

Community Advisory Board
June 1, 2009

Attendees

Carlyse Giddins	Mitchell Rock
Rick Shaw	Leslie Newman
Aimee McFarlan	Terry Senio
Kim Pepper	James Mosley
Christopher McIntyre	Yolanda Constant
Keith Zirkle	Dana Sawyer
Barbara Riley	Kim Slocomb
Alison McGonigal	Janet Leban
Susan Burns	Judi Coffield
Kate Carlson	Renee Iacovelli
Debbie Scott	Donna Anderson
Aileen Fink	Angela Stancil

The meeting began at 2:38 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Minutes approved from the April 7, 2009 meeting were approved.

National Child Traumatic Stress Network Grant

Aileen Fink – received a letter of support from the Advisory Board. The Division of Child Mental Health (DCMH) currently has a trauma grant. Through this grant, a request for additional proposals was issued. CMH sent a proposal for youth on probation. Three key things to implement are:

1. Standardized mental health screening for youth entering probation statewide. Aileen said right now they are currently doing screenings for girls.
2. Motivational Interviewing – this approach helps engage participants in establishing their own goals. Through this grant, a group of probation officers will be trained in motivational interviewing as a way to engage youth in their treatment. If this works, all probation officers will be trained by the end of the grant.
3. SPARCS (Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress) is a group based intervention. SPARCS is used around the country. There are two models; we want to compare the 16 session model to the 5 session model. If the shorter session model is effective, the grant team feels this will be more appealing to youth.

The goal of this grant proposal is to keep new probationers from entering secure care through effective and appropriate treatment. The grant start date, if awarded, is October 1, 2009.

Aileen will send this information to Kim to send out with the minutes. If they get the grant, Aileen said she will keep this group updated.

Carlyse DYRS is very excited to be working with CMH. Lisa DiStefano worked very closely with Aileen and Harvey on getting the proposal together. This training will be very beneficial to our staff. They expect to get a few extra slots for training and would like to include some secure care staff. They wouldn't be a part of the grant but could participate in the training. Aileen hopes to hear something by September.

School Dropout

Judi Coffield, Ed.D, Department of Education, provided a wealth of information about the school dropout crisis. Judi stated that drop-out is a national crisis, not a problem only in Delaware. The drop-out rates varies depending on how it is calculated. Delaware is part of a National Governor's Association (NGA) Phase 1 grant. She said over 40 states are participating. As a participant in this grant, we have agreed to use the NGA formula which is based on a 4-year graduation rate. DOE has the definition for this rate on their website, along with the current graduation rates. DOE publishes all of the drop-out rates and their formulas on the website. In addition, DOE publishes an annual Drop-Out Report, which is also on the website.

Judi participates on the P20 Council committee entitled Delaware's Promise. This group is targeting school drop-out. They adopted action steps from the America's Promise action plan, these steps include:

1. Conducting an inventory and evaluation of current Delaware efforts and best practices
2. Developing a drop-out risk assessment tool for use by schools
3. Enhancing the communication and collaboration effort to send common messages about school drop-out and to create efficiencies by reducing duplication of services.

Judi will send Kim the links to the information she has reported on today. It is all on the DOE website. Kim will send the information out with the minutes.

Mentoring Subcommittee

Goal of the subcommittee was to create a mentoring resource manual. Dana gave a lot of valuable information about grants. Gang mentoring is a big issue. Recovery Act has four grants available right now and there are some community

agencies that have applied. We want to start small. Leslie said a lot of agencies say that they do mentoring. She said mentoring needs to be defined. We also need to know how each organization screens, trains and defines their program. Even the follow through once the match is made needs to be known. Chris said the group also discussed evaluating the programs as well for their professionalism.

Carlyse said once we determine what organizations are providing services we need to determine how we can incorporate that with our current case planning now. How can this help parents since our services for parents are not mandated? With the stimulus money, we would be a referral source for these services. How can they support our youth?

Division Update

Carlyse said we are maintaining ongoing progress. She said from a macro standpoint the financial environment is still tight and will remain into the next fiscal year. JFC is still deliberating about the budget. She doesn't think we will know until June 30th. Our Department will be contributing less than our current budget. One of our focuses is reduction of staffing compliment in the Department. We are looking at positions that are vacant. There are a lot of negotiations going forth. We have been allowed to hire one position for community services since last year. This is our challenge right now. We have three retirements scheduled for June 30 which will put us at 21 vacancies. Twelve vacancies are FTE positions and the others are casual seasonals. In our Division, casual seasonals are essential to our work. We are able to hire for secure care now. Community services issue is meeting the contacts ongoing and initial.

JJC subcommittee is looking at community programs. Carlyse sees these times as an opportunity to assess how we can do things differently. We need to look at how we can provide community services in the future. Judi talked about programs that are evidence-based programs. Across the country we will find many different ways services are provided to juveniles. We have great support at the table through community agencies and other divisions. We have been working on our sister divisions to reach common goals. We've been looking at instate services and are looking for grants that would support us to build instate treatment capacity. Carlyse is most interested in instate programming for youth with inappropriate sexual behaviors (ISB) and residential substance abuse. Last year, we spent over \$5 million for out of state placements for ISB youth. This will be a Department priority because it affects all service divisions.

Our detention numbers have been relatively low for the past few months. NCCDC has been at 64 which is the facility capacity. Stevenson House has had about 45. We are very excited about this. If we ever get to the point that not as many youth enter our deep end services, we can use the funds at the front end

instead of the back end. Summer is coming and hopefully the youth are engaged in a lot of activities to keep them off the street. We are using our diversion programs through the court to keep the youth out of our system. Out of 64 youth, about 1/3 are still our superior court population. These youth stay longer so we really aren't doing that bad right now.

We know we aren't going to pull out of this situation in the near future but we have to manage as best we can. Leslie asked if JFC goes through the budget line by line. Carlyse said they give a total not line by line. How long does it take the Department to sort everything through? Carlyse said it takes about a week. Each division has a spending plan and a tentative allocation. We make alterations as we get information. We asked providers to hold the line on the budget. Those who have agreed we are moving some of those through. Some are asking for increases and we have to do an honest assessment.

Supreme Court in Delaware sent out an expungement and removal from the sex offender registry. Juvenile Justice Accountability is working on expungement for youth. This Supreme Court ruling permits expungement if three years has lapsed and they haven't had re-adjudication. If crime has been expunged, do they remain on the registry? The Supreme Court said no. There is no conflict with the statute Carlyse will send this to Kim electronically to distribute with the minutes. In this state, there have been no adjudications for sexting (texting sexual pictures) or placements on the registry.

Once expunged, they will receive notification from the court that their records are expunged. Carlyse would also like to see that there is automatic expungement for some misdemeanor charges. Right now the youth have to apply in Family Court but some youth don't know to do that.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Next meeting is August 4th at 2:30 p.m.

Mission: To support public safety and positive change of children, families, and communities through guidance, education, and empowerment.

