

Greene County Children and Youth Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2020

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Greene County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board was held in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Fort Jackson Building, 19 South Washington Street, Waynesburg, PA on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Tammy Davis, Siara Johnson, Janette Kline, Gary Moser, Sam Silbaugh, and Thelma Szarell.

Members Absent and/or Excused: Commissioner Betsy McClure, and Christine Owens.

Non-Board Members Present: Amy Anderson, Stacey Courtwright, Cheryl Cowen, Brandy Yekel, and Gene D'Antonio.

Approval of September 10, 2019 Minutes: Motion by Gary Moser to approve Minutes for the September 10, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Tammy Davis. Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer's Reports: Motion by Siara Johnson to approve Treasurer's Reports for the November 12, 2019, January 14, 2020, and March 10, 2020 meetings. Seconded by Thelma Szarell. Motion carried.

CYS Director – Stacey Courtwright:

- Stacey reported that there are currently 103 children in care, but with a few adoptions coming up those numbers will drop more. Stacey stated the drug use is still the biggest reason for the reports and putting the caseworker's safety at risk. Methamphetamine is the drug of choice right now even over opiates. With the drug use the agency continues to see sexual abuse and sex trafficking cases.
- Stacey stated she met with Aaron Houser, the new Director of CASA and it went really well. The Agency will team up with CASA again for Child Abuse Awareness Month in April. Stacey reported we will do the pinwheels on the Court lawn again as well as bringing in the ice truck. Stacey stated we will have a Proclamation at the April Commissioner's meeting too. Amy will send an email out with dates of the different events. CASA would also like to hold a Dodge Ball Tournament and would like CYS to participate in the event.
- Stacey reported that the Agency received a few citations from the annual audit. The Agency made the corrective action plan. Within 30 days of the plan is complete the State will come back to the Agency to make sure the action plan has been implemented and the employees are following the plan.
- The Agency has a new position, Program Manager, that still needs posted. This position will be in charge of contracts and making sure the providers are following the contract.
- Stacey stated she will be meeting with the Commissioners and Solicitor to implement an Adoption Policy as the Agency does not have one.
- The Resource Center is coming to the Agency to provide Supervisor Training sessions and TOL (Transfer of Learning) Trainings for Caseworkers on risk and safety assessments.
- Stacey stated that the State recognizes Caseworkers in June. Stacey likes the Agency to recognize all employees as all play an important role for the agency. Stacey would like to do something and asked the Board to think of some ideas. One year the Board provided sandwiches

and soups. The Commissioners and Jeff Marshall were invited. There is another meeting in May before this occurs.

- May is Foster Parents Appreciations Month. There will be a Proclamation at the May Commissioner meeting. Foster Parent Recruitment money will need spent in May as well. Stacey stated that it has been a couple years since the agency did something for the Foster Parents. In the past the luncheons were not a good turnout. A couple years ago Pizza Hut gift cards were passed out and the Foster Parents really appreciated the cards.

CYS Solicitor – Cheryl Cowen:

- Cheryl reported that the agency has really been moving on TPRs and are almost completely caught up for children that have been in care for over a year.
- Cheryl stated there hasn't been any new case law of interest recently.

New Business:

- Due to not having a quorum since September 2019 and Executive Board and Committees need to be created today.
- **Motion by Thelma Szarell and 2nd by Janette Kline to Gary Moser as the Chairperson for 2020. Gary Moser Abstained. Motion carried.**
- **Motion by Gary Moser and 2nd by Thelma Szarell to Janette Kline as the Vice-Chairperson for 2020. Janette Kline Abstained. Motion carried.**
- **Motion by Janette Kline and 2nd by Gary Moser to Siara Johnson as the Secretary for 2020. Siara Johnson Abstained. Motion carried.**
- **Motion by Siara Johnson and 2nd by Gary Moser to Thelma Szarell as the Treasurer for 2020. Thelma Szarell Abstained. Motion carried.**
- **Motion by Siara Johnson and 2nd by Tammy Davis to add Thelma Szarell, Gary Moser, and Janette Kline to the CYS Advisory Board Checking account. Motion carried.**
- 2020 Committees were formed with the Nominating and Publicity Committee needing at least one more person:

Nominating Committee

Thelma Szarell
Gary Moser

Activity/Fund Raising Committee

Siara Johnson
Janette Kline
Christine Owens

Publicity Committee

Tammy Davis
Sam Silbaugh

Resource Parent Liaison Committee

Siara Johnson
Tammy Davis
Sam Silbaugh

“For the Kids” Committee

Stacey Courtwright
Cheryl Cowen
Siara Johnson
Tammy Davis
Sam Silbaugh
Janette Kline

By-Laws Committee

Thelma Szarell
Gary Moser
Sam Silbaugh

- Siara Johnson stated that she would like to be involved with the Foster Parent Appreciation. She also stated that her business would donate \$500.00 towards the event. Siara suggested renting the Rec Center at EQT Center and provide food and gifts. Let the parents mingle and the children can play. The board came up with the date 5/15/2020 and Siara will call the Rec Center to see if that date is available.

Motion by Thelma Szarell to adjourn the meeting at 10:25. Seconded by Gary Moser. Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2019

Respectfully submitted by:
Amy Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Greene County Children and Youth Services