

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

**MINUTES**

December 3, 2007

**Attendance:**

Allison Cassidy	Delaware Girls Initiative
Janet Leban	Delaware Center for Justice
Barbara Crowell	Family Court
Stephanie Guiswite	DYRS
Larry Haag	Child, Inc.
Ken Arnold	Ferris School
Jim Mosley	Director of Public Safety, Wilmington Police Dept
R. Wayne Ashbee	Resident, Woodland Heights
Marion E. Plotts	Resident, Woodland Park
Leslie Newman	Executive Director, Children & Families First
Perry Phelps	Director, Division of YRS
Rick Shaw	Deputy Director, Division of YRS
Dory Zatuchni	Executive Director, Jewish Family Services

**Absent:**

Benton Garrison	Ass't Superintendent, NCCDC
Annette Miller	Superintendent, Ferris
Steven Wesley	Superintendent, NCCDC
Aimee McFarlan	Rockford Center
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
Lisa DiStefano	Chief, Community Services

## 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.

## ACA Audit

- ACA has finished their accreditation audit of Ferris and NCCDC
  - Ferris leads 39 states in excellence
  - They both will present the results of their audit in January, at the ACA convention in Texas

## Programming

- We have received funding for the Challenge Program
- We are contracting with C-Tech for work opportunities for youth leaving our facilities
  - Pertaining to re-entry, Future Net, by JFS, will be in place by February
    - This is technological training
- The new jobs program coordinator, in the Division of Management Support Services will help us with linkages

## DGI

Janet Leban provided an update on DGI. She noted she and Alison are focusing on 2 issues; one runaway and 1 reentry.

- They thought of doing a full time position, ½ time at Grace and ½ time at Snowden
- 2 differences in way of operations, start with kids while still in the detention center (a month before they enter the program)
- Will have case manager work with toughest juveniles

Director Phelps noted we have 3 or 4 hand skill programs, that are working with the family of youth.

A conversation ensued regarding runaway youth

- DGI has a runaway committee
- Alison Cassidy noted there is a program in California, Children of the Night' who came in to give program description
- It is important to develop a program where youth are able to live long term who are not able to go home
  - DFS has complications because of custody
  - Judge Crowell said it is important to broaden the concept of family. Sometimes, it is necessary to use next door neighbors, friends or

members of an extended family to be involved in a youth's rehabilitation.

### **Board Chairman**

- The Chairman should be non-divisional
- There are 6 meetings per year, it would be best if 3 people took 2 meetings
- Janet Leban will take January and March
- Alison Cassidy will take May and July
- Leslie Newman will take September and December

### **CAP Grant**

The grant was received to add 3 staff to the CAP unit (CAP is an acronym for Comprehensive Aftercare Program)

### **Youth Programming**

Judge Crowell noted that staff, Deputy's, and Public Defenders are not familiar with the reason a youth is committed to a particular program

- There should be a cheat sheet for people to determine the best program for a youth
- Sex offender programs need to be overhauled
  - There is a difference between a 13 year old sex offender and a 50 year old sex offender
    - DYRS should work with CMH to establish appropriate sex offender programs
  - Registration requirements make it impossible for a youth to go back into the community

### **Girls Sub Committee**

Alison Cassidy reported on a company that builds modular homes and sells them at reduced prices. This concept could be adapted at Grace for the girls to build dog houses, doll houses, etc. and sell them. Vo Tech schools currently do this with sheds

Other ideas are:

- get someone local to do journaling at NCCDC
- paint a mural on the second floor at Grace
  - there may be an issue with the paints being used
- Janet Leban will talk with Marietta Dantonio who has previously worked with kids at NCCDC and Ferris
- Get kids involved with community
  - Alison Cassidy will contact Sheila Boyer of Edgemoor

- Cheerleading
- Basketball
  - Look for sports competitions with schools for the girls, like the boys do
- During a meeting last week, the girls at Grace expressed a need for more exercise
  - They need a treadmill, exercise equipment
  - Dori noted that a lot of places get rid of used exercise equipment

It was agreed the next meeting will be held again at 5:30, 1/7/08 in conference room 199

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.