

**Community Advisory Board Meeting
June 9, 2014**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Tom Spell, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, Ferris School
Brahmin Jackson, Brandywine Counseling
Aileen Fink, Division of Management Support Services
Patti Mattson, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, Community Services
Rod Sutton, Division of Management Support Services, Ferris School
Barbara Crowell, Family Court
Nancy Dietz, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Alison McGonigal, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Raheem Perkins, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Chantel Vanderhost, Challenge Program
Mitchell Rock, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, NCCDC
Thomas Davis, Division of Management Support Services
Kathy Covelli-Reyes, Christina School District
Kim Pepper, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Joanna Champney, Delaware Center for Justice
Isaac Dunn, Delaware Center for Justice
Tim Brandau, Child, Inc.
Shane O'Hare, Child Placement Review Board
Rev. Wendell E. Hall, Solid Rock Baptist Church
Susan Edgar, Delaware Council on Gambling Problems
Deborah Ann McNesby, Truancy Court
Keith Zirkle, Division of Family Services
Sophie Namugenyi, Jewish Family Services
Denise Partridge, Child Placement Review Board

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 9:08 a.m. with introductions. Kathy Covelli-Reyes agreed to Chair the Board until September 2015.

Education Update

Mr. Sutton reported the Ferris DCAS results. He was very excited to see the positive increase and plans to sustain this. He said the youth have been willing to buy into the program. They have taken ownership for their data and often request to see their data. The youth are focused. Mr. Sutton thanked the Board for their support. Special thanks to Director Dietz for making education the focus.

Isaac Dunn from the Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ) presented on the SWAGG program. SWAGG (Student Warriors Against Guns and Gangs) is in partnership with DYRS and funded through CJC. The goal of the program is to reduce recidivism and provide youth gun violence, coping skills, and gang violence. The Phoenix curriculum is used for the first 80 hours of the program, which has been incorporated in the education schedule at Ferris School. Joanna Champney, DCJ, said they will share the curriculum. The second portion of the program is community-based. DCJ is in the process of hiring a

case manager to work with the youth once they are in the community. The first group began on April 28, 2014 with eight participants. They are set to graduate on June 30.

Truancy

Judge Deborah McNesby of Truancy Court provided an overview. She has been in New Castle County for five years. The Truancy Court goal is to bring the family and child together to determine services and get the child back in school. She said getting mental health appointments was challenging so she calls directly from the bench now. She said the youth need short-term and long-term goals. She strives to get the youth thinking and wanting their diploma. The youth will not survive without it. If they youth do not adhere to their agreement, they will be held in contempt. The parents are also held accountable for not sending their child to school.

Kathy Covelli-Reyes said that it would be helpful to have DFS better collaborate with Truancy Court. Judge McNesby said it has been a very difficult situation dealing with DFS. Judge Crowell said it is an issue in Family Court as well. Ms. Covelli-Reyes said PBHS and DYRS provide updates on what services the youth is receiving but DFS often times does not come to court or provide updates. It would be beneficial to have that connection with DFS. Deputy Director McGonigal said there is an initiative to focus on education for youth in foster care. The Board said we should bring these initiatives together to develop common goals.

Secure Services

Last summer, DYRS and PBHS attended a certificate program focused on Youth in Custody. The emphasis is on leadership, treatment, assessment and family engagement. The team's Capstone Project aims to create an integrated case management approach for youth transitioning from a residential secure facility and involve three phases:

Phase I.

1. Core services and progress.
2. Ensure programs are effective, relevant, and aligned in Trauma Informed Care.
3. Continue assessment for youth while in residential placement

Phase II.

1. Develop comprehensive service array.
2. Review and revise policy and practice.
3. Develop training plan and performance measures.

Phase III.

1. Implementation and monitoring

Our plan is to increase instate capacity for residential placement. We will discuss our plan to change the Mowlds Program and Ferris transition at our September meeting.

Division Update

Patti Mattson reported that the Evening Reporting Center is operating five days per week. Youth from NCC that are in out-of-state placements will be attending the Evening Reporting Center when they return as a reintegration for 5-10 days.

Tom Spell said Ferris is working on Family Engagement. The PO and PBHS are staying involved with the youth. He said they've been more successful with the families. Participation is about 60%.

Mitch Rock said NCCDC is not treatment but they do provide services to youth and families. They have two family nights per month, Trauma Informed Care, Art Program and Thinking for Change training. He said secure care is doing more than it ever has with families and youth.

John Stevenson said they have an Advisory Board and are working on expanding their group to be similar to our Board in NCC. If anyone is interested in participating please send your contact information to Deputy Director McGonigal.

Raheem Perkins announced the new Assistant Superintendent, Katie Kenney. He said the Residential Cottages have been focusing on engaging families, keeping youth active and pulling all services together.

Tours of the new Multi-Purpose Building were conducted immediately following the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting September 8, 2014 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Administration Building – Room 199

1825 Faulkland Road

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