

Meeting Minutes for CYF Advisory Board

Meeting Details

Location: **Virtual via TEAMS**

Meeting Facilitator: **Dara DeChellis**

Secretary: Patrice Harris

Date: **June 4th 2024** Time: **4:00 PM**

ATTENDEES

Dara DeChellis: CYF Project Manager

Betsy Caroff: CYF Acting Director

Rebecca Palatino: CYF Assistant Deputy Director

Dr. Erica L. Givner: Owner and CEO of Vision Towards Peace counseling services

Monica Ruiz: Executive Director of Casa San Jose

Licia Lentz: Director of Alternative Education for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Aaron Mickens: VP, Operations and Performance Management at Three Rivers Youth

Terri Dilmore: Clinical and Forensic Psychologist; Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology at Howard University

Aubrey Plesh: Continuum Provider; Mon Valley SWISS Shelter Operator; Leader of Team PSG

Helen Grove Cahalane: Overseer of the Child Welfare Continuum at the School of Social Work at Pittsburgh University; Overseer of the Child Welfare Professional Education Program and Child Resource Center

Hazell Azzer: AIDS Free Pittsburgh Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation

Mary Stoner: Leader of the South Hills Foster & Adoptive Parent Support Group; Board member

REPORTS

Report #1: Purpose of the Board

Details:

- To advise concerning the functioning of the agency in providing quality services in response to the needs of children, youth and families and the community it serves.
- To make recommendations on matters referred to by the County Chief Executive or the agency administrator and to suggest policies for the agency's operation and development at the committee's own initiative.
- To advise the County Chief Executive and the agency administrator on the development of the county Children and Youth Services Plan and Budget Estimate.
- To strengthen relationships of the agency with the community that it serves and with our public and private agencies which serve children, youth and families.
- To assist in development of resources for services for children, youth and families.

Report #2: CYF Board Meeting Frequency

Details:

- Once approved by the council, a poll will be sent out regarding convenient time of day and day of the week for meetings to be held.
- Will address the concern of whether meetings will be held monthly or quarterly. Meetings are currently to be scheduled quarterly though the bylaws state they should be held monthly.
- The date of the next meeting to be held is unspecified.

Report #3: Board Member Expectations

Details:

- Elected for a term of 3 years.
- Will elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson.
- Missing 3 meetings without reason or notification terminates membership.
- Creates subcommittees.
- Amends the bylaws.

Report #4: Information Regarding the new CYF Child Welfare Director

Details:

- Erin Dalton has made a conditional offer of employment to Mr. Mandeep Gill.
- Tentative starting date of September 2024.
- Mr. Gill is currently the Head of Service for the screening and investigation of child abuse and neglect in Croydon, London.
- Mr. Gill is a social worker with a certificate in Law and an Executive MBA.

Report #5: Equity and Inclusion

Details:

- The Children's Bureau has produced a new rule which states that all placements must be appropriate for all children, including LGBTQI+ children. This information can be found at the following website:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/30/2024-08982/designated-placement-requirements-under-titles-iv-e-and-iv-b-for-lgbtqi-children>
- New responsibilities have been generated for Title IV-E agencies which include training for staff and contracted providers who make placement decision for LGBTQI+ youth, as well as providing resources to support kin caregivers in becoming Designated Placements.
- BGA (Black Girl's Equity Alliance) and Gwen's Girls have created a document containing mandated reporter implicit bias questions. This document was created to provide guidance if uncertainty arises for whether child welfare should be called for intervention or if another agency can be of use instead. This document will be sent via email by Dara DeChellis.
- Training surrounding SOGIE related questions is being offered by Hugh Lane and will be held on June 10th, 2024.
- Information regarding DHS analytics can be found at the following website:
<https://analytics.alleghenycounty.us/content-types/dashboards/>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item #1: New Advisory Board Members

Details:

- The Advisory Board is expected to contain a new, diverse group of members that have different experiences and skills to contribute.
- The Advisory Board can continue having meetings until all members are approved.
- The Advisory Board does not have the authority to vote until further notice.

Item #2: What consistent updates should be shared at Board meetings? What topics/issues would the Board want to focus on?

Details: Suggestions given for future Board meetings

- Sharing disparity information from previous Board meetings to gain clarity.
- Viewing data that is pre pandemic and post pandemic.
- Having guest speakers consisting of caseworkers, supervisors, and recipients of the Award that honors Georgia Hernandez. They can share their experiences and knowledge they obtained from being on the front lines.
- Reviewing data regarding placements, complex kids and crossover youth.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting ended at 5:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: *Patrice Harris*

Patrice Harris

Approved by: x

Dara DeChellis