

## MINUTES

### COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING September 21, 2009

The Community Advisory Board convened on Monday, March 16, 2009, at the Stevenson House Detention Center. The following were in attendance:

Members: Jeff Peck, Delaware Technical and Community College  
Maria Edgerton, Milford Boys and Girls Club  
George Pippin, Community Member

DYRS Staff: John Stevenson, Superintendent

Guest: Dana Parker, Intern

**Resource Fair:** Mr. Stevenson thanked the Board for their time and effort in making the Resource Fair such a success. Parent participation was high and we would like to host another fair next year. We also need to think of how we can get our youth's fathers more involved.

**Kudo:** Stevenson House has been acknowledged by residents, parents, and the Courts for its outstanding program and staff. Recently an 11-year-old boy who resides in New Castle County was detained at Stevenson House. A Family Court Judge requested that this young man remain at Stevenson House because she had heard about staff's good work from other Judges and residents who had appeared in her court. In addition, a young lady who was involved with another program appeared in court with her mother. The mother requested that her daughter be placed at Stevenson House if she was going to be detained since she had done so well there in the past. The daughter agreed and also stated that she wanted to return to Stevenson House if detained. The Judge subsequently ordered the young lady to Stevenson House where she continued to do well. Lastly, a Stevenson House resident appeared in court for sentencing and, based upon her probation officer's recommendation, was ordered to another program to serve here sentence. After court, the young lady filed a grievance through Stevenson House Administration asking that she be able to serve her sentence at Stevenson House. She stated that staff make her follow the rules, provide her with structure, and make her feel safe. Ultimately, the young lady had to follow the Judge's order and was moved to the program suggested by her probation officer. These are just three examples of praise that Stevenson House staff has received for the excellent work they do with the youth in our care.

**CBT:** We are pleased with the progression of CBT and the impact it is having on our population. We have made a lot of progress with CBT and it is YRS Director Giddins expectation that CBT become the behavior modification program for the entire Division. Mr. Stevenson will conduct a staff training surrounding the use of reinforcement in the near future and the Boys and Girls Club staff are invited to attend.

**Partnership with Delaware Technical and Community College:** Stevenson House is hoping to partner with Del Tech to expand our intern program. Currently, there is one intern, majoring in human services.

**On-Site Dental Services:** Negotiations are underway to secure an on-site dentist. A local dentist has expressed interest in providing dental services for our residents. His preference is to work on the weekend; he is willing to utilize Del Tech interns as dental assistants and already has security experience with DOC. Mr. Peck will get in touch with the Dental Hygienist Advisor at Del Tech.

**Upcoming Facility Self-Inspection:** A team has been established to conduct annual self inspections of our DYRS facilities. The purpose of the inspection is to ensure the safe and humane conditions of confinement in juvenile facilities and to make recommendations for positive change where needed. Stevenson House will be inspected in the near future.

**Outside Resources:** Stevenson House has been approached by Milford School District to solicit volunteer mentors for high school students. We will also be contacting Delaware State University and Wesley College regarding their athletes as mentors. We would also like to see the Foster Grandparent Program involved as mentors for our youth.

**Scholarship:** Mr. Pippin is graciously funding a scholarship for the Stevenson House Employee of the Year. The Milford Boys and Girls Club will also donate a free pool membership for the Stevenson House Employee of the Year.

The next Community Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 21, 2009.