And because I cannot do everything, I cannot do everything, the hungry, care for the sick, educate children and improve those less fortunate — those in the community who have missed sharing in the American Dream. The SECC committee worked hard this fall to motivate their coworkers to dig deep and do their part to help feed the hungry, care for the sick, educate children and improve the quality of life for many people in the state of Delaware.

Fifteen of these team members participated in a Policy Academy sponsored by Georgetown University in December to formalize agreements and commitments for implementing SOC statewide. At the academy, the group began refacing the path forward by using their experience to shape the strategic direction for the retreat. They also worked on completing the composition of the statewide SOC team to make sure that all key stakeholders who participate in the retreat, are included. The team is paying particular attention to expanding the number of families and youth who are involved to achieve a better balance of participants between organizational and consumer representation. The team also identified and prioritized SOC components being implemented in Delaware that can be the catalysts for stimulating broader use.

The family members and youth participants from the Policy Academy, the team will all now look to connect the dots to bring a coordinated effort to life quickly over the next few months.

TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, CALL THE 24-HOUR REPORT LINE: 1-800-292-9589

For information on becoming a Statewide Social Worker, call the Delaware Helpline: 1-800-464-4337

Dr. Richard Ziman, Director, State Department of Social Services, Delaware (Dupont). Many other community partners have contributed in big and small ways, allowing children to participate in scout programs and music lessons, attend a Blue Rocks game or the zoo, or learn how to prepare for a job interview.

Dedicated Partners Offer Children Opportunities to Succeed

The Department recently recognized Discover Bank and Delaware Community Foundation for making a camp a reality for 52 kids involved in child welfare services. But, this effort had support from numerous community stakeholders including hospitals, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, youth groups, and more. The Delaware Children’s Department seeks to ensure children get what they need to succeed even if the State cannot provide it. Under its Dedicated Partnerships initiative, the Department seeks the support of community and corporate groups to provide children in its care with opportunities for well-rounded development. On any given day, the Department provides services to approximately 8,200 children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. Of those children, 96 percent live with their own families. Another 9 percent live with foster families in the community. Those families need the support of not only the State, but other family members, friends, and the community as a whole.

The Department recently recognized Discover Bank and Delaware Community Foundation for making a camp a reality for 52 kids involved in child welfare services. John Hollis, the director of the Southern Office of the Delaware Community Foundation and long-time child advocate, had connected Roger Pryor, vice president of Discover Bank, with the Department. In recognition, Cabinet Secretary Carol Delaney presented both entities with the Department’s first Dedicated Partnership plaque in August. In addition to the plaques, Mr. Hollis and Mr. Pryor received printed and thank-you notes from the campers, some of whom were present and shared their thanks and experience at the event.

“O ur vision is to ‘Think of the Child First’ in all we do, and we know that ‘we can’t do it alone’,” said Secretary Delaney. “The Delaware Community Foundation heard our call for assistance. They helped us make the connection with Discover Bank. They responded with a generous contribution from their Discover Bank Fund for Women to make it possible for a dozen girls to ‘go to camp this summer.”

Other contributions through the Dedicated Partnership initiative have included backpacks, school supplies and personal items for dozens of children returning to school; celebration of the new school year (Astrozine, local schools); support for creative educational programming as well as a fitness trail for the adolescents at the Silver Lake Treatment Center in Middletown (MBNA); and, sponsorship of the HOSSTs mentoring program and mentors at Ferris School for Boys (DuPont). These and other community partners have contributed in big and small ways, allowing children to participate in scout programs and music lessons, attend a Blue Rocks game or the zoo, or learn how to prepare for a job interview.
I want to share with you what a privilege it has been to work with some strategic initiatives that include a child-focused system, holistic service for Delaware’s children. We also believe that we can only achieve our hope for every child in our care. We have pledged to lead a system of care in the last three years, we have developed our vision to “think of the child first” and are committed to safety, stability, self-esteem, and a sense of hope for every child in our care. We have purchased care that is child centered and assures effective, timely, and appropriate support for Delaware’s children. We also believe that we can only drive this mission when families, community partners, and other stakeholders think of the child first and it is in this leadership arena that we can facilitate that thinking and help us to engage the whole village in raising our children here in Delaware and in every child’s care, the Child Care, and the Child Protection Accountability Commission. The legislature continues a commitment resolution noting that “the Delaware Children’s Department has achieved many milestones since its inception, including the implementation of a national model for juvenile justice treatment in the new Ferris School/Sanctuary of the juvenile justice department,” etc. My mission is to continue working on this collaborative effort to enrich and enhance the Ferris School Art Program. This committee has been the foundation for our collaborative relationship. The Ad-Hoc Art Committee will continue planning and working on this collaborative effort to enrich and enhance the Ferris School Art Program. This committee has been the foundation for our collaborative relationship.

California State Senator Maria Shriver, who represents Framingham, is the recipient of the Children’s Department Award and Awards of Merit.

Project Redirect: Youth Adopt a Highway

The Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity honored the students at the 20th Anniversary Gala at the Del Club.

Children’s Department Marks 20th Anniversary

Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Senator Harris McDowell (D-Wilmington) and Representative Tam Macker (R-Newark) joined Cabinet Secretary Carl Delattre in June to mark the 20th anniversary of the Children’s Department for Services to Children, Youth and Their Families including the cutting and sharing of a large birthday cake.

“We have mopped up and are implementing Foster Care Reform, and we are looking forward to the Children’s Department helping the children of the State. We are serving children in their homes and in our state, and we are providing improved services to ever more children across a backdrop of economic decline,” said Secretary Delattre.

The award was to the 20th anniversary of the Children’s Department. The Governor is the member of the Governor’s Task Force on Foster Care, and the Child Protection Accountability Commission. The legislation continues a commitment resolution noting that “the Delaware Children’s Department has achieved many milestones since its inception since its inception, including the implementation of a national model for juvenile justice treatment in the new Ferris School/Sanctuary of the juvenile justice department.”

The Governor welcomed the students to adopt a highway as part of the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity Awards for Committment to Children.

PERFINSKI RECEIVES AWARD FOR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN

The Nebraska Children’s Department employee who has been serving Delaware as a family support worker for the last three years received the 2003 Employee of the Quarter Award from the Governor.

The high school senior has been involved in the school’s National Honor Society and Student Council. She has also worked as a volunteer at the local animal shelter and has participated in community service projects.

The Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity honored the students at the 20th Anniversary Gala at the Del Club.

School Superintendent Diane Gladow who advocated for the committee to bring the Art to Schools to the attention of the children said that the projects’ success has been due to the collaborative effort between the students, parents, and staff.

Art teacher Jennifer Keane is coordinating the students’ work on the completion of their bright-colored mural. The students, parents, staff and guests are invited to the opening ceremony on April 20th. The students will be recognized for their hard work and dedication in creating the mural for the community.

FINE ARTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT FERRIS SCHOOL

The Arts in Education Committee Voted to Recognize

Children’s Department Marks 20th Anniversary

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