

**DYRS Community Advisory Board Meeting
April 25, 2011**

MINUTES

In Attendance: Dory Zatuchni, Janet Leban, Joni Silverstein, Barb Riley, Aileen Fink, Rick Shaw, Alison McGonigal, Carlyse Giddins, Julia Pearce, Terry Senio, Chantal Vanderhost, Lisa DiStefano, Mitchell Rock, Annette Miller, Peggy Maiorano

The meeting began with introductions at 9:05am.

The Minutes from the December 6, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

National Trends in Juvenile justice

Alison McGonigal presented information on trends in Juvenile Justice and how the national perspective ties into the work we are doing here in Delaware. In addition, she provided information on our path forward and how our strategies coincide with best practices and recent research.

FY 12 Budget

Rick Shaw thanked Joni for her attendance and support at JFC. There were no new initiatives through the budget process but a lot is going on. We will use the funding we do have. We had a \$625 reduction in our base budget from last year but the budget process is ongoing. Rick said he doesn't anticipate any changes.

New Non – Secure Detention Contracts

Lisa discussed the new non-secure residential detention facility Peoples Place opened earlier this month. Two cottages house both boys and girls. Camelot will continue programming through the end of June for just boys. On July 1, Connections will open their facility – also mixed gender. We are trying to make facilities smaller and cottage-like in the hope kids will feel more as if they are in a home setting rather than a detention facility. These are kids who could be in detention but a judge felt they would manage better in the community with services. YRS staff are providing pre-trial supervision. We're trying to improve services to kids in the community so they don't have to be disrupted in school.

Division Update

Carlyse said we have been very successful in looking at our entire budget and how we can be more effective utilizing resources we have. \$1.5 mil was directed to the Community Services restructure from existing funds. Services are more enhanced. We have a new contract with Assessments.com which became effective in April. This web-based tool will allow assessments of strengths, needs and risk for post adjudicated youth using data to match kids with appropriate resources. Kids with low-level offenses

and needs will be served in the community by two new providers coming on board in June and, for those who need it, YRS probation staff will be assigned accordingly. We need to spend more time with youth with serious offenses and greater needs. As we get one service in place, we will look at policy and procedures for probation officers and encourage more contact with kids than we have now. We want probation officers to have more manageable caseloads and to have more engagement with families and kids before discharge. Our goal is more effective transitions and reduced recidivism.

When we move forward with Civil Citation, the same tool we've selected could be utilized – we'll just have to buy more capacity.

We have a new program manager at Snowden Cottage – Patrick Demmerling. He has over 25 years in the field and has worked as everything from a youth care worker to assistant program director at a juvenile detention center.

We will be making some structural changes in our cottages. The kids in juvenile detention deserve the utmost respect and support.

We are looking to fill the assistant superintendent position at Ferris. We hope to have an announcement this week.

The Gun Violence partnership with the Delaware Center for Justice is going very well.

We are doing great things working together as partners for our kids and DPBH is doing great work to support our youth in the facilities.

Population reductions continue. The right kids are here and, as a result, the Ferris population is down. The fewer kids we have, the more individualized attention and supports we can provide them.

Georgetown University released an initiative earlier this month for program evaluation and support. They will partner with three states and we are well poised to be one of them. We submitted a letter of interest and are anxious to find out this week if we will be invited to submit an application. If we're selected, the last week in July we'll send a team of eight to Georgetown University for one week to learn some of the principles and strategies around a research based program. Chief Judge Kuhn signed on to be one of the team members if we're selected.

We're excited about the overall work being done in DYRS. We're building the foundation of our agency. Regarding leadership and staff development, we have started to do a better job developing our staff for increased responsibilities and coaching them to obtain knowledge and skill to enable us to promote from within. We're working hard!

Dory asked Carlyse to comment further on funding of the Community Services restructure. Carlyse said with fewer kids coming into the system, we are working with our existing budget to support more of them in-state. Therefore, we haven't spent as much on out-of-state placements. We want to spend the money in-state although we cannot meet the needs of *all* kids in juvenile justice system in Delaware. We are spending our money more wisely. We have strengthened our capacity to treat youth with inappropriate sexual behaviors. DPBH has worked to build capacity of service providers here in state so there are more treatment options for those youth. We have partnered with the courts; judicial officers have attended training and understand better that some of those kids don't need long-term residential placement. These kids were previously sent out of state long-term. We understand now that having longer length of stays for youth with inappropriate sexual behaviors did not bring a better outcome. A dedicated team trained to understand the needs of that population have helped us do a better job for those kids.

Janet stated that Delaware Center for Justice is working with prevention and a big part is the range of people who have been brought to every session with perspectives that are impacting. The first run was greatly promising and they can only build on that. They, too, are making an effort to use resources in Delaware.

Lisa explained that a large panel convened to review the 11 RFPs for lower level services and it was a lengthy process. They are negotiating with Psychotherapeutic Children's Services for Kent and Sussex and with Wraparound MD who will come into Delaware as Discover Youth. Lisa said she hopes to have them ready to go by early June. There were four RFPs and a similar review process for the alternatives to non-secure residential placement. Carlyse said we will implement those programs and hopefully have the evaluation components with Georgetown and be able to tell the story of the work we are doing in Delaware.

Comments from the Chair

Joni shared that on May 3 officials from Miami and Brevard County are coming to town and will be meeting here in this room (#199 at Faulkland Road) from noon to 2pm on Civil Citation. Anyone interested is invited to attend. We're hoping to expose more people by bringing these folks here.

Joni wondered how we can get more providers and city, county, and community representatives to this meeting? Suggestions?? Rick said the list is long of those who have attended in the past or who expressed an interest in attending. Could we reach out to them for a response or eliminate those who are no longer interested. It was suggested that everyone pick two people from various areas and invite them to attend the June meeting.

Annette shared that Ferris recently went through a drug and alcohol licensure process and they have passed for another year. They've submitted a grant application to

strengthen their drug and alcohol program. They continue to work with Jewish Family Services. They've had one Delta graduation – the kids are out of school this week and there are three sessions being held each day.

Jewish Family Services is having a Media Matters fund raising event on September 14 – *Mark your Calendars* . On May 3 the kids will interview Governor Markell. Some of these kids are graduates of Ferris. The video of that interview will be shown at the September 14 event at the Queen Theatre. Also shown will be other videos already made from Media Matters - some from Ferris and others from community high schools.

Barb Riley shared information about a Target Youth Employment project. There is a \$1.5 mil grant for three years to have disabilities research coordinators and employment specialists to work with them. The project is to help with employment for both in and out-of school youth ages 14-24. She is excited to have another program to help connect youth with resources and will ask the two disability resource coordinators to attend the next meeting.

Barb also stated that the summer youth program budget has been drastically cut from \$1.5 mil last year to \$450,000. Half of that money will most likely go to Wilmington. That will not come close to serving 800 children.

Terry Senio shared that Ashley Biden has been working to start employment initiatives. Two Cleve White youth are going into the community and job shadowing. This provides tremendous experiential opportunities. Kids coming back are able to discuss what they're learning. It's been very successful and we hope to replicate it.

The next meeting will take place on:

Monday, June 13
DSCYF Administration Building, Room 199
9:00 am