

LANCASTER COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH AGENCY
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

April 17, 2007

Board Members Present: Kathryn Gregoire, Karen Jaskot, Gwen Scalyer, Nancy Valkenburg

Staff Present: Amy Campbell, Crystal Gingrich, Gregory Landis, Dale Latimer, Pat Lee, Pedro Rodriguez, Lisa Runge, Patty Shiffler

Public: None

Guests: Drew Fredericks, Youth Intervention Center Interim Director

Board Chair Karen Jaskot called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Drew Fredericks, Youth Intervention Center Interim Director was introduced to the Board.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the vote to approve or amend the minutes from the March meeting will be held until the May meeting.

Old Business:

The list of bulleted items was discussed as it pertained to the Youth Intervention Facility. Drew Fredericks stated the space heater restriction was a DPW issue and was resolved by approval to set the thermostat higher, increasing the heat. Pat Lee stated she feels the bigger issue is the fact that it is a temporary location and it is not our building. Many of the initial concerns voiced by staff, such as no visitors to the building, restrictions on vending machines and the noise level in the offices, have been resolved. Pat pointed out that the YIC maintenance staff have been extremely helpful and that CYA staff have felt welcome.

There is a disconnect with the staff being located at two sites. It was suggested that staff announcements introducing new hires include a photo of the employee. Gwen Scalyer felt that keeping staff abreast not only of new hires, but of the interview process and other hiring activities would be helpful. Amy Campbell stated that new staff are introduced monthly at the combined site staff meeting. Dale Latimer added that supervisors encourage staff to include new workers in home visits and meetings to help them connect with other units. A preliminary response to address staff morale will be presented by Crystal Gingrich at the next board meeting. A formalized plan will take several months .

New Business:

Joanne Castner submitted a letter, which Karen Jaskot read to the board, announcing her intention to resign from the Board in June. Joanne will be chairing the Lancaster County Council of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Board.

Father Allan Wolfe asked Karen Jaskot to extend an invitation to CYA staff to hear a speaker from Boston on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at San Juan Bautista Church. Also, on Friday, May 18th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse and the Lancaster Latino community will host the First Annual Lancaster County Latino Conference. Speakers and agency representatives will

meet at the Plaza San Juan Bautista to discuss responses to community problems and to share information regarding the Latino culture.

Committee Reports:

Community Relations: No meeting

Children's Services: Lisa Runge reported that the committee members met and revisited the three service areas of the Agency: Intake/Neglect, Placement and Protective. Discussion centered around mandated time lines, guidelines, forms, etc. etc.

Nominations: Father Wolfe confirmed his intention to apply for board membership and will return his application packet. Karen Jaskot and Fernando Sanchez also contacted several other prospective board members.

By-laws: Will report at the next meeting.

Directors Report:

Crystal Gingrich reported that April is "Child Abuse Prevention Month." Blue pins as well as Agency abuse statistics for 2006, were distributed to board members. She stated that staff were treated to a continental style breakfast at the monthly staff meeting. Next week, Diane Mathias will conduct a training for staff during a brown bag lunch meeting.

The Federal government has not released Title IV-E funds to Pennsylvania. A letter was received from Estelle B. Richman, Pennsylvania's Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare, announcing the anticipation of funding reimbursement for 2006.

Richard J. Gold, Esquire has been appointed Deputy Secretary for the PA Department of Public Welfare's Office of Children, Youth and Families. Mr. Gold had been involved in the Medical Assistance realignment in Pennsylvania.

Crystal Gingrich met with Katie True to discuss legislation affecting child welfare and the funding required to implement programs.

Mark Esterbrook, the new County Administrator visited Children & Youth Offices at 900 on April 9th. He toured the building and received an overview of the Agency's mission and funding.

The County is advertising the position of Deputy Director of Human Services. This person, when hired, will report to Mark Esterbrook. In addition, a YIC Director and Personnel Director will be hired.

The Resource Parent Banquet is scheduled for May 10, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at Willow Valley, Palm Court. Invitations were distributed to Board members present at today's meeting and will be mailed to those not in attendance.

Channel 21 News recently taped a 35 minute interview of Crystal Gingrich regarding child welfare. The Annual Licensing Audit was conducted the week of March 26th. We have not received a final report at this time. Bill Kasper, DPW Regional Representative, will meet with Crystal on Friday, April 20, to provide a verbal report of the audit findings.

Upcoming activities:

The Needs Based Budget guidelines have not been received from the State at this time.

The Agency's current disaster plan is in the process of being updated.

Listening Post: Crystal Gingrich will schedule regular informal monthly group meetings with staff to hear comments, questions, concerns, ideas, etc.

Resource Parent Banquet, May 10, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Willow Valley Palm Court.

Amy Campbell distributed the most recent staff Organizational Chart. In brief, we hired 8 new staff and 3 interns are slated to be hired in May. Two caseworkers and 1 supervisor resigned in the past month.

Contracts season is underway with our Placement Providers and Consultants. The board will be updated on outcomes received from these contracted programs.

Dale Latimer shared a story of a family who has made progress with the help of Agency staff.

Pat Lee announced a new group, called "Connections" will be meeting weekly. This is a pre-Independent Living group, involving 14 and 15 year olds, preparing them for what is coming next in their lives. A CYA Caseworker will facilitate this group along with staff from Diakon. Their intent is to impart self-awareness for "where you've been and where you're going" to the group participants. They will meet as a group alternating weekly with individual meetings.

Greg Landis reported good and bad news from Intake. While Intake is currently at full staff, March was a heavy month for abuse referrals and we were down 30% in staff numbers that month.

Pedro Rodriguez distributed the 2007 CYA Expenditure and Revenue Budget. He announced the Agency will be involved in a IV-E audit this summer.

He also announced that the Michael Ryan Scholarship Fund will be awarded at the Resource Parent Banquet in May. The Anne Daniel Fund helped to furnish and renovate two visit rooms at the Agency. In all, five visit rooms have been completed.

Meeting adjourned 1:30 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING, TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2007
at the Children and Youth Agency
Conference Room #1
900 East King Street
Lancaster, PA 17602**

(If you are unable to attend this meeting,
please call Patty Shiffler at 295-2017)