

**DIVISION OF YOUTH REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD**

MINUTES

September 24, 2007

Attendance:

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| Perry Phelps | Director, Division of YRS |
| Rick Shaw | Deputy Director, Division of YRS |
| Wayne Ashbee | Resident, Woodland Heights |
| Marion E. Plotts | Resident, Woodland Park |
| Allison Cassidy | Delaware Girls Initiative |
| Janet Leban | Delaware Center for Justice |
| Benton Garrison | Ass't Superintendent, NCCDC |
| Barbara Crowell | Family Court |
| Annette Miller | Superintendent, Ferris |
| Steven Wesley | Superintendent, NCCDC |
| Dory Zatuchni | Executive Director, Jewish Family Services |
| Jim Mosley | Director of Public Safety, Wilmington Police Dept |
| Aimee McFarlan | Rockford Center |
| Leslie Newman | Executive Director, Children & Families First |

Absent:

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| Jim Lafferty | Executive Director, Mental Health Association of DE |
| Richard Pulling | Captain, Delaware State Police, Troop 6 |
| Kim Pepper | DYRS, Administrative Assistant |
| Kathryn Herel | Parent Information Center of DE |
| Kaiyra Greel | Methodist Action Program |
| Phyllis Berggrun | President, Willow Run Civic Association |
| Nnamdi Chukwuocha | Kingswood Community Center |
| Rita Paige | De State Housing Authority |
| Vicki Wetherall | Deputy Attorney General |
| Col. Rick Gregory | NCCPD |
| Alison McGonigal | JDAI Coordinator |
| Andrew McKnight | Challenge Program |
| Ken Arnold | Assistant Superintendent, Ferris School |
| Lisa DiStefano | Chief, Community Services |
| Stephanie Guiswite | Program Manager, Grace/Snowden Cottages |

Opening Remarks

At 5:30 p.m. the minutes of the July meeting were read and approved.

Perry Phelps opened the meeting with an update of current events in DYRS.

- We have received 2 grants from DOJ
 - Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management (CASOM)
 - To develop or enhance sex offender management practices for offenders under community supervision
 - Intended to assist jurisdictions either to implement strategic plans already developed or to enhance existing sex offender management strategies
 - Will include wrap around services
 - We lack services in the community, youth are sent elsewhere now
 - Dollars are not available to create an in-state facility
 - High Risk Youth Offender Reentry and Family Strengthening Initiatives
 - We are requesting enough funds for CAP Unit, MST and FSA
 - CJC initially funded CAP Unit, where probation officers visit youth a specialized caseload a minimum of every 4 days
 - The goal of CAP was to reduce recidivism from 50% to 41%; it has actually reduced recidivism to 15%
 - It will take \$800,000 to create another Unit; at a rate of 40 kids per year from going deeper into services, it will pay for itself in 4 years
- Perry Phelps participated in a summit by CJC on Racial and Ethical Fairness on September 17 and 18
 - The summit was attended by representatives of the courts, corrections, police, DSCYF, legislators, schools and a mix of non profit agencies
 - It was offered as a result of Tom Eichlers' report (Nemours)
 - Participants separated into workgroups to discuss
 - perception of fairness of juveniles
 - ways to address disproportionate contact and confrontation
 - there will be a 2 day follow up meeting scheduled in the future
 - Rep Valihura from the Juvenile Justice Task Force has a study group addressing these issues
- Challenge Program has provided DYRS with more slots
 - They will take a percentage of girls, as long as they are not pregnant

- Perry is going to meet with representatives from C-Tech to listen to what they can offer
- On September 14th Perry visited Keystone Job Corps:

Keystone Job Corps Center

P.O. Box 37

235 West Foothills Drive

Drums, PA 18222

Tel: (570) 788-1164

Fax: (570) 788-1119

<http://jobcorps.dol.gov/centers/PA.htm>

- Using the Reentry Grant the program
 - as a transitional program, youth can be sent there after a short time at YSA's building located on campus (they cannot come directly from detention)
 - Offers housing facilities for up to 2 years
 - Will learn skills such as carpentry, nursing, culinary, etc.
 - Will be able to complete GED and enter college
 - The atmosphere is college-like
 - They take youth from 16 to 25 years old
 - Ada Street in Delaware, is the Executive Director
 - Delaware has a day program with more restrictions
2. Previously, letters were sent to Community Advisory Board members asking for interest in forming committees to work individually on DYRS situations.

The following groups are being formed:

- **Girls Groups**

Allison Cassidy, Chair

Leslie Newman

Annette Miller

Barbara Crowell

Aimee McFarland

- Girls complain to the justice department that all they do is play basketball.
 - Exercise for girls should be developed
- Projects for girls
- Employment
- Self sufficiency
 - Think independently to know they can be anybody and not dependent on others

- **Level IV Reentry – Mowlds, Snowden, Grace Cottages**

This committee should start when the kids leave detention

Jim Mosley

Janet Leban

Dory Zatuchni

Perry needs suggestions given to him before October 29th to take to the next CJC Re-entry meeting

Look at vocational aspects – education is critical

- Del Tech has a program for youth that cannot otherwise go there and one for African American men
- Last year 5 kids from Mowlds went to Del Tech, 3 of them have returned this year for their second year
- A Ferris kid graduated college and got a scholarship to go to a West Virginia college for law

Family care connections

- Build a support network for kids when they leave detention
- Help build a social network
- In the current system, the PO changes when a youth comes home
- It should be addressed in the Budget request to reduce the caseload
- If a PO sees the parent act irresponsibly, call DFS

Employment is just as important

- Many organizations will not take employees with a felony record
- Shop Rite Foods is a good place – they have 180 openings at any given time
- This is why automatic expungement is important – it never got off the ground when the subject was approached
- Often youth do not know they can go to Family Court and get their record expunged
- DYRS gives out a pamphlet that explains the process

Sex offenders are seldom likely to get the offense off their record

- There are very few that are a danger to the public; they usually molest family members
- There should be a distinction of levels of SO
- Currently the law lumps pedophiles with less dangerous levels

- **Level V – Ferris and NCCDC**

- **Mental Health**

Amy McFarlan

- **Community Outreach**

Wayne Ashbee

- A marketing strategy should be developed
- Judge Crowell noted the community needs to know more about the facilities and family issues of youth housed there. With that knowledge, the community is more likely to get involved.
- There should be an open house at Ferris and tours developed for each facility.

Miscellaneous:

Dover Behavioral Health opened an 8-bed unit, effective October 15th.

Website is below:

<http://www.doverbehavioral.com/services.html>

Discussion topics for next CAB meeting:

- Level V, Mental Health and Community Outreach will be discussed in more detail
 - Should each committee have one person designated for Community Outreach
- A Chair person for the Community Advisory Board will be nominated at the next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.