

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

May 18, 2020

Board Members Present: Mary Ann Gerber, D'Arcy Crocker, Shanon Solava, Dawn Horst, Cathy Ginder, Theresa Stauffer, Ellen Hurston, Brian Klugh, Karen Rice

Staff Present: Crystal Natan, Executive Director, Robin Boyer, Intake Director, Betsy Frame, Permanency Director, Kelley Zipp, Family Support Director, Amy Campbell, Quality Assurance Director, and Jenna Horita, Executive Secretary

Community Present: James Koons

Excused: Randall Miller

Call to Order: Board Chair Mary Ann Gerber called the meeting to order at 8:04 A.M. The meeting was held by Lifesize, a virtual platform, due to the COVID-19 restrictions of in-person gatherings.

Approval of Board Minutes: Ellen Hurston made a motion that the minutes from the February 2020 Board meeting be accepted as presented. Dawn Horst seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Board unanimously voted Mary Ann Gerber for another term as Chair and the first term for D'Arcy Crocker as Vice Chair.
- Shanon Solava made a motion that the by-law revisions be accepted as presented. Cathy Ginder seconded. Motion passed.
- There are several membership openings on the board.
- Dawn Horst and Christine Connelly's terms are ending on July 31, 2020. They have served on the board for 6 years. This is their last meeting. Crystal thanked them for their years of participation and valuable feedback.

Director's Report:

- Crystal Natan discussed the Children and Youth Agency operations during COVID-19. She expressed the Children and Youth Agency staff was fully operational almost immediately and caseworkers were still out in the field seeing families and assessing safety of children. Most providers also engaged families and children using various virtual platforms.

- The Children’s Alliance also continued to see children for forensic interviews.
- Overall staff enjoy working from home but have expressed challenges such as isolation. Supervisors learned how to support their workers from a distance and there have been many Covid-19 trainings available.
- The Agency expects to be working mobile through Jun.
- No staff have experienced Covid-19.
- The Agency secured necessary PPE equipment including, masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves for staff.
 - Initially we had some difficulty obtaining the needed supplies. Now the county Purchasing office has been able to order and receive ample PPE.
- CYA Court proceedings were temporarily canceled except for emergency hearings related to children being unsafe due to abuse or neglect. All other CYA hearings started back up in early May using a virtual platform.
- Crystal Natan discussed one of the concerns across the state and nation is the significant reduction in reports of children abuse.
 - Pennsylvania saw a 50% reduction, in child abuse reports, compared to the same time last year, (mid-March-early May 2020).
 - One reason for the decrease is many of the mandated reporters are not having contact with children.
 - In Lancaster County, reports have also gone down about 45%.
 - The State (DHS) have recently conducted media blasts reminding individuals to make Childline reports when they notice something out of the ordinary.
- Budget update – Crystal Natan stated spending in the second quarter is on track.
 - Overall, the Agency is under spending the budget.
 - A reduction in spending is expected in the third and fourth quarter due to Covid-19.
 - There have not been discussions from the State regarding the 20/21 state budget, but it is possible the Children and Youth Agency’s budget may be affected over the next 2 years due to the significant revenue loss for the state. This will be closely monitored.

Upcoming Events: None

Announcements: None

Public Comment: None

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 A.M.

**NEXT MEETING: August 17th, 2020
8:00-9:30 a.m.**

at

<https://call.lifsizecloud.com/2854943>

Respectfully submitted,

Jenna Horita