

Greene County Children and Youth Services
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2022

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Greene County Children and Youth services Advisory Board Meeting was held in the Fairgrounds 4-H Building, upstairs, Waynesburg, PA on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. The meeting convened at 8:58 am.

Members Present: Roberta Boyd, Siara Johnson, Pam Marisa, Commissioner Betsy McClure, Rachel Rodriguez, Sam Silbaugh.

Members Absent an/or Excused Janette Kline, Kristin Szewczyk

Non-Board Members Present: Alisha King, Brianna Vanata, Gene D'Antonio, Mark Starostanko

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was approved. Commissioner Betsy made the Motion and Pam Marisa second the motion. Motion passed.

CYS Administrator- Mark Starostanko: We Currently have 76 children in Foster Care, and 11 Foster homes. We just had a successful adoption with one of our own Advisory Board members with their beautiful new son. We continue to lessen children in congregate care with the state expectations. We just came back from a conference with the judges of Pennsylvania and other CYS from across the state. Trying to deal with retention and or/ recruitment. We are working with Waynesburg University and California University for paid internships.

We currently have a staff of Beth, myself, one case manager, five supervisors, and 17 caseworkers, we are losing one today she moved to human services. We continue to interview those who want to make a career out of it. We have a good atmosphere. I was told last night at the human services Advisory Board meeting that they see a change in attitudes from the staff. As far as the retention efforts we just had the staff appreciation breakfast, that the Advisory Board voted on, was a success. Commissioner McClure was there. The staff was really appreciative. Pam Marisa offered the Denny House for after hour get together with staff members. We are working the University of Pittsburgh for training of staff.

We are going to do a survey with management, caseworkers and support staff and it will go into a data base and University of Pittsburgh will go through it and give us their recommendations for further training. We are still trying to obtain a training supervisor. Beth and I have tried to step up to work with staff. For the kids the staff has made an effort in trying to obtain materials so the kids can stay in their home. We are to try and provide services to families before we take kid into foster care, that is our last resort.

So, getting those beds and washer and dryers is a huge help for those families to stay together. We appreciate those individuals who take a minute to vote yes. We have the Foster Parent Proclamation on Thursday.

Solicitor Report: New Solicitor starts next month on the 13th of June.

Commissioner Betsy McClure: The breakfast went well and at the next one, that the Advisory board be invited. There will be a critical case review case team now. We have selected people through out the county to be on that. What it is the case worker and supervisor will come in and present a case that is kind of difficult and together we brainstorm of course following the rules and regulations to look at ways to reunite family, and if it doesn't work get ahead of it. There are some really tough cases. I worked at hospice for 10 years and I though that was tough, but CYS just might be as tough.

I'm very pleased with the retention that we have had. Going back to when I first started as Commissioner, we had 120 kids in care and 8 caseworkers. We now have 76 kids in care and 17 full time caseworkers. One thing we done is we had meetings with the supervisors and caseworkers we discussed things and one of them is training. We are trying to get the state to up the pay for a training supervisor. We actually identified somebody in house that could fill that role, but they want more money. So, we are trying to see, well we might just do it, but I don't know we are a million in deficit we are trying to make up for that.

Old Business- Rachel Rodriguez asked if there is a counselor for caseworkers because of the stuff they see and witness. Mark responded that there is and he will send out an email again to employees. Commissioner Betsy said there is Mental health upstairs we could utilize as well. We need to recruit new members. Commissioner Betsy stated how hard it is for some of the kids in care to get their social security card. She said she is trying to get someone from the Washington office to come to Greene County once a month.

New Business- None.

Sam Silbaugh called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pam Marisa Motioned and Siara Johnston 2nd the motion. Motion Carried.

Next meeting is Scheduled for July 12,2022

Respectfully submitted by:

Alisha King, Administrative Assistant

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