

**DYRS Community Advisory Board Meeting
March 12, 2012**

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Kim Pepper, DYRS, Director's Office
Alison McGonigal, DYRS, Residential Cottages
Krystyn Niski, Wraparound Delaware
Janet Leban, Delaware Center for Justice
Aileen Fink, PBHS
Frank Farrera, DYRS, Ferris School
Tom Spell, DYRS, Ferris School
Barbara Riley, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Julia Pearce, Child Placement Review Board
Lisa DiStefano, DYRS, Community Services
Joni Silverstein, Delaware Girls Initiative
Rick Shaw, DYRS, Director's Office
Keith Zirkle, Division of Family Services
Barbara Crowell, Family Court Judge
Fern Joseph, Department of Labor
Dory Zatuchni, Jewish Family Services
Mitch Rock, DYRS, NCCDC
Reinaldo Perez, Volunteer
Terry Senio, DMSS
Rev. Wendell Hall, Solid Rock Baptist Church
Martha Boston, PBHS
Meedra Surratte, Parent Information Center
Braunte Mowbray, Department of Labor
Abby Mwaniki, Department of Labor
Chantel Vanderhost, Challenge Program
Martha Gregor, PBHS
Julius Muller, Children and Families First
Tim Dean, DYRS, Community Services
Renee Rash, DYRS, Community Services

The meeting began at 9:08 a.m.

The Minutes from the December 12, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Adjunct Services

Tim Dean and Renee Rash from the Adjunct Services Unit gave a presentation about the services provided by this unit. The responsibilities of this unit were changed as a part of

the Restructuring of Community Services. The unit used to be the Serious Juvenile Offender unit. As part of the changes, this unit is no longer responsible for case management. They are responsible for curfew checks, apprehensions, and GPS hook-ups and removals.

Since summer 2010, they have received 400 AWOL referrals. There are only 22 open as of today. They reported that they use Facebook pages as a tool to determine gang affiliations and members. It is astonishing how many youth post gang signs and weapons on Facebook. They have also been able to use Facebook to track down youth who are reported AWOL.

Tim and Renee also interact with the Probation Officers in reference to youth currently active. If they see them out during routine business, they will send the worker an email just alerting them that the youth was seen. It doesn't always mean the youth was doing anything wrong. They will also contact the case managers from other Division's regarding youth who are active.

Joni asked what the percentage difference was between males and females for the AWOLS. Renee said typically it is a 50/50 split. However, currently, the female number is low – less than 10. Joni also asked if they see patterns with these youth. Renee said that if a youth goes AWOL more than two times, it's likely that this youth will continue to go AWOL regardless of where they are placed.

Tim distributed his business cards to those interested in his gang presentation.

Suicide Prevention Grant

Aileen Fink said last summer, Delaware was awarded a Suicide Prevention grant. She said they had the grant previously and reapplied. They were awarded for the second time. The Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act was signed into law in 2004 in memory of Garrett , son of Senator Gordon Smith from Oregon, who committed suicide.

Aileen said the focus is now on the middle school population. She said this population of school children has fewer resources compared with elementary schools and high schools. However, this population is the most vulnerable. The 2011 DE Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that about 22% of the middle school population had serious thoughts about suicide. Through the grant objectives, we hope to increase crisis response capacity of Delaware's child behavioral healthcare system and increase the number of referrals from Delaware schools for youth at risk for suicide.

A key piece to the grant is training. They plan to train as many as possible on Lifelines, evidence-based suicide prevention training. They will train school leaders, parents school staff and students on warning signs of suicide and how to get help. The goal is to train all the middle schools in Delaware. In the fall, they will train roughly 700 in the Smyrna School District.

Trauma Group Component Therapy for Adolescents

Aileen reported that they applied for trauma focused funding and were approved for next year. Annette Miller, Patrick McGuffin, Harvey Doppelt, Jerome Jackson, and Aileen Fink represented Delaware for the first training in Durham, North Carolina on Trauma, Grief, Component Therapy for Adolescents (TGCTA).

Staff will be trained in four modules: #1 - trauma and delinquency; #2 - impact of traumatic stress and development; #3 - coping strategies; #4 - trauma and organizational stress and self care for staff. Annette is hoping to start training Ferris staff on module # 1 by April. The training is about providing staff with tools to more effectively interact with youth who have been exposed to trauma. Modules come with power point presentation and aids.

Other required conferences will take place mid-May in Cincinnati and September in Atlanta.

Aileen said this was initially developed for youth in gangs. It was adapted for residential settings. She is not sure if this can be trained to community partners. She said we will have to collect the data and measure its effectiveness. If proven to work, we will plan on how to expand it. There is a lot of collaboration between DPBHS and DYRS in reference to training.

Joni said there is a conference this fall on Trauma in Care. She said Katherine Much is looking for speakers. Aileen might be able to help her.

Residential Cottages Update

New Program Managers

Alison announced that Tanya Banks and Raheem Perkins have been promoted to the new Program Managers of Grace and Snowden Cottages. Tanya has been a supervisor at Grace Cottage for seven years and Raheem was a supervisor with Community Services for 10 years. We are very excited to have them. Alison will invite them to our next meeting. She said they can be contacted directly, if needed.

Cottage Renovations

Alison reported that the Cottage Renovations continue. They should be completed with Snowden Cottage today. We hope that all renovations will be completed by May. We plan to conduct tours once the project is complete. Alison said there are many things needed that will help us with our programs. She will send a list to Kim Pepper to distribute with the minutes.

