

**DIVISION OF YOUTH REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD**

MINUTES

July 30, 2007

Attendance:

Rick Shaw	Deputy Director, Division of YRS
Wayne Ashbee	Resident, Woodland Heights
Marion E. Plotts	Resident, Woodland Park
Ken Arnold	Ass't Superintendent, Ferris School
Alison McGonigal	DYRS, JDAI Coordinator
Lisa DiStefano	DYRS, Acting Chief, Community Services
Annette Miller	Superintendent, Ferris School
Allison Cassidy	Coordinator, Delaware Girls Initiative
Larry Haas	Child, Inc.
Andrew McKnight	Challenge Program

Absent:

Jim Lafferty	Executive Director, Mental Health Association of DE
Rick Pulling	Captain, Delaware State Police, Troop 6
Benton Garrison	DYRS, NCCDC Assistant Superintendent
Kim Pepper,	DYRS, Administrative Assistant
Barbara Crowell	Judge, Family Court
Dory Zatuchni	Executive Director, Jewish Family Services
Kathryn Herel	Parent Information Center of DE
Leslie Newman	Executive Director, Children & Families First
Kaiyra Greel	Methodist Action Program
Phyllis Berggrun	President, Willow Run Civic Association
Nnamdi Chukwuocha	Kingswood Community Center
Aimee McFarlan	Rockford Center
James Mosley	Director of Public Safety, Wilmington Police Dept
Rita Paige	De State Housing Authority
Vicki Wetherall	Deputy Attorney General
Col. Rick Gregory	NCCPD

Opening Remarks

Rick Shaw opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. with an update of what is going on in the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services.

- Cognitive Behavioral Training (CBT) has been instituted in our 2 detention centers and will begin tomorrow in Stevenson House. It has just started, but so far is working satisfactorily. The purpose is to give a greater understanding of personal strengths and the strengths of co-workers. It also is designed to improve teamwork and a greater sense of purpose. The outcome will be to develop the Vision, Mission, Values and Final List of Lesson Plans.

Allison Cassidy DGI, gave an update of Delaware Girls Initiative.

- Things have been going good for the last 4 months. Some of the accomplishments are:
 - A training calendar is out. Training will be:
 - Monday, August 20th (Executive Leadership),
 - Tuesday, August 21st (Growing Great Girls with Compassion and Competence), and
 - Wednesday, August 22nd (“Mental Health 101”)
 - They are still working on a Source Book for Girls
 - They are talking about doing a Statewide Summit
 - They are currently going up and down the state to see is what is going on
 - They recently went to Stevenson House
 - Need help in getting into NCCDC

Annette Miller, Superintendent of Ferris School, reported

- a Job Fair is scheduled for Ferris, Snowden Cottage and Mowlds Cottage.
- They are preparing for ACA reaccreditation, scheduled for November 12th
- Ferris School had a 4th of July barbecue for the students and families. The honor students were allowed to do the cooking and all had a good time.

Lisa DiStefano, Chief of Community Services reported:

- She has recently been promoted to Chief of Community Services and is working hard
 - They just finished a Probation Orientation in NCC South Region
 - They have had a number of vacancies in Community Services, but it looks like they will be filled soon.
 - They should be getting a dedicated worker for girls soon

Allison McGonigle

- JDAI just finished the Burns Assessment; and are working on reducing the number of minorities by creating a diversion program on alternatives to arrest

Larry Haas, Child, Inc.

On October 30th, Child, Inc. will host a lecture event in collaboration with The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council at the Waterfall Banquet & Conference Center. It will feature Dr. Jeffrey Edleson, one of the worlds leading authorities on children exposed to domestic violence.

Community

- Wayne Ashbee noted the President of the neighborhood Civic Association moved. They have been experiencing unusual problems with the residents of the apartments adjoining the development. Children from the apartments have been breaking windows and spray painting cars.
- Marion Plotts noted it used to be that residents were reluctant to move into the area because of Ferris School being so close. That is not the case any more, Ferris is a wonderful neighbor.

Andrew McKnight, Challenge Program

The Challenge Program is located at the shipyard on the East Side. It was specifically designed to build a bridge between students in high school and the business community by providing incentives to students for successes they achieve while in school.

Last year, the Challenge Program and the KIDS Department entered a partnership for 15 kids a year to do rehab on houses, working with a general contractor. There were successes and challenges, but they found in the basic program, if the kids can get a drivers license and a GED they can get employed. Without a way to get to work, it is practically impossible for the Challenge Program to even talk to a kid about going to work for them. However, while our youth are with them, they have a good success rate and do not get in trouble.

Chairperson for Committee

Rick Shaw noted time was allotted in this meeting to elect a Chairperson for the entire Committee, but due to the lack of attendance, we will put this on the September meeting agenda. Members should give thought to who they think will effectively lead the Committee.

It was determined the next meeting will be held at 5:30 on September 24th. The meeting adjourned at 12:15