

Greene County Children and Youth Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2018

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, September 11, 2018. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m., Pat Lemley, Chairperson presiding.

Members Present: Pat Lemley, Donna Neino, Christine Owens, Rich Pekar, Thelma Szarell, and Laura Walters.

Members Absent and/or Excused: Gary Moser, Michele Robinson, Sam Silbaugh, and Commissioner Archie Trader.

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

Approval of July 10, 2018 Minutes: Motion to Thelma Szarell to approve minutes of the May 8, 2018 minutes. Seconded by Lauren Walters. Motion carried.

Approval of September 11, 2018 Treasurer's Reports: Motion to Donna Neino to approve Treasurer's Report for the September 11, 2018. Seconded by Thelma Szarell. Motion carried.

CYS Solicitor – Cheryl Cowen:

- Cheryl reported that the Agency and Courts are still working with the ABA and they still continue to come monthly working on permanency issues. Last week a plan of action was made and will continue to work with the ABA for the next year. The next meeting is scheduled for next week.

CYS Director – Stacey Courtwright:

- Stacey reported since the last meeting there were 226 incidents (16% increase), involving 192 families (19% increase), and 359 children (18% increase).
- Stacey stated that the agency had 6 new caseworkers come. 4 more caseworkers accepted and 1 declined, leaving one opening. The agency is finally almost fully staffed. Jessica Sphar is on maternity leave and will be returning sometime in January. Stacey announced that Sarah Braddock was promoted to County Casework Manager and Jessica was promoted to CYS Deputy Administrator (a new position) and will oversee programming.
- Stacey reported that the Needs Based Budget was submitted on 8/15/18 and on 9/17/18 there is a conference call scheduled with discussion/questions from the Regional office. One of the changes in the budget proposal is to contract out the IL (Independent Living) Program due to continued staff turnover in the position. The Agency has struggled providing IL services effectively to the older youth. The Agency will be contracting with Justice Works for this contract. Washington and Fayette have had success with Justice Works. Stacey also wrote into the budget to buy 100 lock boxes to pass out on parental drug use. The Agency has had a couple near death fatalities due to parental drug use.
- Stacey was asked to join the Opioid Task Force.
- Stacey reported that there has been some stuff bought for the baskets to give to the Police Departments. Jeff Marshall donated \$100.00 and Pat Lemley donated cookies. Cheryl Cowen

bought chips, Thelma donated \$100.00, Brandy and Stacey donated items as well. Laura is going to buy a container and fill it up and drop off to the Agency.

- Stacey stated that she strongly feels that she would like all the children in Agency custody to be invited to the Christmas Party, not just the children placed in Greene County Foster/Kinship homes. There was a brief discussion on the thoughts and was decided that it would be decided at the November meeting. Laura stated that in the mean time she would call places, such as Walmart and McDonalds to ask for donations.
- Pat Lemley asked Thelma and Stacey how the CASA program was going. Thelma reported that CASA is still in the process of getting more volunteers and then will get a several hour training together. Thelma stated there it really is just getting started in Greene County, so there is not much to report yet, except if you are interested in volunteering it is a great program for the children to have a voice in the court system.

CYS Independent Contractor – Sharon Willison:

- Sharon thanked Cheryl for reporting on the ABA. Sharon stated that the next meeting is actually this coming Thursday and this project is to eliminate barriers to keep children out of placement.
- Sharon reported that her and Stacey continue work on and roll out the policies daily.
- Sharon also stated that the agency continues meeting with the Judge and Solicitors monthly to put out any fires/issues with the courts and the Agency.

“For the Kids” Report – Laura Walters:

- No new requests.

Old Business:

- The By-Law committee will consist of Cheryl Cowen, Stacey Courtwright, Donna Neino, Pat Lemley, Thelma Szarell, and Gary Moser. Amy Anderson will email the By-Laws to everyone to go over and she will schedule a meeting to start making changes and a Mission Statement.

New Business:

- Pat stated that the Nominating Committee will present officers at the November meeting for the 2019 year.
- Laura Walters reported that Michelle Howard did an excellent job for the Foster Parent meeting on October 5th.

Motion to Laura Walters to adjourn the meeting at 10:01. Seconded by Christine Owens. Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2018

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

