all in favor.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 12:00pm.**