

**Community Advisory Board Meeting  
June 10, 2013**

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Dan Madrid, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Barbara Crowell, Family Court  
Lisa DiStefano, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, Community Services  
Nancy Dietz, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services  
Aileen Fink, Division of Management Support Services  
Alison McGonigal, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services  
Shane O'Hare, Child Placement Review Board  
Tom Spell, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, Ferris School  
Chantel Vanderhost, Challenge Program  
Dory Zatuchni, Jewish Family Services  
Keith Zirkle, Division of Family Services  
Raheem Perkins, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, Residential Cottages  
Mitchell Rock, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, NCCDC  
Megan Fioravanti, Red Clay Consolidated School District  
John Stevenson, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, Stevenson House  
Barbara Riley, Division of Management Support Services  
Kathy Covelli-Reyes, Christina School District  
Fern Joseph, Department of Labor, TARGET  
Terry Senio, Division of Management Support Services, Education  
Rita Paige, Delaware State Housing Authority  
Patti Mattson, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, Community Services  
Kim Pepper, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services

The meeting began at 9:07 a.m. with introductions and remarks from Director Dietz.

**Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services Overview**

Director Dietz read aloud the Community Advisory Board Mission statement. Her first goal for our committee is to appoint a Chair Person by our next meeting, September 9.

Each committee member present received a Division Resource Binder. The binder consists of information about each DYRS secure care facility and Community Services. Mitchell Rock, John Stevenson, Tom Spell, Raheem Perkins and Lisa DiStefano all presented an overview of their facility/unit including services and programming.

Patti Mattson reported that we had our JJRRI National Team Site Visit last week. Delaware was one of three states/jurisdictions to receive the JJRRI Grant. This three year grant will allow us to identify and measure the gaps in our services. There are three partners, Georgetown University, Peabody Research Institute at Vanderbilt, and the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute. This project will help us prove our work through data and will involve implementation of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) tool to evaluate program effectiveness.

## Other Business

- Terry Senio spoke about her meeting with Visiting Teachers. She said efforts are being made to establish the mindset that we are one State education unit. She said when youth are leaving; they are meeting to discuss the best placement for the youth. They collect a lot of data and share the data with the schools. A current challenge is helping the youth transitioning from detention. A transition meeting is not conducted for youth transitioning from detention. Ms. Senio sends the attendance list to the schools for detention. Kathy Covelli-Reyes said when youth are released from detention it sometimes takes months before the youth get back into school. One recommendation was that we add where the youth is going to the list Ms. Senio sends. She will do that. It was also suggested that we receive the main point of contact at each schools that can be notified by DYRS regarding youth releases. The case workers can do the notifications.
- The new Truancy Law was discussed. The law was changed from 30 days to 20 days of absences that schools must file. Ms. Covelli-Reyes said this is not going to resolve the issues but just get the youth in the system quicker. Deputy Director McGonigal said she would have someone from JJC speak to our Board about the new legislation. We also need more alternatives for the older youth who are already way behind and are not motivated.
- Dan Madrid recommended that DYRS look into the Medicaid funding changes. He said Medicaid is the funding source for PBHS. We will contact Leslie Boyd.
- Shane O'Hare inquired about programming on sexting, texting, social media and bullying. He said there is great training available and he will send us the information.
- Megan Fioravanti is a part of the Delaware School Nurses Association and they have training on prescription drug use and resources. Richard Dunlap will do the training. We will send Ms. Fioravanti's contact information to those interested in coordinating training.
- DYRS has a multi-purpose building almost ready for use. The new building will be used for:
  - Residential Cottages education
  - Evening programming through 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Federal Grant – VisionQuest and it will be five days per week
  - Saturday sanctioning program which will include community service projects so youth can earn hours
  - Public meeting space will be available
- Director Dietz said to please send us contact information for interested Board members. We will discuss at our next meeting:
  - Select a Chair Person
  - Education
  - CAB Strategic Plan

Director Dietz thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.