

**LANCASTER COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH AGENCY
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 21, 2014

Board Members Present: Alice Yoder, Rebecca Sollenberger, Ollie Jones, Loretta Nolt, Christine Connelly, Melvin Frye, Jeff Shank and Commissioner Scott Martin

Staff Present: Crystal Natan, Robin Boyer, Amy Campbell, Betsy Frame, Pedro Rodriguez, Kelley Zipp and Kali Kunkle

Excused: Brett Cole, Joshua Keller, George Pappas, Stephanie Roy, Heather Girvin, Ryan Aument and Juli Veser

Public: Dawn Horst, Lancaster General Hospital social worker

Guests: None

Call to Order: Alice Yoder called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

Approval of Board Minutes: Jeff Shank made a motion that the minutes from the March 2014 Board meeting be accepted as presented. Ollie Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: None

New Business: The Board discussed the possibility of holding quarterly meetings, beginning in August 2014. Ollie Jones made a motion to amend the by-laws to hold meetings in August, November, February and May. Special meetings can be scheduled ad hoc. Melvin Frye seconded. Motion passed.

The Board also discussed the possibility of changing the day and time of the Board meetings. The Board agreed to keep the current the day and time.

The potential slate would be Chair-Jeff Shank and Vice-Chair-Loretta Nolt. The Board will vote on the slate in June 2014.

Director's Report:

- Crystal Natan reviewed the Director's report.
- Union negotiations are again being scheduled. Meetings had not occurred since last November. The bargaining employees continue to work under the old contract until a new one is ratified.
- Safety Plan hearings will begin this week. These are additional court proceedings which the County decided to implement, in order to assure that parents are provided due process when a safety plan is implemented. The parents will be provided an attorney and the opportunity to review the safety plan and indicate that they are in agreement with its terms.
- There has been an increase in placements in the past year. In the first two weeks of April, there were 26 children placed into care. The primary concerns for the placements were lack of housing and drug use by parent and/or the child.

The Agency has experienced a 9% increase in placements in the first quarter of 2014, in comparison to the first quarter of 2013.

- Crystal reviewed the highlights of the recently enacted child abuse legislation. These changes include the expansion of the definition of a perpetrator, which will include school employees and contracted entities, as well as relatives, 18 years of age or older, who are not household residents. The child abuse definition has also changed and the evidentiary threshold has been reduced. Additionally, the mandated reporting laws will be more stringent. An increase in child abuse related calls and reports are expected when the new legislation goes into effect on December 31, 2014.
- Crystal updated the Board on the potential move to the 150 North Queen Street office building. Floor plans are being designed. Also a scanning plan is being developed so our files can be stored electronically in order to minimize the number of file cabinets that will need to be moved.

Upcoming Events: April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month. The Resource Parent Association dinner will occur May 8, 2014, at the Eden Resort.

Announcements: None

Public Comment: None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 19, 2014 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. at Children and Youth Agency, 900 East King Street, Lancaster, PA</p>
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Respectfully submitted,

Kali Kunkle