



COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
March 13, 2023
DSCYFD Administration Campus, Conference Room #199
1825 Faulkland Rd. Wilmington, DE 19805

Minutes

In Attendance:

Renee Ciconte, Director, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Rebecca Richmond, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
Tim Brandaeu, Community Member
Espie Hart, Superintendent, DYRS
Eric McLaurin, Assistant Superintendent, DYRS
Sean Harris, Program Manager, DYRS
Tanya Banks, Superintendent, DYRS
Danielle Stevenson, Assistant Superintendent, DYRS
Natasha Everett, Quality Assurance Manager, DYRS
Kimberly Warren, DFS
Mary Andrews, Parent Information Center

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting began at 9:05am. Director Ciconte welcomed the group and all attendees introduced themselves.

Personnel Updates

Director Ciconte introduced Dr. Rebecca Richmond as the new DYRS Deputy Director. She also introduced Ashley Bruncsak as the new Chief of Community Services. Ashley was a Regional Manger promoted to Chief. She began her DYRS career as a University of Delaware intern and promoted up through the division.

Risk/Needs Assessment Tool Transition

The group was informed that the division has been transitioning from using the MPACT assessment tool to the YASI. This tool is used to assess a youth's risk and needs. Staff have already been training and use of the tool began in December 2022. The division is now in the beginning stages of integrating the tool into FOCUS, which should be completed by October 2023. Open forums are actively begin held monthly to allow staff the opportunity to ask questions and gain clarity. The quality unit has also published and FAQ and manual with step-by-step guides available.



Juvenile Probation Re-Classification

The division is currently working through a re-classification of the probation staff. The current FSS series has to recruit for, as the posting does not designate it as a Probation Officer position. DYRS has worked with DHR to develop a new classification for a Juvenile Probation Officer. Due to reform efforts over the years, 65% of those on probation are high risk. With youth risk and needs changing, DYRS must change their approach to supervision. Many of these youth are involved with GVI and are gang and gun involved. Probation staff will be given the opportunity to be armed. These staff must attend the DOC training academy. Current staff will not be required to be armed, but there will be higher compensation for that that are. The SJO role will not change, and that unit will continue to support the community services team. The re-classification will begin with regional managers, supervisors, then probation officers. This is currently awaiting approval.

24/7 GPS Monitoring

AT the beginning of the fiscal year, DYRS was approved to reclassify a few positions to create a 24/7 GPS response unit. The public believe that the division is in the community finding youth who violate GPS conditions. This is not the case. Responses to alerts are dealt with the next business day. This new unit will respond to GPS alerts immediately, 24/7. The position is posted, but we are not seeing applicants. There will be 3 officers in this unit, with one supervisor which was recently hired. Currently the division is monitoring these alerts 24/7 without response by offering overtime to Probation Officers to cover overnight hours.

OC Spray Implementation

DYRS implemented the use of OC Spray in facilities in the summer of 2022. The goal was to reduce restraints and injuries, and to provide an additional tool for supervisors and managers. SO far, this goal has been met. There have been a little over a dozen sprays in the facilities with no long term injuries. Two weeks ago, DYRS expanded use of this tool to YCS III staff, based on Superintendent discretion, with possibly expanding to transportation staff in the near future. The use of OC spray required DYRS to obtain 24/7 nursing and add eye wash stations to meet ACA standards. These requirements have been met by DYRS and each spray is reviewed by administration to ensure best practice and proper use of the tool.

Additional Items

Group members provided reports outs for their specific area.

Next Meeting:

June 12, 2023 @ 9:00am

DSCYF Admin Campus, 1825 Faulkland Rd., Building #2, Conference Room #199