



CAB Meeting January 15th, 2025

In attendance:

- Donovan Alderman: Monty's Hood Snacks
- Lisa Fellin: Christiana Care
- Ajahnique Dandy: Community based program
- Mr. Pippin: DSCYF-YRS Prior Staff
- Mrs. Fisher Volunteer Service Coordinator
- Mr. Rawley Recreation Specialist
- Mrs. Kenney Superintendent
- Mr. Lavia Assistant Superintendent
- Mr. Fields Program Manager

CAB Meeting Notes:

- New program established at Stevenson House Detention Center- Monty's
 - Currently is located at all facilities in New Castle County
 - Has an on the side baking business while teaching cooking classes to all DYRS facilities
 - Team Building concept to cooking program
 - Youth get to cook the meals that he decides. Residents cook and clean up.
- Mrs. Fisher has been getting different programming inside of Stevenson House, currently almost every day of the week there is programming scheduled for residents.
 - Tuesdays Monty is here for our Society level residents and Ms. Heather is here also for either a game or Movie night with all phase residents.
 - Wednesdays we have contracted Yoga program

- Thursdays are Flexible programming date, but Mr. Dean Purnell has been visiting frequently
- Fridays we have an optional Bible study for residents that wish to attend
- Once a month on Saturdays Muscle Mindset and Mr. George Dobbins visits to have his program. This programming is focusing on muscle movements and connecting therapeutic skills to the movements.
- Education unit has brought in the DVR staff to aid with information available to the residents during school hours.
- Mr. Rawley is our new Recreation specialist, each day, residents get one-hour of schedule rec. time. During this time, different games and sports can be utilized to get the residents moving.
- We will be implementing the F-Unit back to our high phase residents as an incentive unit. This unit is available in the afternoon and has different games, weights, and will be adding more to push for better behaviors.
- Food pantry is still available for our families to use, but due to payment issues boxes can be made prior to family nights or made during visitations to families that need it.
- Currently there is an increase in unstructured free time, so we have been focusing on programming. Recreation Specialist will hold tournaments, continue to have programs and guest speakers visit the facility to keep a routine for the staff and residents.
- Creative Hope Studio is something that statewide all facilities now have available to higher phase residents.
 - Music recording and video equipment
 - 2-hour sessions are available.
 - Incentive “tool” for residents to keep o up good behavior and incentivize behaviors for higher level residents.
- Had Mr. Jeff Young visit the facility to offer his 8-week program to our residents.
 - During this program, residents were given notebooks to take notes of the different topics that were touched on each week.
 - Different topics such as finances, life skills, professionalism and more were touched on each week.
 - Residents really enjoyed this program and the information they were able to learn from him.
- Manhood Conference 2024 and now looking into 2025. Mr. Gardner the VSC of Ferris is the individual behind the concept. All residents are allowed to wear suits during the

event and meet with different guest speakers that discuss different topics that can be beneficial to them. This year's date is looking like June as it was last year.

- Mrs. Fisher expressed that Stevenson House is always open to having more programming, guest speakers, or religious services available to our residents. If any attendees to the CAB meeting knows of anymore to please send them her way.
- Stevenson House held its first career fair with the education unit. We previously would hold Career and Resource Fairs, but they would have families invited as well. But 2024 was just for the residents during their school day.
 - Different agencies such as colleges, CDL driving, FoodBank, and more were available for residents to get information and ask questions about their interested career paths
 - Was a very successful event and hope to hold another fair in 2025.
- Mrs. Fisher asked Monty for some insight from working at all the facilities as a paid program. What does he find beneficial while working with our residents and what similarities and differences does he see with working throughout the state?
 - The structure within each facility is different.
 - Up north the program is seen as a reward as well, especially Ferris with about 8 residents per group
 - New Castle County Detention Center will have any residents attend the group in hopes that being a part of the group with push for better behaviors. Every 4 Weeks they rotate residents.
 - He sees his program to have other residents within the facility want to do better so they can also attend the cooking program.
- Reviewed the different between all DSCYF Youth Rehabilitative Facilities
 - Detention facilities house kids from ages 11 to one day before their 19th birthday. All residents are pre-adjudicated or waiting for sentencing.
 - Cottages are level 4 security, get more abilities based on good behaviors. Residential program for youth.
 - Ferris is for residents within either Detention Center who are completing their sentencing or have been adjudicated.
 - Unfortunately, there is a high number of minorities within all facilities in the state.
- Mr. Pippin gave insight and knowledge from working with DYRS for many years and being the Superintendent of Stevenson House and for a short period, Ferris.

- The primary focus of the detention centers is to aid youth to change their behaviors. We should try to have kids think for themselves for a change.
- Need to offer a positive influence on our youth and get them away from the negative influences they may have experienced.
- Parents need to be a part of this change!
- Also recommended a “staff fitness” program to Mr. Rawley to make sure staff are in the best shape to implement PRT or handle with care.
- Staff may need to change their direction with how they are completing and handling their jobs. Mr. Pippin ran Ferris for a short period of time and utilized a paramilitary approach. He put some residents in charge of the other youth to see what would happen and change the expectations. Had feedback as residents were more likely to listen to other residents.
- Ms. Ajahnique Dandy is a contact that reached out to Mr. Fields regarding helping our residents and their families with the different services she is able to provide.
 - Spoke on attending March 2025 Family Night. During this night have a table set up for her to have families connect with her and seek services she has available.
 - She can be more helpful to the families and residents outside of the facility rather than while they are here.
 - Connect her to the Case Managers unit to offer her information.
 - Donated games to the facility from the Holidays.
 - Her services are free and available to anyone who is in need to help. Many of her services or meetings are virtual so more individuals can connect with her. Ms. Dandy utilizes an app to connect with individuals for ease of communication.
 - Such services can include taxi passes, childcare or child needs, clothing assistance, Emergency food and shelter connections, and overall referrals to services.
- Ms. Lisa Fellin has been working in the Trauma unit as a nurse for many years and is a great resource to offer insight on the medical side of crimes and injuries.
 - She has visited the facility before and did the Stop the Bleed presentation to our residents. This program shows how to stop serious bleeding that can save someone’s life in a serious situation (the steps to take to contact first responders, stop bleeding, etc.)
 - Ms. Fellin has other programs that are in the process and would like to present them to residents in the facility.

- Such new programs include a gun violence education program, brain injuries and spinal cord injuries, and car crashes.
- Works with different state programs to offer outreach education to different facilities.
- Will connect Mrs. Fisher to Project Restart in Wilmington for more guest speakers and programming opportunities.

Meeting minutes prepared by Volunteer Service Coordinator, Savannah Fisher.