Cottage Medication

Effective March 5, we began providing medication to all Cottage youth at Grace Cottage. There was an issue with medication dispensing in the past. Evening medication will be

given at the appropriate times because we expanded the hour with Christiana Care. This extension also includes the weekends. This effort will allow Cottage youth to participate in evening programming.

Multisystem Youth

Alison McGonigal and Lisa DiStefano attended a symposium at Georgetown University regarding multisystem youth on Thursday, March 1. Along with their colleague, Shirley Roberts from DFS, they heard from the authors of a paper addressing the needs of the population of crossover youth and how it is so important to strengthen the connection between the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare systems. Fortunately, in Delaware, we are already miles ahead of other states/jurisdictions, in that our state has an umbrella agency to address these systems along with mental health/substance abuse. They also learned that, although we have a wonderful system to work together for better outcomes for youth, we have areas in which we need to work more collaboratively. Not only has the use of the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) helped our Division to provide more appropriate services to keep youth from going further in the Juvenile Justice system, it was clear that youth entering through the Child Welfare door of our department could be better helped with the use of the Differential Response tool and referrals to services earlier to keep them from going deeper into the Division of Family Services. Alison, Lisa, and Shirley's takeaway from the symposium was that we need to work better together to improve outcomes for multi-system youth. They will continue to communicate and plan for future collaborations.

Re-Entry Conference

On Friday, February 24th, Carlyse and Alison attended the Re-Entry Conference at the Chase Center on The Riverfront. The conference was sponsored by Wilmington's HOPE Commission, with the support of the Delaware Center for Justice, American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware, and Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA). The goals of the conference were to:

- Provide state, federal, and executive level judicial and criminal justice leaders with information of evidence-based reentry policies and practices.
- Encourage formal and informal interagency collaborations among community-based organizations, the judiciary, the state, and their federal counterparts.
- Build relationships and trust among system stakeholders.

Many of the research points discussed are aligned with the current restructuring initiatives we have undertaken in DYRS.

The emphasis from both speakers was on the importance of staff being armed with new and additional skills in their tool bag. Mr. Burrell emphasized the importance of defining success of desired organizational change. If 50% of staff begin using new skills; then 60% of clients will benefit. The more we can increase staff's positive response and participation in cognitive behavior treatment techniques, the greater the success of the

offender followed by lower recidivism. It was highlighted that the Probation Officer is the interventionist once the youth is on community supervision. The agency cannot purchase enough "treatment interventions" long-term, and probation officers have the best opportunity to build an assisting relationship with our youth.

During the luncheon wrap-up, we were pleased when Chief Judge Kuhn stood up and acknowledged the juvenile justice reforms and community services restructure within YRS. She applauded us for having implemented the recommendations and suggestions of the conference guest speakers.

Community-based Standards

The DYRS Residential Cottages will begin program performance measurement in April as part of the CJCA PbS Learning Institute's *Community-based Standards*, the only national standard process for residential treatment programs. The goal is to establish and sustain systems for continuous improvement and accountability. The standards address the areas of safety, mental health, programming, order, justice, health, reintegration, and security. Measurement will consist of monthly data snapshots across each of the standards, quarterly record reviews, and individual surveys for youth, families, and all staff who have direct contact with the youth in care.

Community-based programs such as our Cottages link youth, families, communities, and services for successful reintegration. The time in custody is an opportunity for us to improve youth's lives and skills. In addition to our division's goal to measure the effectiveness and consistency in CBT implementation, the community-based program standards are in line with our vision for program enhancement, expanded community opportunities, and partnerships. Collecting and analyzing data via the CbS model will provide us an understanding of program effectiveness beyond recidivism. It will provide a measure of what a youth leaves us with in terms of assessment, services, and supports. Essentially, did the youth leave the program stronger and more equipped for community success than when he or she entered our care? The standards will also provide parameters for policy development and implementation specific to the Level IV treatment environment.

As the State Coordinator for CbS, Alison McGonigal will lead the data collection and analysis processes and develop improvement strategies with the Cottage team that are in alignment with our vision. We hope to achieve facility and agency accountability and effectiveness by ensuring safe and healthy cultures within the facilities, supporting better outcomes for youth and their families, increasing communication with youth and their families, and developing personnel standards that enhance the professionalism, effectiveness, and job satisfaction of the program staff.

Juvenile Justice Conference

We will be hosting Delaware's first juvenile justice conference on June 12 and 13 at the Sheraton Dover Hotel. We will be focusing on Delaware's success. Other topics will be:

- School to Justice Pipeline
- DMC
- Trauma
- Juvenile Defense
- JP Court

A Save-the-Date will be sent out this week. Please give your email address to Alison if you are interested in a vendor table at the conference.

Comprehensive Strategy Group

The group came in February to conduct up stakeholder interviews. They will have a draft report ready in April. The final report will be shared at the Juvenile Justice Conference. They were impressed with our system in Delaware.

JFC

Rick thanked Dori, Janet and Julie for supporting us at JFC this year.

Other Business

Janet announced DCJ 92nd Anniversary is in June. They will be sending out invitations for the June 7th luncheon very soon. The keynote speaker is Bob Schwartz. Janet said he is a wonderful resource and it's worth hearing him speak.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Our meeting on June 11th is cancelled.

The next meeting will take place on:

September 10

DSCYF Administration Building, Room 199

9:00 a.m.