



COUNTY of LUZERNE  
PENNSYLVANIA  
ESTABLISHED 1786

## Luzerne County Children and Youth Services

**Date/T:**

**October 9, 2019/November 13, 2019  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**In Atte**

**nds, Ciro Cinti, Barry Finn, Dennis Gochoel, LeDonne Kelly,**

**Mary A \_**

**Scarnulis, Eileen Song, Joshua Wilder, Susan Roskos**

**Absent: Charlene Aben, Anthony Bartoli, John Bonin, Martin Dartoe, Maggie Farrell,  
Larry Marchetti**

**Children and Youth: Ceil Bartolai, Janice Bonner, Lisa Fox, Kelly Gaughan, Lisa Koval,  
Nicole Litostansky, Georgine Meyers, Robin Ritsick**

**Office of Human Services: John Alunni, Lynn Hill**

**Welcome** – Chairman Finn welcomed everyone to the October meeting.

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

**Director’s Report** – Manager Bartolai noted that Director Van Saun and Deputy Director German are currently at the quarterly PCYA meeting.

The Legislative Breakfast was recently held and attended by Deputy Director German, John Alunni and Eileen Song.

The agency inspection began October 1<sup>st</sup>. The agency expects the inspection to wrap up by tomorrow. The initial feedback has been positive. Issues so far are not safety related.

The Request for Proposals are out. The Pre-Bidders Conference is on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Proposals are due October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Crowd Pow Wow protesters were at the agency on Monday again. The agency is not permitted to engage. The County Manager did a press release in regards to this.

The Adoption Celebration is scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>. Invitations were sent out. Please rsvp to Georgine Meyers.

There are currently 18 casework vacancies. The agency is working with the Human Resource Department to get more staff on board. A round of staff left due to openings in the Welfare Department as they start with higher pay. Some younger people use this agency as a stepping stone or find out that social services is not for them. The pay is not exceptional.

Penn State Hazleton had a Roundtable breakfast to discuss challenges in Human Services and challenges that students face. A representative will present to students as a C&Y 101 training. The agency accepts job shadowing and internship. It can be extended to other schools. Manager Bartolai noted that the agency has a really good relationship with local universities and have many interns through the universities.

The Foster Children's Holiday Party is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business**

1. **Fundraising** – Member Wilder noted that he sent out emails to all Board Members to see if anyone wanted to join a Fundraising Committee and asked for help. Only \$1,000 was raised for the parties this year. He needs someone to make calls and meet with people. Member Song suggested contacting places like Rotary Clubs to ask for donations. Members were asked to reach out to any connections they have and see if there could be any sponsorships to assist. Chairman Finn suggested taking letters with you and hand them out when you visit any businesses. He stated that it doesn't hurt to ask. He suggested grocery stores, doctors, pediatricians and others. Member Childs asked for positive key points to speak to folks on as well as asked for financial updates. Ms. Hill will ask the Fiscal Officers to attend the next meeting and noted that recent audits were exceptional. It was also noted that the Adoption Celebration and Foster Children's Holiday Party do not have any government funding available and relies solely on donations. These 2 events are solely funded by the efforts of the Advisory Board.

**Final Questions/Comments** – Chairman Finn talked about the book he wrote. He negotiated 25 free books through the publisher.

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

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 12:00pm.**