

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
September 12, 2016

Minutes

In Attendance:

Nancy Dietz, Director, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Kathy Covelli-Reyes, Christina School District, Chair
Kysha Slade, Assessment & Monitoring Supervisor, DYRS
The Honorable Barbara Crowell, Family Court
Chantel Vanderhost, Challenge Program
Frank Kennedy, Newark Athletic Club
Elisheba Respes, Parent Information Center
Deb Thompson, Education Supervisor, DSCYF
Barbara Riley, Education Unit, DSCYF
Donna Pugh, Civil Citation Coordinator, DYRS
Matia Bryan, Delaware Council on Gambling Problems
Tim Brandau, Executive Director, Child Inc.
Peggy Maiorano, DYRS Director's Office

Welcome

Meeting began with general opening remarks at 9:18am.

Residential Cottages Youth – Raheem Perkins

Two young men from the Residential Cottages attended the meeting to answer questions about their personal experiences since their placement – they explained the process of their transition to the program. Deb Thompson explained her part in the process of getting kids back to their schools in the community. The kids were asked what could help them to be successful and supported when they leave us. Positive activities was what one young man suggested. An important suggestion was that someone help parents advocate for their children, especially with school attendance; Ms. Thompson elaborated on thoughts she has toward addressing the support parents and kids need to make sure kids are attending school while addressing the whole child, not just the education piece. Judge Crowell said we can and should show them that they can be successful in learning. Kids need a goal. Ms. Thompson added that kids need to learn to be problem solvers and critical thinkers and our teachers will be asked to address this. Mr. Perkins said Ms. Riley does a wonderful job working with the kids. Vicarious trauma is another issue being addressed in the Education Unit.

Parent Information Center Overview – Elisheba Respes, Youth Coordinator

The PIC Program is to help parents become effective advocates for their children by teaching them skills. They offer one-on-one consultation, workshops, and webinars statewide. Barbara

Riley said she has seen how helpful PIC has been in having IP meetings for special ed students, meetings to get youth back into school, etc. Students with disabilities is one focus of PIC. She often sees resistance from the school districts and schools do not often recommend or make referrals to PIC. Parents have to reach out to PIC and usually hear about the program by word-of-mouth or through another agency. PIC can always be contacted at picofdel.org

Human Trafficking Workgroup Update – Kysha Slade

The mission of the Juvenile Human Trafficking Committee is to improve multi-agency policy and to work on training and awareness. Family Court Commissioner Loretta Young chairs the Committee and various agencies participate – JP Court, Superior Court, Family Court, FBI, DFS, YRS, PBH, DMSS, CAC, OCA, PD, and DOJ. There have been various guests to include community partners, Newark, New Castle County, and Delaware State Police have attended but they have no official members on the committee at this time. Ms. Slade learned, by being part of the Committee, that this is so involved in the work we do. People seem to believe this is not an issue here and Ms. Slade said it was shocking to find out that it is. It's a lucrative business for those involved and DE is a prime location, being along the I-95 corridor. The Committee is working on updated policies and procedures. DFS has developed a policy on recovering and interviewing these victims. At YRS, we have to work on identifying potential victims. We have a great opportunity when conducting PACT interviews to identify victims or potential victims of trafficking. Superintendent Perkins said he thinks back and, now that he's aware, can think of incidents which should have been red flags. CHILD, Inc. believes they have seen kids come in to Terry Center who were involved in human trafficking. Another issue is with illegal immigrants not reporting for fear of deportation. The Committee is looking into asylum for these victims. It was suggested that new employee training for all Divisions should include this. Kysha will follow-up with Professional Development. CAC is training investigators.

SWAGG Update

Report out on this will be moved to the December agenda.

Division Update – Nancy Dietz

Tanya Banks is the new Superintendent at Ferris School taking over for Tom Spell who left in June and is now Police Chief in Lewes. We have posted for assistant superintendent.

New Probation Chief is Thomas Carey who will attend our December meeting to introduce himself and address the group.

In December we will do a presentation on our **Blueprint for Success** initiative – *Where we've been; Where we are; Where we want to be in the future*. YRS recently did an overview for the judges and commissioners.

Civil Citation – Donna Pugh

Director Dietz asked Donna Pugh, CC Coordinator, to say a few words about Civil Citation. Saturday was the one year anniversary of the launch of this program and Ms. Pugh said it's going well. On September 6, the Governor signed House Bill 405 which codified Civil Citation

into law. There have been over 209 referrals with an 89% success rate. Pretty much equal numbers statewide. Too early for a recidivism rate. Kids come to us through referrals by law enforcement ... at the officers' discretion. A determination is made on a case-by-case basis. Six low level misdemeanor charges qualify a youth for CC: Disorderly Conduct, Loitering, Shoplifting, Underage Possession or Consumption of Alcohol, Possession of Marijuana under one ounce, and Criminal Trespass 3rd. If requirements are not met, police are contacted for follow up. This is voluntary and the family makes the choice after speaking to police about the requirements. Police are on board with the program. The Data Unit is looking at who these kids are, where they are coming from, and what outcomes we are seeing.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48.

Next meeting: December 12, 2016
 9 – 11am
 Multi-Purpose Facility
 1825 Faulkland Road
 Wilmington, DE 19805