

**KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

March 27, 2019

In Attendance: Sean Harris, Assistant Superintendent, SHDC
Dawn Garnett, AS III, SHDC
Barbara Stewart, Community Advisory Board Member
Steve Gonzer, Delaware Council on Gambling
George Pippin, Community Advisory Board Member

F Unit

F unit, previously our behavior unit, has been repurposed to accommodate Black Shirt Society youth. There are games/activities of all types for youth who have earned the privilege. We currently have four youth enjoying the rewards of their good behavior. The Black Shirt Society youth will shadow new admissions showing them the ropes. Regular Black Shirt youth still have access to the game room on E unit.

Family Night

We have hosted three Family Nights so far this year. Family Nights are structured and theme based. April Family Night will include a presentation on sex trafficking. Steve Gonzer expressed an interest in providing a guest speaker; supervisor in charge of scheduling family nights will be notified.

PbS

PbS provides a uniform data collection and reporting tool that shows the impact of the services on youths, staff and families. Facilities are able to choose their own focus and Facility Improvement Plan (FIP). Our current FIP is to reduce room confinement/isolation and use of force. In April and October, we gather data and conduct youth and family surveys. All data is entered and used to measure outcomes.

ACA

Our next audit will take place later this year. Preparation is tedious and time consuming. We are looking forward to another successful audit.

Education – Compassion Games

Katie Joseph, our school psychologist has implemented a program, Character Strengths and Compassion Games, to cultivate character in our youth. Youth will watch short films and participate in discussions to recognize character strengths in themselves and others. Some of the topics addressed are wisdom, courage, humanity and temperance. Compassion Games is a competition to see which individual and team can complete the acts of kindness. The winners are announced at the end of the program.

Horse Program

Ms. Joseph also initiated a horse program using her own horses. Initially many of our youth are little afraid of the horses but as the program progresses, so does their confidence. The youth are truly enjoying this program.

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Botvin Life Skills

Botvin is a life skills program developed to help with stress management. Many of our staff have been trained to run groups with our youth. So far, the groups have been very successful.

Medical

Our nursing supervisor recently retired after many years of service. A new supervisor Sarah Cantoni, is doing a wonderful job transitioning into the position. A new nurse practitioner will provide services as needed.

New Supervisor

Douglas Mills introduced as a new supervisor on B shift.

Interviews

We recently had a round of interviews hiring three merit YRC staff and four C/S. They should all be working by the end of April and help reduce overtime.

Open Discussion

Mr. Pippin announced the passing of former superintendent of Bridge House Frank Shields. He also acknowledged Austayne Brown, former award recipient, for giving him a card expressing appreciation for the award.

Mr. Pippin asked about putting an article in the newspaper announcing Employee of the Quarter.

Mr. Gonzer provided some brochures about gambling. He would like to come in through the school program to give a presentation on gambling addiction.