

Greene County CYS Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

For November 9, 2022

Sam Silbaugh called meeting to order at 10:03am

Mark: We currently have 62 Children in care

12 in Foster Care

30 in Kinship Care

20 in contract provider care 2 of which are JPO

There are currently 13 Caseworkers

9 Vacancies

1 new hire that started Monday and 2 more expected to start soon.

We are currently looking into a partnership with Waynesburg University in their psychology and criminal justice programs for potential interns and possibly hiring them once they have graduated.

Beth: We currently have a partnership with Penn West but if the students don't live in Greene County, they are reluctant to come here.

Sam: What are the requirements for hiring Caseworkers?

Mark: A Bachelors in a Human Service-related field and at least 12 College Credits.

Blue Knights Chairman of Rides Dave Richards, Secretary Treasurer Fran and Chapter 16's Vice President Ronnie presented a \$1,000 check to Greene County Children and Youth.

Dave Richards: The Blue Knights are a motorcycle group made up of ex law enforcement and law enforcement personnel. In 19 years, we have raised over

\$600,000 for 40 something 501C programs. This year we had 418 motorcyclists join our ride and raised over \$50,000 for the programs.

Mark: Jenn Caruso from CWRC is doing a ORC program (Office Readiness for Change) to better CYS starting with our On-Boarding which was one of the staff's major concerns.

Beth: Better On-Boarding will help us with retention of employees.

Mark: This is an extremely stressful job and retention can be difficult due to being able to bid out to other jobs.

Sam: How is the Angel Tree coming?

Beth: Jessica Welsh is running it this year. We have only had a few places that we reached out to that wanted to donate, but we are in the best place we have been with this program in the past few years. We should have the presents distributed by December 1st and if we have a child come into care later, we are still going to get them gifts. Thank you cards are going to be sent out to those who donated to the Angel Tree this year and we are going to try to get more specific answers for kid's gifts in the following year. For example, we had one child ask for camping gear but no specifics on what kind of camping gear he wanted.

Mark: Saint Matthias ladies are doing a Christmas PJ Project for the kids in care giving them one Christmas PJ each. Myself along with Mike Holloway and CASA go to the Walmart in Brownsville to get donations that include toys, clothes, Easter baskets, etc.

Brandy: My unit and I plan on do a Spring Chicken Roast it will be in the Saint Hugh's parking lot and we will hopefully hold it at the end of March into April. I would like for the Advisory Board members to make an appearance if possible. Even though the Advisory Board sponsors the Christmas party for the kids Ron Lewis has donated enough to take care of most of the expenses. I would also like to see Advisory Board members at the Christmas party if they are available. Also regarding the Christmas party one of the people on my Units has a family member that is knitting hats and scarves for every child in care that will hopefully be done by the Christmas party.

Pam: Direct Results would like to donate an add for the Spring Chicken Roast.

Brandy: Also, I was wondering if we could possibly move the meetings back to the 3rd floor at the Fort Jackson Building now that social distancing from Covid isn't an issue.

Pam: We could also use the conference room at Direct Results or the Denny House.

Betsy: Due to scheduling conflicts is there a date and time that works better for everyone.

Roberta: I know with working the elections and it not always being on the same day of the week every year it causes scheduling conflicts. We need to look into or work on changing the By-laws to make exceptions when scheduling conflicts occur for meeting dates.

Sam: Due to some members not being here we could start an e-mail thread to see what works for everyone.

Brandy: The Advisory Board can have 15 members so if anyone knows someone who may want to be a part of the meeting they can e-mail the commissioners with a letter of interest.

Rachel: Will there be other activities for the kids at the Christmas party other than skating. I know from being at fundraisers that we had 2 kids with brittle bone disease?

Other activities that were discussed were an art station and Sam said he could get the art teacher to come, gingerbread house decorating, and caramel apple decorating.

Betsy: Do we have an idea for music so we don't have to keep putting money in the jukebox like a boom box or speaker.

Rachael: I could bring a speaker to supply music for the kids.

Pam: If you need it we have a Santa suit and someone to wear it for the party.

The voting of community candidates took place with all Advisory Board members approving the following:

President: Sam Silbaugh

Vice President: Roberta Boyd

Secretary: Siara Johnson

Treasurer: Janette Kline

Betsy: I appreciate the work everyone is doing. It takes a toll on your staff. I know for a fact that if there is even a potential problem Mark and Beth get in touch with Regional, the State and commissioners almost simultaneously. They are on top of it. Also, safety is key if a caseworker feels it is needed they can take the Sheriffs or Police to aid in the situation

Gene: Even if its just to stand on the perimeter in case they need them.

Sam: Please make the staff aware the we as a Board appreciate them and what they do every day and we appreciate their professionalism especially right now with everything going on.

Gene: Outreach is also very important to help with getting things done especially because the state has made program cut backs.

Betsy: I also want to show some appreciation to our Attorneys Brianna and Joyce for all they do and for doing a tremendous job.

Mark: They also try to better themselves and the caseworkers. If you are not prepared for court you will lose and when trying to protect a child a good presentation of evidence can go a long way.

Gene: I also want to say that the Fiscal department does a great job when it comes to categorizing programs in order to make it less hard financially on the county.

Meeting Adjourned by Betsy at 11:07am