

MEMORANDUM

TO: Advisory Board Members
FROM: Crystal A. Gingrich, MSW, LSW
DATE: May 16, 2012
RE: Agenda for the May 21, 2012 Meeting

A G E N D A

Meeting Location:
Children and Youth Agency
900 East King Street
Lancaster, PA
7:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES
2. OLD BUSINESS
3. NEW BUSINESS
4. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - Community Relations
 - Children's Services
 - Nominations
 - By-laws
7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - Adolescent Services
 - Needs Based Budget Priorities
8. FISCAL REPORT
9. PUBLIC COMMENT
10. ADJOURNMENT

**THE MISSION OF THE LANCASTER COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY IS
TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMOTIONAL WELL BEING OF
CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT,
AND TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTHY FAMILY FUNCTIONING.**

**LANCASTER COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH AGENCY
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

May 21, 2012

Board Members Present: Kimberly Ibarra, Commissioner Scott Martin, Loretta Nolt, Fr. Allan Wolfe, Dolores Reidenbach, Jeff Shank, Rebecca Sollenberger, Melvin Frye, Jr

Staff Present: Crystal Gingrich, Amy Campbell, Robin Boyer, Betsy Frame, Kurt Miller, Pedro Rodriguez, Christiane Britton, Dawn Kammerer, Ann Long and Kali Kunkle

Excused: Alice Yoder, Brian Young, Heather Girvin, Ed Tobin and Ryan Aument

Public: None

Guests: None

Call to Order: Kimberly Ibarra called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m.

Approval of Board Minutes: Commissioner Scott Martin made a motion that the minutes from the April 2012 meeting be accepted as presented. Loretta Nolt seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Committee Reports:

- **Community Relations:** None
- **Children's Services:** None
- **Nominations:** We will be voting for leadership positions at the June meeting. Please consider whether you are interested in being the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Secretary for the Board for 2012-13. If anyone is interested, please email Kimberly Ibarra and Kali Kunkle.
- **By-laws:** None

The proposed slate of officers for the 2012-2013 Board term:

Chair-Kimberly Ibarra

Vice Chair-Ed Tobin or Loretta Nolt

Secretary-Dolores Reidenbach

Director's Report

- A letter, signed by Kimberly Ibarra and Ed Tobin, was sent from the Board to the local legislators regarding Block Grants and the proposed 20% budget reduction. Commissioner Martin stated that the Senate passed the budget and restored approximately half of the proposed cuts. The implementation date was also pushed back to 2014.
- As was mentioned previously, a Request For Proposal (RFP) was posted for adolescent intake and protective services. Four local providers submitted proposals. The proposals were reviewed by a leadership group, consisting of a

representative from JPO, CYA, two Advisory Board members. Pennsylvania Counseling Services was selected. Adolescent intake assessment and protective services are mandated services for child welfare. The PA Counseling staff will be housed within our building, which lowers costs and helps provide consistency in services to families. There will be five in-home protective caseworkers and two intake caseworkers, one supervisor and a secretary. The DSS of In-Home Protective and the DSS of Intake will have direct oversight. There is a \$150,000 cost savings by bringing the service in house.

- The Needs Based Budget priorities/development of the plan looks similar to last year. The Agency must review and identify critical data outcomes (rates of re-abuse, timeliness of reunification, timeliness of adoption, length of placement etc.) from our AFCARS program. The focus is to identify and utilize the programs/ tools to strengthen families and to either prevent children from being placed or reunify children and families in a timely manner. Family Finding, Multi-Systemic Therapy, Family Group Conferencing and quality parent/child visitation for children in foster care are some of the critical programs offered to families to assist in meeting our goals for safety and permanency.
- The Agency continues to have approximately 30-40 less children in out of home care compared to last year.

Quality Assurance: Amy Campbell

- We are almost at full staff complement. Amy distributed an organizational chart. We have hired several interns and are actively hiring for other positions.
- In addition to the Pennsylvania Counseling contract, we are also working on consultant, program, day care and placement contracts for 2012-13.

Intake Department: Robin Boyer

- There will be a fundraiser at Friendly's (on Centerville Road) to benefit the Children Alliance program on May 21, 2012.
- Case loads continue to remain high. May tends to be a high month because schools make referrals for children due to the school year coming to an end. Robin distributed a monthly reporting form, documenting the changes and statistics for the Intake department.

Protective Department: Kurt Miller

- The Protective Department continues to support Family Group Conferencing.
- New interns will soon beginning their internship here. There will be three in intake, three in placement and two in in-home.
- Numbers will drastically increase because of the transition of the cases from the ARU program and the implementation of the Adolescent Services unit.

Fiscal Report: Pedro Rodriguez

- Finished 3rd quarter invoice. Submitted an expenditure and revenue report.
- The Fiscal Department recently had an Title IV-E Audit and received a 93% compliance rate.

Placement Department: Betsy Frame

- There were 14 children adopted last Thursday.
- Many youth turning 18 are electing not to stay in care. They are still eligible for aftercare services though.

- Discussed the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The caseworker needs to determine if there is any Native American (Indian) heritage in each family they are working with. If so, they then have to determine which Indian tribe and if the tribe would like to intervene when a child is placed. For the first time in Lancaster County, a tribe, the Nenana Tribe in Alaska, would like to intervene in proceedings. There are paternal relatives that have become foster parents in Alaska and the children will be moving there in early June. The caseworker will be assisting with the transition and be flying to Alaska to help set up services for the family.

Upcoming Events: None

Announcements: None

Public Comment: None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 18, 2012
7:30 - 9:00 am
at the Children and Youth Agency
900 East King Street, Lancaster, PA**

Respectfully submitted,

Kali Kunkle