

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

October 16, 2007

Board Members Present:

Karen Jaskot, Edward Tobin, Roger Glick, Dr. Frank Koerber, Commissioner Dick Shellenberger, Kimberly Ibarra, Amy Jo Lutz-Phillips, Roger Glick, Kathy Gregoire and Patrick McBrearty

Staff Present:

Crystal Gingrich, Pedro Rodriguez, Kurt Miller, Lisa Runge, Nancy Schuyler, Greg Landis, Pat Lee and Kali Kunkle

Public: None

Guests: None

Call to Order:

Board Chair Karen Jaskot called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Welcome New Members:

All those attending the meeting introduced themselves. Karen Jaskot reminded everyone of the new board member orientation meeting on November 20, 2007 at 10:30 am. The regularly scheduled Advisory Board meeting will follow immediately afterwards.

Approval of September Minutes:

Kathy Gregoire moved the minutes from September 2007 be accepted after an amendment is made. Commissioner Shellenberger seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Commissioner Shellenberger asked about the recent Resource Parent event. Roger Glick, resource parent, reported the event went very well and approximately 184 people attended. The children all had a fun time going for a hayride and picking out pumpkins.

The Resource Parent Association is having a Christmas Party on December 8, 2007 at Willow Valley. All Board members are invited to attend this event.

New Business:

Kathy Gregoire announced that Joanne Castner asked to have information passed on regarding a community training opportunity. The Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse has invited District Justice David Miller to speak on November 13th from 5:15-6:15 at the First Presbyterian Church on Orange Street.

Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports.

Karen Jaskot reminded everyone that after the orientation, there will be an opportunity to choose a committee to participate on.

Director's Report:

Personnel

- ❖ Crystal Gingrich discussed the current vacancies at the Agency. Nancy Schuyler is currently setting up interviews for caseworkers and clerical staff.
- ❖ Pat Lee, Director of Placement Services, has officially resigned from the Agency. Pat will be working for the Department of Public Welfare Office of Children, Youth and Families as a regional representative.

Reorganizations

- ❖ Lancaster County Children and Youth's resource parents nominated our Agency to the State Foster Parent Association as Agency of the Year. Roger Glick discussed that the State chooses an agency and Lancaster has been at the forefront for a long time. Mr. Glick cited the reasons the resource parents nominated us as being they appreciate us and the job we do and have a good relationship with us. The award ceremony is Friday, October 19, 2007 and several staff will be in attendance.
- ❖ Crystal also recognized Kurt Miller and Pat Lee for all their hard work and thanked the resource parents.
- ❖ Sagine Mondesir, Case Aide, was recognized for assisting, supporting and comforting a child during a loss of her grandfather.
- ❖ Jennifer Rascoe-Cox recently received the Spirit of Good Government Award. It was presented to her at a staff meeting. Jennifer is always willing to help out wherever possible.
- ❖ Suzanne Rough was recognized for her thoroughness in the screening department during a recent referral from the community.

Building Issues

- ❖ The building's boiler is being replaced this week and inspectors are scheduled to come following the repair. The porch roof is also in the process of being repaired. The Agency continues to work with the County's Engineer's Office on these issues.

Staff Training Day

- ❖ The majority of the staff attended the training day on September 20, 2007. All staff was required to attend the diverse training taught by the YWCA. We are currently working with the YWCA to develop a more intensive diversity training. Additional training session topics included de-escalation and domestic violence and community safety.

County Budget

- ❖ The County Budget was presented last week and it is expected we will know if it is approved by November. The County portion was only increased by 1.5%.

Family Center

- ❖ We are currently partnering with the Family Center on the implementation of a Family Reunification Program. Program staff will provide intensive services to biological parents to help them meet the goals of their Child Permanency Plans such as locating community resources, securing housing and parenting assistance. This program will continue to expand the Agency's efforts aimed at increasing the number of children reunified with their family within 15 months of placement.

Deputy Secretary of State

- ❖ Deputy Secretary Richard Gold met with the management team of Children and Youth and the directors of Juvenile Probation and Parole and the Youth Intervention Center on Monday, October 15, 2007.

Director of In-Home Services

- ❖ Kurt Miller updated the committee on his department. Kurt's department is responsible for maintaining the children in their home and are currently working with approximately 200 families and 460 children. The majority of their focus is spent helping parents with parenting issues.
- ❖ Deborah Gonzalez has been selected for the kinship care caseworker. There are approximately 70 kinship homes that Children and Youth currently oversees. Kinship parents are individuals who have a significant relationship with the parent or child of a family. These kinship families are approved as Agency resource families and receive the same reimbursement rates as our traditional resource families do.

Fiscal Report

- ❖ Pedro Rodriguez discussed the County budget and reviewed a 2007 Expenditure and Revenue Report. Copies of the report were distributed.

Director of Intake Services

- ❖ Greg Landis updated the committee on Intake Services. He is tracking the number of investigations this year regarding abuse/neglect. As of October, Currently, there have been 1,300 abuse and neglect investigations during 2007.
- ❖ O.A.S.I.S. is still temporarily housed at 900 East King Street. It is expected they will be moving back to their building in November.

Director of Placement Services

- ❖ Pat Lee updated the committee on Placement Services. There are currently about 500 children in custody. Of those 500, about 25-30 children are in group homes and 2 children are in residential facilities located in Florida.
- ❖ November is National Adoption Month. Judge Hoberg has set aside November 15, 2007 as an Adoption Day and 17 adoptions are scheduled. The Adoption Unit

- has prepared gifts, which were donated by the community, for the children that day. We usually have approximately 85 adoptions a year.
- ❖ Due to the number of vacancies in the Placement Department, some In-Home Protective caseworkers are carrying placement cases to help out.
 - ❖ Pat's last day is November 16, 2007. An announcement will be made at the next Advisory Board meeting who the new Director of Placement Services will be.

Director of Quality Assurance

- ❖ Amy Campbell distributed a current organizational chart and gave an update on hiring.

Public Comment

- ❖ None

Meeting adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2007
12:00-1:30
at the Children and Youth Agency
900 East King Street, Lancaster, PA**