

**Greene County Children and Youth Services**  
**Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 19, 2021**

**Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Greene County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board was held in the Basement of the Fort Jackson Building, Waynesburg, PA on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Siara Johnson, Janette Kline, Pam Marissa, Commissioner Betsy McClure, Gary Moser, Sam Silbaugh, and Thelma Szarell.

**Members Absent and/or Excused:** Tammy Davis and Roberta Boyd

**Non-Board Members Present:** Amy Anderson, Erick Rigby, Brandy Yekel, Gene D'Antonio, Mark Starostanko, and Margaret Keruskin

\*Introductions were made due to a potential new board member, Kristin Szawazyk, attended the meeting.

**Approval of:** Motion by Gary Moser to approve Minutes for the November 10, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Commission McClure. Motion carried.

**Approval of Treasurer's Reports:** Motion by Thelma Szarell to approve Treasurer's Reports for the January 19, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Gary Moser. Motion carried.

Brandy reported that there have been several donations and wanted to get feedback on where the funds go. She stated that typically, funds go to the foster children for the Christmas party, but the last couple of years Ron Lewis has been buying the gifts for the Foster Children. Brandy explained that there is a fund for the Non-Foster Children and Foster Children or she could put it in the MISC fund. Everyone was fine with whatever fund she chose to put it in.

**CYS Administrator – Mark Starostanko:**

- Mark reported that the Agency just finished the 2020 Audit and it went very well with a lot of positive feedback. After the audit the region met with management staff to go over the audit.
- Mark stated there are currently 18 caseworkers and a little over 65 children in care. Today there are several interviews for the new position, Contract Monitor.
- Mark reported that the Foster Care Christmas Party went very well and Margaret will report on that later on in the meeting. Mark ended up being Santa Claus at the last minute due to the original Santa getting COVID and he had a great time doing it.
- Commissioner McClure reported that she got to meet with Mark Nuzzo, Regional Rep before the audit and she attended the exit interview as well. She stated that last year there were 13 citations and this year there were 6, which were all paperwork. No child was left unsafe. Mark told Commissioner McClure he was very pleased, as the worker only needs to see the child twice and are seeing the children more often. Commissioner McClure gives a hats off to the agency.

**CYS Foster Child Christmas Party – Margaret Keruskin, Caseworker:**

- Margaret reported that the Christmas Party was originally going to be at the Fairgrounds, but due to a spike in COVID cases Ron Lewis generously offered to use their facility as a drive thru party. There were to go containers to take lunch, the children were given a present and Santa Claus was there. Margaret stated that everything went very well.
- Margaret also wanted everyone to know that great efforts have been made to recruit Foster Parents at local churches and is going very well. There are currently 10 Certified In-County Foster Parents and working on 3 more.
- Commissioner McClure advised that since June the agency went from 3 to 10 Foster Parents even with COVID making it difficult to get out and recruit. Brandy explained to the board that it saves a lot of money to have In-County Foster Parents, not to mention money saved on transporting the children to school and mileage for visits and doctor appointments.

**Solicitor's Report – Erick Rigby:**

- Erick stated that the Courts are back to encouraged remote hearings. You are able to attend as well. He reported that the remote court is going a lot smoother than in the Spring.
- Erick reported that with the vacancy at the court most of the hearing that would normally go in front of the Judge are being heard in front of the hearing officers.

**New Business:**

- Brandy advised that since there is a new Executive Board, the members will have to go to the bank and change the signature cards.

**Old Business:**

- Tammy is out sick to ask about the Federal ID for the 501C3. Commissioner McClure suggested to go through Community Foundations. She advised that the County has done that with certain things, such as a dog for the Police. Brandy stated that she would reach out to her and invite her to the next meeting to see about what is involved.

**Motion by Gary Moser to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 A.M. Seconded by Sam Silbaugh. Motion carried.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for scheduled for March 9, 2021**

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