

**Community Advisory Board Meeting  
March 11, 2013**

**Minutes**

In Attendance: Barbara Crowell, Lisa DiStefano, Nancy Dietz, Lisa DiStefano, Aileen Fink, Alison McGonigal, Christopher McIntyre, Shane O'Hare, Tom Spell, Chantel Vanderhost, Dory Zatuchni, Keith Zirkle

The meeting began with introductions. Shane O'Hare was recently named to the Child Placement Review Board and this is his first time attending this meeting.

Nancy Dietz, new DYRS Director, introduced herself and provided some background information. She retired with 30+ years in law enforcement. She shared that she has long been a youth advocate and has been involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters, ARC of Delaware, PCAD, etc.

**Composition of the Board**

From looking around the room, Director Dietz stated that, perhaps, the first agenda item should be recruitment. After reviewing previous meeting minutes, she noticed that these meetings are mostly Kids Department personnel. She suggested some ideas for possible new members including the Chaplain of the Wilmington Police Department. Nancy will reach out to her. She asked for other suggestions. Mr. McIntyre would like to see one or two kids participate. Other suggestions included a member of the newly-formed Grace Cottage Youth Advisory Council, caregivers, community education representatives from school districts, and community service centers such as the LACC, PAL, etc. Nancy asked for contact information so she can send out an invitation. She will include the mission statement in the mailing. Nancy suggested doing an overview of the Division at the next meeting including a breakdown of the facilities and Community Services. Stevenson House has their own advisory board downstate but if we recruit more downstate people, we can use video conferencing at the Riverwalk.

**Grant Update**

Federal grant – Delaware was one of three states/jurisdictions to receive the JJRRI Grant. It's a three year project. Through our assessment with the Comprehensive Strategy Group, we were able to identify gaps in measuring our performance and data of services we are implementing. This grant will allow us to identify and measure the gaps. There are three partners, Georgetown University, Peabody Research Institute at Vanderbilt, and the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute. We can't prove our work through data and this project should help us do that. The project will involve implementation of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) tool to evaluate program effectiveness.

The Implementation phase will begin April 1. We are hiring new position to manage and coordinate the project and a new support person, as well. This will help us to prove we are doing great things. Lisa DiStefano is the project manager. She will give an update at our next meeting.

**Trauma Informed Care**

Dr. Fink talked about her new position in DMSS. Before Secretary Rapposelli left, she was interested in having a lead across the Divisions around trauma informed care. Dr. Fink was previously with PBHS and worked closely with YRS around trauma informed care. She is making contacts with people nationally who have tackled this. She anticipates forming a Departmental workgroup and is looking at community partners; they will develop a logic model identifying what we'd like to do in the Department with the

clients and families we serve. There are also plans to do a Department-wide survey and focus groups. They are also giving attention to vicarious trauma and the impact that the work we do has on some staff. We have not done very much around how we support staff and that is a key part of trauma informed care.

Tom Spell mentioned the retirement of Superintendent Annette Miller later this month. Alison announced that Tom Spell will be the Acting Superintendent.

Judge Crowell mentioned that there has been a big change in Peoples Place. The program has changed to a more therapeutic model and the youth, especially the girls, seem to be doing better.

Judge Crowell asked if anything is happening on legislation of juveniles engaging in inappropriate sexual behaviors. Alison said there is. All who commented agreed that these kids are suffering terrible consequences as a result of the registration and the fact that statute doesn't distinguish between juveniles and adults, tier, and lengths of time. 12- 13- 14- year old kids are being treated as adults. Recidivism is low for some juveniles to re-offend. The Judge explained that, if these kids don't keep up with reporting every three months, it's a felony and, therefore, they'll never come off the registry. Alison said there's a large workgroup pushing for this. Judge Crowell suggested that a public relations campaign would be a good idea. She has heard that some law enforcement agencies are supportive. The Court has no discretion.

Lisa mentioned an upcoming training in April (Preventing Sexual Violence through Assessment, Treatment and Safe Management) that the entire ISB Unit will attend as a group in Marlborough, Massachusetts. While they are there, they will take opportunity to visit their kids who are at Stetson which is nearby. Lisa referred back to the discussion on vicarious trauma and she stated that it truly does take a special person to work in the ISB unit. The things they deal with on a day to day basis are traumatic. Judge Crowell was asked by Keith Zirkle about the expungement volume regarding juvenile records. She thinks they are reducing. Ms. Vanderhost stated that Challenge interns will help prepare their students for expungement. As foster kids are turning 18, they are trying proactively to make sure kids seek expungement of their records. Mr. O'Hare said awareness is increasing. Information from the training that was done recently by Dawn Williams and Tania Culley was very good.

Ms. Vanderhost said that Challenge Program is accepting applications for YRS kids ages 17-21. Please fax in your applications.

Nancy thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned at 9:50am.