
Community Advisory Board

Thursday, 06.25.2026

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Attendees

Mrs. Kenney, *Superintendent*

Ms. Fernandez, *Program Manager*

Ms. Fisher, *Volunteer Service Coordinator*

John Schmidt, *Delaware Council on Gambling Problems*

Mercedes Watson, *Delaware Council on Gambling Problems*

Andrea Cox, *PAWS Site Manager*

Sara Brisiel, *YWCA/SARC*

Sydney Burlew, *Psychology Assistant*

Ms. Zorn, *Administrative Specialist*

Community Partner Updates

1. What each agency has to offer both our families and the residents currently with us.
 2. Community Gaps of needs.
 3. How Stevenson House can support.
 4. What we can ALL do together!
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Notes

- **PAWS**

- Pet Therapy creates normalcy.
- It builds confidence, emotional support, confidence
- 5-6 teams already interested in coming into the facility
- Visits will be one hour in the early evening or weekends and occur two times a month
 - It is up to the volunteers who support the program to confirm schedule.
- They offer different programs:
 - Reading program is where kids read to dogs.
 - Trauma teams help counselors. The dog supports the worker. People open up better with a dog in the room because they are more relaxed.
 - Kids can just love on the dog.
 - They can play fetch in the gym.

- **YWCA**

- Counseling and advocate services
- Human Trafficking classes create awareness because a lot people are not aware of terminology, and it is happening to them.
- Some of the topics are consent, red flags, and prevention.
- Staff training is available as an option; perhaps, in a staff meeting. It will open some staff's eyes on what to look for during conversations/behaviors with residents.
- 4-week curriculum on the topics of Domestic Violence, Trafficking, and Sexual Assault.
 - Smaller groups of 15 are better
 - Shorten group times so that all three units have the class with the topic
 - 45 minutes for 4 weeks- Quality over quantity!

- **Delaware Council on Gambling Problems**

- "Convicts for Kids"
- Can come in as groups or individually to talk with residents.
- Guest Speakers are convicts who have learned from their past experiences who give back to young kids, and kids can relate to them.
- It's all about attention, affection, and validation
- Program content and backgrounds allow them to connect to residents
- Help prepare some for DOC because one day resident is in SHDC and the next DOC.
 - Residents don't realize the difference between the two, and it creates a huge gap in care.
 - Please call John if someone is going to DOC, and he will come in to answer any questions and talk to him/her
 - He can also connect them to a positive network

What Can We Do As a Community?

- Community Garden Program
 - It teaches a lot of things:
 - Teaches an essential life skill
 - Teaches principles
 - Builds confidence
 - Enhances senses by:
 - Hearing sounds in the environment
 - Touching the soil and plants
 - Tasting what is grown