

**Community Advisory Board Meeting
March 9, 2015**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Tom Spell, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, Ferris School
Patti Mattson, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, Community Services
Lisa DiStefano, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, Community Services
Rod Sutton, Division of Management Support Services, Ferris School
Angela Porter, Division of Management Support Services
Barbara Riley, Division of Management Support Services, Residential Cottages
Nancy Dietz, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Alison McGonigal, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Chantel Vanderhost, Challenge Program
Mitchell Rock, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, NCCDC
Kathy Covelli-Reyes, Christina School District
Kim Pepper, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Tim Brandau, Child, Inc.
Susan Edgar, Delaware Council on Gambling Problems
Judy McCormick, Delaware Council on Gambling Problems
Keith Zirkle, Division of Family Services
Sophie Namugenyi, Jewish Family Services
Vanessa Minor, Job Corps
Linda Anderson, Aspirations Arc and Civic Association of Belvedere
Shianne Stanislow, Youth Representative

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 9:02 a.m. with introductions.

Gambling Statistics

A PSA made by the youth at Ferris School regarding gambling was shown. The Ferris School youth helped develop the material for the PSA.

Judy McCormick, Delaware Council on Gambling Problems, said there are programs in the schools. She said they go to the high schools and use this PSA as part of their presentation, which is incorporated into health class. They focus on underage gambling. Services are offered to gamblers and their families. Gambling is a risk factor in youth. They are proposing to expand this program into middle schools. University of Delaware statistics indicate that youth are exposed to gambling as young as 5th grade. The program services ages 14 and up as of now. Statistics for juvenile justice is 7-9% of youth have a gambling problem. Adults are 1-3%. They will provide a more detailed presentation at our June meeting.

Youth Representative

Shianne is a youth currently at Grace Cottage. She was extremely honest when the Governor visited. We thought she would be a great addition to our Board. We hope that she can continue to participate when she is released.

Shianne expressed that there is so much violence and kids getting killed over stupid stuff. She wants to go to college and get her realtor license. She also wants to buy a house and flip it. She is working on her GED currently. Chantel Vanderhost from the Challenge Program said starting in July they will be able to serve up to 24 year olds. She said they teach construction and build houses. They do have females participate in the program. She will give Shianne her card so she can participate in the program when she is released.

Shianne explained to the Governor during his visit that the teachers are teaching through YouTube. She said when they go back to regular school they are failing. She said they are not being challenged educationally. She said some teachers make them partner together to learn and the teacher doesn't teach them. She said the math teacher always uses YouTube and never answers their questions. Shianne suggested that they reassess the work being given in DSCYF schools. She said they should compare it to the work being used in the public school. Don't let YouTube be the teacher.

Purpose of the Board

Director Dietz read the mission. Mr. Brandau said the last two years have not been productive. He said the last 15 minutes was the best conversation the Board has had in two years. He said it was an honest conversation about education. He said we need more community partners in attendance vs. State Employees.

Deputy Director McGonigal said the initial intent was to keep the community informed about escapes, etc. She said now we've struggled with the intent since we don't have these issues anymore. She said we haven't had any legislative agendas or budget initiatives to push for.

Mr. Brandau said we need to always be thinking of the purpose. Director Dietz agreed but she said we have to build our Board first. We would like to have parent representation but they didn't stay active long.

Education Update

Mr. Sutton distributed and discussed data for Ferris School. LFS is what they use now at DSCYF. Interventions:

- Graphic organizer – organize thinking
- Collaborative pairs – you learn what you talk about
- Show to partners
- Students leading the instruction

Ms. Porter said this was implemented in September. She said they can see that the youth are responding to it. The students are rising to the challenge. Ms. Porter also reported that basic wiring class begins in April.

Division Update

Director Dietz said the Division is in crisis with vacancies. We are currently working on writing job descriptions that will be shared on the State website. Casual seasonal hours have been reduced which has made our situation even worse. We would like the Board to help recruit. We are making a recruitment video that we will share at the June meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Next Meeting June 8, 2015 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Administration Building – Room 199
1825 Faulkland Road
Wilmington, DE 19805