

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
December 11th, 2017**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Nancy Dietz, Director, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Renee Ciconte, Deputy Director, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Tanya Banks, Superintendent, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Keith Zirkle, Family Services Program Manager, Division of Family Services
Aileen Fink, Psychology Manager, Division of Management Support Services
Elizabeth Cole, Program Manager, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Eric McLaurin, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Michelle Darling, Chief of Community Services, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Judy McCormick, Delaware Council on Gambling Problems
Matia Bryan, Delaware Council on Gambling Problems
Tim Brandau, Executive Director, Child Inc.
Kathleen Covelli-Reyes,
Tricia Lyons, YOO
Elizabeth Hoffman, DYRS Director's Office

Welcome

Meeting began with general opening remarks at 9:06am.

Division Update – Nancy Dietz, Director, DYRS

Renee Ciconte is now the Division's Deputy Director.

The new Community Services Chief is Michelle Darling.

Mr. McLaurin is now the Assistant Superintendent of the Residential Cottages.

The Quality Assurance Manager position is open and interviews will be held the first week of January.

Currently DYRS's focus is on the new case management system, FOCUS. This system should be up and running by the beginning of the year.

Recently the Division has brought in a national expert to look at staffing. The goal was to re-organize, assess numbers, and review room confinement. With this information, we will be looking at staffing numbers in the new fiscal year.

Secure Care Update – Renee Ciconte, Deputy Director, DYRS

Recently Ferris School and the Residential Cottages have won PbS awards, based off of surveying staff and residents. Competition for these awards is very steep and many institutions from across the country compete. Videos created by PbS highlighting the achievements of Ferris and the Cottages were shown for attendees.

Tanya Banks spoke on Ferris School's past goals to reduce restraints. The Division has begun working on a facility improvement plan with hopes to win awards for the Detention Centers next year.

Residential Cottages Youth

Two young men from the Residential Cottages attended the meeting to answer questions about their personal experiences since their placement and discuss programming at the Cottages. The two young men also discussed their transition into the Cottages and some of the struggles youth face at the time of transition. The young men were asked about plans after release and how they planned to occupy their time. In addition, they were asked about problems they have encountered in their time at the Cottages and their opinion on what could be done better. Examples such as more consistency, fairness, and ensuring all residents are educated on group accountability were given.

Community Services– Michelle Darling, Chief of Community Services, DYRS

Our new customized assessment tool is MPACT. It is a Community tool and a Residential tool. All the background data has been reviewed. This assessment is built on Delaware data. We had an opportunity to look at our assessment questions. By doing this we can reduce the number of assessment questions to less than the current 118. Not every current questions contributes to risk and need information. The next initiative will be to reduce those questions that no not directly contribute to determining risk and need, keeping those ones that are important to case planning. Our current PACT has increased in accuracy by up to 35%.

Motional Interviewing was also discussed. This is now available as web based training along with peer groups. With the MPACT assessment and Motivational Interviewing, we can match up Probation Officers with youth to obtain the best outcomes.

2nd Chance Grant/SPEP Update – Michelle Darling, Chief of Community Services, DYRS

The 2nd Chance Grant will help us build our Quality Platform. We have been focusing on developing key performance indicators, and an outside consultant has been brought in to help us determine these key performance indicators. This will help us drive reporting and will be helpful in allowing us to create standards of our own, in addition to those we already strive to meet. The statewide tour on case planning was also discussed and what changes are expected for 2018, pulling all of these pieces together to more effectively plan for youth.

YOO Update – Tricia Lyons, YOO

YOO provides internships to youth once released from our facilities. Most recently they brought to us the Summer Collaborative. The success of the program and the success of the youth was discussed and their stories were shared with the group. Organizations that participated last summer enjoyed working with our youth and are requesting to participate again this coming summer. YOO intends to involve more youth for their next collaborative. Obstacles that impede program success were discussed such as transportation and support at home. Probation Officers and Youth Advocates have the ability to assist with overcoming these obstacles to assist in the success of the program. YOO has difficulty working around rules regarding background screening. They are actively seeking organizations that will work with our youth despite problems with their criminal backgrounds and are requesting suggestions of Non-Profit organizations that would be interested.

Council members were asked to assist in recruiting new members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48.

Next meeting: March 18th. 2017
 9 – 11am
 Multi-Purpose Facility
 1825 Faulkland Road
 Wilmington, DE 19805