

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PLANNING BOARD
Conference Room
Family and Youth Counseling Service
May 5, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. WELCOME

Dane R. Bolin, Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice Services, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken during the meeting and the following board members were present: Dane Bolin, Gerri Captain, Daphne Danahay, James Dixon, Kimberly Tremblay (proxy for Amy Dunn), Dana Forrest, Julio Galan, Penny Haxthausen, Estelle Hileman, Charmaine Landry, Leslie Nolan, Sheryl Piper, Jamie Yelverton (proxy for Ronnie Rossitto), Robert Schexnayder, Claude Syas and Ann Vick.

The following board members were absent: Dawn Becton, Guy Bradberry, Mike Byrne, Lilynn Cutrer, Mel Estess, Charles Mackey, Charles Robertson and Norman Thomas.

Also attending this meeting was Tiffany Dupre, Catina Ledet, and Geralyn Simon, along with staff members from the Office of Juvenile Justice Services [OJJS] (Bill Sommers, Anthony Celestine, Katherine Vincent, Vi Kohrs, Jeff Vander, Kelly Taylor and Mary Harpster).

As there were several new members to the board, as well as several guests at today's meeting, Mr. Bolin asked that each person attending the meeting introduce themselves. After all introductions were made, Mr. Bolin welcomed the newest board member, Estelle Hileman, to the board.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dane Bolin advised the board members that the minutes for the March 3rd meeting have been distributed and asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes. Julio Galan then moved that the minutes be accepted and Robert Schexnayder seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

II. UPDATE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM INITIATIVES

A. ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION – JDAI

Bill Sommers informed the board members that as we continue to utilize the concept brought forth in the Conditions of Confinement mission statement, we also continue to make sure that the fight type of juveniles are detained in the detention center. There are no low risk youths mixed in with high risk youths. Only those juveniles who need to be detained are detained. The detention screening instrument being used is doing what we wanted it to do. (Jeff Vander projected a spreadsheet onto the screen showing a shapshot comparison of 2009-2010 figures for detention.)

Anthony Celestine advised the board members that the Conditions of Confinement team has been infused with some new members and the first meeting of this new team will hopefully be held somewhere in the middle of May.

B. HOUSE BILL 1477 – JUVENILE DETENTION STANDARDS

Dane Bolin spoke to the board members about House Bill 1477, passed during this last year's session, which mandates that all juvenile detention centers in Louisiana be licensed by 2013. About 70% of the standards for the centers are complete and once they are all compiled and finalized, they will be submitted to DCFS for review.

C. MacARTHUR “MODELS FOR CHANGE”

Bill Sommers provided the board members with a powerpoint about the MARC. Bill advised the board members that the MARC is almost complete, that staff and law enforcement agencies have been trained in procedures, and we are ready to go. This facility is a result of this group's vision of what the parish needs were and determination to provide the parish with the services to meet these needs. The design of the facility came about after several trips around the country to visit other multi service agencies (Denver and Miami to name a couple), and it is now almost a reality. We are determined to operate this facility without creating any additional costs as far as staff is concerned. We have hired no new staff, we are just moving around the staff we have to become more efficient.

Vi Kohrs addressed the board and advised them that this facility will house a collaboration of state agencies/major stakeholders and our local community stakeholders. With everyone working together, we will be able to assist the clients in the completion and submission of applications right then, instead of the clients having to wait sometimes weeks for assistance and service.

III. REPORT ON PLANNING PROCESS

A. WEB-SITE, PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT UPDATE –

Jeff Vander advised that the website is fully functional and any information that the board members would like added to the website should be sent by email it to him. The website is being upgraded constantly by the programmer, and we should have better access to it soon. Also, the PSA's are still running for public viewing.

B. UPDATE ON PROPOSALS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES -

Vi Kohrs advised the board that the Project KNOW grant is in the second phase, and it will conclude in September of this year.

There were no other funding opportunities presented.

C. COMMUNITY PROJECT PRESENTATION -

Beth Zilbert came before the board and spoke about several of the community service-learning projects that The People's Advocate is involved with through their Preventing Family Violence Campaign. These projects include:

1. The Garden of Hope at the Potter's homeless shelter for women and children, wherein kids work with the families staying there to help them grow their own food.

2. The Environmental Monitoring Project enables the community of Mossville to work with a chemist to document impacts from living surrounded by 54 major petrochemical factories, testing soil, water and air.
3. Advocating for Immigrant Victims of Crime pursues U, VAWA, and T visas for documented and undocumented non-citizens who are victims of crime.
4. Dr. Dogs! is a pet therapy program wherein animals are brought to hospitals, elderly care facilities and rehabilitation centers.
5. Bike Building Project is a program where youths are encouraged to rebuild bikes to give to kids who do not have any.

D. COORDINATED SYSTEMS OF CARE (CSoC)

Vi Martin advised the board members that there has been no change in the process since the last board meeting. Vi further advised that while in Baton Rouge not too long ago, she did learn that several parishes have submitted applications to become the wraparound agency (among them were Jefferson, St. James, St. John, and Assumption, as well as the 16th Judicial District Court).

IV. OLD BUSINESS

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Dane Bolin informed the board members that he had received a letter from Dr. Mary Livers, who was extending an invitation to the board members to tour one of their 3 secure facilities. Dane told the members that if anyone was interested in taking a tour, then he would get together some dates and present them for review. It would probably be in the latter part of June before a visit could be arranged. Since Baton Rouge is the facility for our service region, he stated he would try to arrange the visit to that site.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Geralyn Simon from the SW LA Center for Health Services spoke to the board about their Nu-Exodus out-patient treatment center, which is located at 2000 Opelousas in Lake Charles. This center uses evidence based approaches to provide substance abuse treatment to adolescents 12 – 17 years of age. Ms. Simon wanted to let the board members know of this new program in the community. She had some handouts, which she provided to the board members, to give them further information. Dane Bolin thanked Ms. Simon for coming to the meeting and stated that their facility would be a great referral source for the MARC once it is in operation.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dane Bolin reminded the board members that the next meeting of the planning board is scheduled for Thursday, July 7th, at Noon. OJJS will provide lunch for this meeting and the location would be determined at a later date.

VIII. ADJOURN

It was moved by Julio Galan and seconded by Robert Schexnayder that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed. The meeting concluded at 1:15 p.m.