

MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING January 25, 2010

The Community Advisory Board convened on Monday, January 25, 2010, at the Stevenson House Detention Center. The following were in attendance:

Members: Jeff Peck, Delaware Technical and Community College
Marlene Duffy, Milford Boys and Girls Club
Alison McGonigal, DYRS
Harold Stafford, Delaware Parents Association
Carlyse Giddins, DYRS Director

DYRS Staff: John Stevenson, Superintendent
Dawn Garnett, AS III

Opening Comments – John Stevenson

John welcomed everyone and introduced Marlene Duffy, sitting in on behalf of Maria Edgerton of the Boys & Girls Club.

He asked if there is anyone we should consider reaching out to as a possible resource and/or Board Member. We would like to include a representative(s) of the religious community and an invitation was extended to a local religious/community leader; however, it did not work out. The Chamber of Commerce was suggested as an option to involve local businessmen and Carlyse will provide the name of an individual who is very active in Sussex County. Alison suggested contacting Zaida Guajardo, Executive Director of La Esperanza and will forward contact information.

Resource Fair

The Resource Fair was such a success that another one will be planned for June 2010. Attendees of the last fair suggested that staff wear name tags and that YCOP be represented.

Assistant Superintendent

A request to fill the position was submitted to the Office of Management and Budget. Carlyse stated that the unions and staff have been assured that the positive chemistry established under current administration will not be disrupted with the filling of this position.

YRC Supervisor Position

Gerald Tomczyk, the 11 to 7 shift supervisor is retiring in February with over 42 years of service. We plan to have interviews completed and a candidate selected prior to his actual retirement date.

Psychologist

Interviews were conducted last week to fill this position, vacant since September 2009. The candidate selected is from VA and plans to tour the facility this Saturday. Her background is in clinical and school psychology.

Carlyse stated that DE is fortunate to have children's services under one department and that having psychologists at our facilities is a real advantage. Stevenson House also has an on-site substance abuse counselor who provides testing, organizes family engaging events, and is very integrated in our program.

Dental Services

Since our contracted dental service provider closed, we have been actively seeking an on-site contract dentist. Dr. Sklut of Delmarva Rural Ministries has assisted us in our search for a dentist and, made available someone to inspect our dental suite and equipment. John has been in contact with Sue Stroder at Del Tech about utilizing interns for dental assistants.

Pre-Employment Drug Screening

Carlyse stated that there has been a big push for drug testing for new hires. The Cabinet Secretary recently announced that pre-employment drug testing was implemented on January 6, 2010. All individuals who are offered employment within DSCYF will now undergo testing for commonly abused controlled substances.

Mentors

It is a difficult to find individuals who are interested in mentoring down state. John has been talking with the athletic directors at Del State University and Wesley College about athletes mentoring our youth. However; mentors must be at least 21 years old. Alison stated that many of New Castle County Detention Center's mentors are from the faith based community.

John stated that many of our youth have talents that they do not get the opportunity to pursue due to a lack of support at home. We want to help develop those talents and skills while they are in our care. John has been reaching out to fraternities as a mentoring resource. The Alphas and Omegas are willing to come down and give a presentation for our residents.

Leadership Training - Carlyse

The Leadership Team is focused on training, professional development and leadership skills for our staff. Former Senator Myrna Bair, Director of the Institute for Public Administration

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Leadership Development Program at the U of D, will provide leadership/management training for our Managers and Supervisors. Training will take place on four consecutive Tuesdays. We were able to secure a grant from the Criminal Justice Council to have Senator Bair provide this valuable training.

Closing

The Board will meet again on April 19, 2010, at 6:00 pm. We will begin planning another Resource Fair at that time. Please send John the name(s) of anyone you would like to see invited to future meetings.

xc: Rick Shaw, Deputy Director
CAB File