

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Advisory Board Members
FROM: Crystal A. Gingrich, MSW, LSW
DATE: April 10, 2012
RE: Agenda for the April 16, 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 MARCH MINUTES
2. OLD BUSINESS
3. NEW BUSINESS
4. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - Community Relations
 - Children's Services
 - Nominations
 - By-laws
7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - Budget Updates
 - OCYF Focus
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**

April 16, 2012

Board Members Present: Loretta Nolt, Ed Tobin, Heather Girvin, Rebecca Sollenberger, Alice Yoder, Melvin, Frye, Jr. and Commissioner Scott Martin

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

Excused: Brian Young, Fr. Allan Wolfe, Dolores Reidenbach and Kimberly Ibarra

Public: None

Guests: Carlena Harman, Hempfield School District Intern

Call to Order: Ed Tobin called the meeting to order at 7:39 a.m.

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

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Committee Reports:

- **Community Relations:** No meeting held.
- **Children's Services:** No meeting held
- **Nominations:**
 - Crystal reported that Attorney Jeffrey Shank has completed the approval process. He should be appointed by the Commissioners sometime in May.
 - Representative Ryan Aument and Rebecca Sollenberger were recently appointed.
 - Melvin Frye and Heather Girvin have agreed to extend their appointments for a second term.
 - The following are currently in the process approval:
 - Steve Brubaker-Water Street Rescue Mission
 - Linda Waller-Adult Probation Special Offender
 - Dr. Greta Laube-Beittel and Becker
 - George Pappas-Northern Lancaster Regional Police
- **By-laws:** No changes

Director's Report

- Crystal reviewed the Needs Based Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13. \$43.5 million was requested and \$41.6 million was approved. This is approximately \$1.1 million less than the 2011/2012 budget and \$2 million more than actual expenditures in 2010/2011. Out of home placement cost centers are the areas

impacted by the cuts. The Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) is focused on reducing the use of congregate care for CYA and JPO. The Juvenile Probation Office is looking for alternatives to placement, including services such as day treatment and the evening reporting centers.

- There are no additional budget cuts predicted at this time.
- OCYF continues to put a strong emphasis on the use of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) in all areas of child welfare. It is an evidenced based practice that has positive outcomes for children and families. It is an effective tool for preventing placements and reunifying families.
- There is no additional information on the block grants. Lancaster County Human Service Lead, Jim Laughman, reported that there is a work group meeting each week. He participates with this workgroup. He reported that various pieces of legislation will need to be passed for some of the changes to occur.
- The block grant money will go directly to the Commissioner Office and will be funneled to the appropriate Human Service department. Currently, State revenues are higher than originally projected. This may allow the State to eliminate the 20% funding cut. It is hoped that the block grant will provide flexibility to counties.
- Commissioner Martin reported the State is looking at a 10% reduction instead of 20%.
- Alice Yoder asked what the Board can do regarding this situation. Mr. Laughman suggested that letters be sent to the local legislators to support the block grant and to rescind the 20% cut.
- Rebecca Sollenberger indicated that feedback from the community to the legislator's offices is important and that all letters received are read and forwarded on to the legislator.
- It was recommended that the "talking points" pertaining to block grants be sent out to the Board, to assist them in writing individual letters to the local legislators. It was also agreed that the Executive committee will also send a letter.
- Board member Melvin Frye asked if the Check to Connect Truancy program would be expanded to other school districts. Crystal replied that at this time the budget limitations will not allow that; however, if school districts have the funds available to fund a program expansion, the provider would be more than willing to work with them.
- Crystal spoke about OCYF's focus on the mandates of child welfare and realigning the systems priorities. OCYF has requested that counties review and identify their significant cost drivers. For most counties; including Lancaster County, the major cost driver is out of home placement. Drug and alcohol continues to be a major factor in placements. Parents who are using drugs aren't able to provide basic needs to their children. About 85 to 90% of placement cases involve drug and alcohol (D&A) concerns.
- Jim Laughman stated that in Lancaster we may face a bit of a philosophical challenge. There are other counties who take a different view of treating D&A issues and parental usage differs. Lancaster County is much more conservative and other counties do not have the same views.
- Mr. Frye asked about the Adolescent Response Unit. Crystal reported that PA Counseling was selected as the provider for adolescents. The transition will occur this June and July.

Intake Department: Robin Boyer

- Intake recently placed 13 children due to deplorable housing conditions. There has been an increase in this type of case. A report was submitted for review.

Protective Department: Kurt Miller

- Family Group Decision Making has completed their second full year of implementation. 120-130 conferences have been completed and there are 10 scheduled for this month.
- In May, his department may be fully staffed.

Placement Department: Betsy Frame

- There will be 15 youth graduating and 9 of these youth will be continuing their education.

Fiscal Report: Pedro Rodriguez

- Pedro submitted a budget summary. There continues to be a positive variance.
- The fiscal department is working to finish the 3rd quarter invoice and should have information for the next meeting.
- The new database, LUIS, has been installed on one of the computers to test the fiscal part of the program.
- There was a Title IV-E Audit held last week. We will receive a formal letter next week pertaining to the outcome.

Quality Assurance Department: Amy Campbell

- Amy Campbell updated the Board on Quality Service Review. It was piloted in the State during 2011. Case reviews will start here at the Agency. They will help to identify what we do well. They are comprehensive-child and family focused.

The Board agreed to send out a letters to legislators to support block grants without the 20% proposed reduction. Crystal will send the outline of “talking points” so members can draft a letter to the legislators.

Upcoming Events: The Resource Parent Association Appreciation Banquet is on May 10, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at the Eden Resort

Announcements: None

Public Comment: None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 am.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 21, 2012
7:30 - 9:00 am
at the Children and Youth Agency
900 East King Street, Lancaster, PA**

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Campbell