

## KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2015

### In Attendance:

Kendall Wicks, Sr., DYRS, Stevenson House  
Dawn Garnett, DYRS, Stevenson House  
Steve Gonzer, Delaware Council on Gambling Problems, Inc.  
Charlita Shamburger, DYRS, Community Services  
Robert Harris, Community Advisory Board Member  
George Pippin, Community Advisory Board Member

### **AGENDA:**

**New Administration:** Mr. Wicks was promoted to Superintendent of Stevenson House. The Assistant Superintendent position is now vacant but should be filled in the very near future.

**Board's Focus/Purpose Defined:** The Community Advisory Board was established by Mr. Pippin in 1988 as part of the first ACA Accreditation process. The Board's purpose is to serve as a link with the community and to provide advice and assistance with accomplishing goals; for example, networking to provide a new service for our youth.

**Grounds Safety and Beautification:** Mr. Wicks wants every parking space to abut a sidewalk so no one has to walk through the parking lot. A contractor from Shea Construction was on site this morning to provide a three phase quote for sidewalk installation. Phase one will start at the handicap parking spaces and continue along the south side employee parking spaces. Phase two will pick up where phase one stopped and continue along to the north end of the front parking lot. Phase three would cut across the front field from the front parking lot to the circle. Also looking into installing additional cameras and lighting outside; we currently have no visual of the front parking lot. Our groundskeeper has been hard at work improving the appearance of the outside of the facility. He has planted shrubs, rose bushes and laid mulch.

**Gardening Project:** The youth started seedling gardens on their units then transplanted them in the rec yard. They have responded well to the gardening project with some youth saying that working in the garden calms and relaxes them.

**Special Interest Projects:** At a previous CAB meeting, Mr. Pippin spoke of a canine program he saw at a facility while conducting an ACA audit. Mr. Wicks pursued the idea for SHDC and found that there are

other facilities in the country that work with their local Humane Society to provide programming for the youth. We already have a staff member that is a breeder and has asked to be part of a canine program at our facility. Mr. Wicks is in the process of putting together information to present to the Division Director for approval. Steve Gonzer stated that he is a friend of the Executive Director of the DE Humane Society and will contact him on our behalf. Mr. Gonzer also mentioned Paws for People, another program that uses dogs for therapeutically. Mr. Wicks wants to bring in more programs that provide a therapeutic purpose.

Mr. Pippin asked about the equestrian program. Courageous Hearts was only a four week program and has ended; however, we do plan to have them back next fiscal year.

**Annual Resource Fair – Time Capsule Event:** Both events are scheduled to take place on July 14, 2015. We plan to bury another time capsule and need to determine what will be placed inside.

**Open Discussion:**

Mr. Pippin asked where the additional outside lighting will be installed. The lights will be installed in the grass field where the old SHDC was located. Safety and Security on facility grounds has become a concern throughout the Division. There was a recent incident at NCCDC involving two youth driving onto the grounds and causing a disturbance. The police were contacted but did not pursue the youth or the incident. Our staff is required to perform outside perimeter checks and we need to provide a safer environment in which to do so. Installation of additional outdoor cameras will help as well.

Mr. Pippin also asked why we do not have a sign out front that advises the public that we are a nationally accredited facility. He stated that ACA should have signs available.

Mr. Pippin also asked if we are meeting our staff training requirements. Mr. Gonzer asked about the types of training our staff attend. His organization offers free training on addition and addiction related issues. He offered to forward the training schedule to Mr. Wicks and provided his contact information.

Mr. Pippin stated that he has still not seen Stevenson House in the media. An article on John Stevenson's retirement did appear in the local paper thanks to Maria Edgerton. Mr. Harris spoke about the community's lack of knowledge about SHDC. He would like to see the community more aware of what actually goes on here. He suggested that a representative of SHDC speak to our community groups, organizations and churches; explain our purpose and what we do.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Annual Resource Fair if July 14, 2015.  
Next meeting is September 15, 2015.