

Bucks County Children & Youth Social Services Agency

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2022

Members Present: James Beerer, Jr., Megan Cunnane, Karen Kern (virtual), Nancy LaPlace, Kathleen Maguire, Beth Montanari (virtual), Robert Muir (virtual), David Nieves, Sherry Orr, William Ritter, Katherine Schweiker, Lisa Welsh

Absent and Excused: Sally Fabian-Oresic, Andrew Kind-Rubin, Rebecca Van-Dine

Absent:

Also Present: Marge McKeone

Call to Order: Lisa Welsh

Approval of Minutes: James Beerer

Executive Director's Report: Marge McKeone reports that visitation for parents and their children who are in foster have significantly increased. The Agency has requested an additional Case Aide to assist with transportation as well as to possibly begin a program through a provider for school transportation.

Regarding Family First Legislation, there was a meeting on October 4 with Snyder-Girotti Elementary School in Bristol Borough to discuss the providing a Resource Navigator to liaison between school and families to forestall referrals to Children & Youth.

A \$1.6 million Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) grant was awarded to work with families affected by substance abuse to help maintain children in their own homes.

Regarding Safe Baby/Safe Sleep, Marge McKeone and the Manager of the General Protective Services Division (ages 0-5) Manager met with Rachael Neff. They discussed getting the word out regarding safe sleep and keeping babies safe.

They also discussed the possibility of implementing a Nurse Family Partnership program.

A collective opened a group home at Christ's Home in Warminster and is approaching Christ's Home to lease an additional building in January to accommodate male adolescents.

Pathways to Housing, the Agency's new program in collaboration with the Bucks County Opportunity Council has begun on the grounds of Christ's Home. The program is expected to house two to three families depending on their size as well as provide families assistance with securing permanent housing.

Committee Reports

Bucks for Kids: Lisa Welsh read a report sent in by Rebecca Van-Dine. She reports that the skydiving fundraiser on August 3 was featured on in a news segment on Channel 3 featured the story that night.

Rebecca obtained new brochures and dropped some off.

Rebecca is starting to design and write the Annual Appeal.

Charlie Kane Children's Emergency Fund: James Beerer reports that there is approximately \$20,000 in the fund. He plans to push for an increase on the P-cards (debit card) from \$50 to \$75. He also proposed a one-time \$750 emergency payout that would be approved by Marge McKeone.

Nominating: N/A

Ways to Assist C&Y: Megan Cunnane reports that she and Lisa met with Children & Youth staff regarding educational resources for regular and special education early intervention to transition. She will send a power point of the presentation.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Lisa reports that the Board will meet at the December 14 staff meeting to celebrate Bucks County Children & Youth workers. Dave Nieves offered to bring breakfast pizzas. Beth Montanari will also look into ways to assist.

Sunshine Law was discussed.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Katherine Schweiker and seconded by Kathleen McGuire.

Next Meeting: December 13, 2022

Respectfully submitted: Sherry Orr