

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

March 18, 2008

**Board Members Present:**

Karen Jaskot, Roger Glick, Frank Koerber, Commissioner Scott Martin, Dolores Reidenbach, Kimberly Ibarra, Kathy Gregoire, and Patrick McBrearty

**Staff Present:**

Crystal Gingrich, Amy Campbell, Betsy Frame, Greg Landis, Kurt Miller, Pedro Rodriguez, Lisa Runge, Nancy Schuyler and Kali Kunkle

**Public:** None

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order:**

Board Chair Karen Jaskot called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

**Approval of Board Minutes:**

Commissioner Scott Martin made a motion that the minutes from February 2008 be accepted. Roger Glick seconded. Motion passed.

**Old Business:** There were no suggestions or comments regarding the goals for Children and Youth.

**New Business:** None

**Committee Reports:**

- **Community Relations:** The committee did not meet this morning. However, committee members were invited to attend a tour of the Youth Intervention Center Shelter. The next meeting will be at the regularly scheduled time.
- **Children's Services:** This committee participated in a tour of the Youth Intervention Center Shelter led by Drew Fredericks, Executive Director.
- **Nominations:** None
- **By-laws:** There was no meeting and no proposed changes to the By-laws.

**Director's Report:**

- Amy Campbell gave an overview of Child and Family Service Review (CFSR). CFSR was created as a method to review state child welfare systems and review compliance with federal funding policies and regulations. Amy distributed a printout of a Powerpoint presentation listing which described the process. A Child and Family Services Reviews Fact Sheet and a newsletter that the State prepares were also distributed.

- Pedro Rodriguez and Crystal Gingrich gave an update to the Board on the FY 08-09 Budget. The Office of Children, Youth and Families recently sent a letter out to the County approving a budget of \$42,731,025. The originally proposed budget was \$44,868,956. Areas most affected by the cuts were staff positions and purchased services. It is possible that placement providers which the Agency contracts with will not receive a cost of living adjustment for the upcoming fiscal year. Several positions for the Agency that were vacant for the past year have been eliminated from the budget. These were positions that were going to be developed as expansion services, including a new services unit in the Intake Department. In addition, effective July 1, 2008 the Agency will be unable to pay for any mental health/behavioral health, medical or dental services for any child that is Medicaid eligible. All children must receive these services from a Medical Assistance (MA) provider.
- The Office of Children, Youth and Families will be doing an annual licensing inspection March 31-April 4, 2008. OCYF will review personnel records and family records. The audit assures that the Agency is following State child welfare regulations which includes seeing children monthly and assuring the children's safety.
- Recently, several families currently receiving services through the Agency have contacted the Commissioners regarding concerns. In an effort to assure that the Agency is able to respond more effectively to these issues, a grievance procedure has been implemented. A copy of the procedure will be provided to families to clarify and outline how and to whom concerns should be reported.
- April is Child Abuse Prevention month. There will be a public presentation at the Commissioner's public meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2008. Crystal Gingrich will make a brief presentation on child abuse and hand out child abuse literature and blue ribbons. Several community partners (Family Center, YWCA Sexual Assault Center & OASIS) will also attend and provide brief presentations highlighting their services to children and families. The Agency will also participate in the Crime Victim's Rights Week rally on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm on Penn Square. Representatives from the Agency will have a table there and hand out literature and blue ribbons. In addition, Children and Youth Agency staff will be given blue ribbons to wear throughout the month in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention month. Agency Social Worker Ann Long will also be coordinating several child abuse prevention trainings for staff. Listings of Child Abuse Prevention events going on in Pennsylvania were distributed to all in attendance.
- On April 25, 2008, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) will be conducting a presentation at noon on the steps of the Lancaster County Courthouse in an effort to educate the community and raise money to fund the program. State Representative Katie True will also be speaking. A CASA Fact Sheet was also distributed to those in attendance. A contact number is currently being created for anyone interested in donating funds.
- The Agency was informed on March 11, 2008 that a couple from Lancaster County donated \$1,000 through the United Way to the Agency. We were very

thankful for this donation and will be using these funds to purchase items for Child Abuse Prevention month.

- A letter of recognition was received from a family regarding Dawn Kammerer, a Child Abuse Investigation Caseworker. They were very grateful for the assistance and support Mrs. Kammerer provided to their family during their involvement with the Agency.
- The building's boiler, which was replaced in October 2007, recently malfunctioned and the building was without heat for 2 days. A plan was developed to relocate staff from 900 East King Street location to the Youth Intervention Center (YIC). However, the temperature never went below 60 degrees so staff were given the option of working at 900 or being relocated to YIC until the boiler was repaired.
- An article that was printed in *Newsweek* on February 27, 2008 called "Did the System Fail" was distributed to those in attendance.
- At a staff meeting on Friday, the Agency celebrated Social Work Month by providing a continental breakfast to staff to thank them for all the work they do and acknowledge their contributions to the field of Social Work.

***Protective Division: Kurt Miller***

- Kurt Miller updated the board on the Protective and Resource units. He also distributed a monthly reporting form documenting the statistics and changes in his department. This month the number of cases has increased and there were 2 resignations from his division.

**Announcement**

- Kathy Gregoire announced a celebration in honor of the retirement of Dr. Thomas Kruse, a Millersville University Social Work Professor, on March 30, 2008 at 2:00 pm at Millersville University.
- Karen Jaskot, on behalf of the Advisory Board, thanked the Children and Youth Agency staff for doing a wonderful job. The board members also made goodie bags for staff to enjoy.

**Upcoming Event**

- Resource Parent Banquet on May 8, 2008 at 6 pm at Willow Valley, Palm Court.

**Public Comment:** None

Meeting was adjourned at 1:23 pm.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2008  
12:00-1:30 pm  
at the Children and Youth Agency  
900 East King Street, Lancaster, PA**