



**Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center
Governing Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 22, 2007
1601 E. Main Street
Urbana, Illinois**

Minutes

Members Present: State's Attorney Julia Rietz, Chair
(In Person) Dr. Kathleen Buetow, Secretary/Treasurer, Carle Clinic
Lt. Roy Acree, University of Illinois Police Department
Lt. Joe Gallo, Champaign Police Department
Chief Jerry Gamble, Mahomet Police Department
Tara Gilman, Supervisor, Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
Amy Hurst, Intensive Outreach Services Supervisor, Mental Health Center
Inv. Duane Maxey, Urbana Police Department
Dr. Deborah Townsend, Champaign County Mental Health Board
Sgt. Jeff Wooten, Rantoul Police Department

Members Absent: Champaign County Probation & Court Services Department
Champaign County Sheriff's Office
Regional Office of Education

Others Attending: Michael Williams, Executive Director, CAC

Call to Order

After finding a quorum present, Ms. Rietz called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.



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MEMBER

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Buetow offered a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Governing Board. The motion was seconded by Chief Gamble. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

Review and Approval of Target® Family Violence Prevention Grant Application (from Addendum)

Mr. Williams provided each of the Board members with an application he prepared for a Target® Family Violence Prevention Grant. The Children's Advocacy Center has received two previous grants from Target; \$1,000 in 2004 and an additional \$1,000 in 2006. As with those grants, Mr. Williams is applying for funds for our child victim support group program. Mr. Williams requested that the Board approve the application and authorize him to submit the online application to Target. By consensus and without further discussion, the Board approved submission of the application.

Budget Report

A copy of the CAC Budget Report for the month ended February 28, 2007 was provided to each of the Board members. Mr. Williams stated that there were no unusual expenditures to report for the month of February.

Report from Chair on Relocation

Ms. Rietz reported that the County Facilities Committee met in March and decided to leave the old Nursing Home vacant until such time as the County's fund balance improves and a plan for re-developing or demolishing the facility can be funded. This means that the CAC will not be relocated to the former Nursing Home as originally planned. Mr. Rietz stated that the County would like for the CAC to vacate its present facility by August 1st in order to accommodate continuing construction of the Highway/ Fleet Maintenance Facility.

Ms. Rietz reported that she has looked at space in the National City Bank Building (near DCFS in Urbana) and at the County Plaza (directly across the street from the Courthouse). She discussed the relative merits of each of those sites. Ms. Rietz believes it is important not to limit our search to downtown Urbana and she is meeting next week with the Director of the C-U Public Health District to discuss available space in their new facility in Champaign. Ms. Rietz also learned that CASA may be leaving Lincoln Square in November and sharing space with that agency might be a possibility.

Ms. Rietz stated that, although the County is willing to assist in relocating the CAC, it is unlikely that the County can provide any financial support. The County might consider forgiving the CAC's rent for a period of time prior to relocation. Mr. Williams commented that he believes it is important to maintain our relationship as a County department and, although the CAC does not receive any direct financial support from Champaign County, he noted that we receive many indirect benefits such as auditing and accounting services, insurance coverage, computer network access, etc.

Further discussion ensued on the issues of fundraising, purchasing a facility vs. renting, and the need to look to the community for support. Lt. Gallo and Inv. Maxey suggested issuing press releases at some point to publicize the CAC's need for a new facility. Dr. Buetow suggested that we could tie this to National Child Abuse Prevention Month (April). In response to a question from Dr. Townsend, Ms. Rietz stated that there is no alternative to demolishing the present CAC facility and there is no other available, appropriate County-owned space. Discussion was had about the amount of space in the present facility (approximately 3,500 sq. ft.) and possible space savings in a new facility by eliminating one of the interview rooms and reducing the size of the waiting area, kitchen, bathrooms, etc. Jeff Wooten also indicated that he would explore whether any space might be available in Rantoul and on the former Chanute Air Force Base.

In addition to increased rent at a new facility, Lt. Gallo pointed out that we are also facing significant construction and remodeling costs. Ms. Rietz stated that she hopes some of those costs can be negotiated with potential landlords. Mr. Williams pointed out that, with the exception of funding we receive from DCFS, all other grant funding is dedicated to personnel costs (salaries and fringe benefits). All operating expenses for the CAC are paid from our contract with DCFS and the only significant non-personnel line item in that contract (other than the \$15,000 line item for rent) is the training line item. After further discussion, the Board decided to cancel plans to send five investigators to Finding Words child forensic interviewing training scheduled for May. Mr. Williams also pointed out that none of our current funders would allow us to use grant funds for fundraising activities.

Ms. Rietz noted that the composition of the CAC Governing Board is not like those of many not-for-profit agencies that engage in fundraising activities and she suggested that we might want to explore formation of a "Friends of the CAC" Board to operate as a fundraising entity. This would require establishment of a 501(c)(3) corporation. Ms. Rietz will instruct the Civil Division of her office to look into the details of such a plan.

The Board discussed the need to meet again before the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 26th. After further discussion, the Board scheduled a Special Meeting for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2007. The primary purpose of that meeting will be to discuss relocation plans. This meeting will follow the next County Facilities Committee, which will be held on April 3, 2007 at the CAC. Ms. Rietz hopes to invite Laura Huth of "Do Good Consulting" to the CAC Board meeting on April 5th to discuss possible fundraising avenues. In the meantime, Ms. Rietz will arrange for herself, Lt. Gallo, Sgt. Seraphin of the Urbana Police Department, and Mr. Williams to tour space at the County Plaza.

Director's Report

Mr. Williams announced that the CAC has been awarded an Equipment Grant by the National Children's Alliance. As was reported at last month's Governing Board meeting, the proceeds of that grant (\$4,760) were used to purchase equipment for upgrading the Center's recording system and for facilitating communications between the

interview room and the observation room. The necessary equipment was ordered and received in advance of the NCA-imposed deadline of March 30, 2007.

Mr. Williams reported that the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority conducted a site visit at the Children's Advocacy Center on March 6, 2007. Amy Hurst, MHC Intensive Outreach Services Supervisor, and Crisis Interventionist Paula Hetzel also participated in the site visit. Mr. Williams stated that the visit went very well and he thanked Ms. Hurst and Ms. Hetzel for their participation.

On February 27, 2007, the CAC hosted a meeting of the Rural Police Chiefs' Association. At that time, Ms. Rietz and Mr. Williams discussed with them the idea that law enforcement agencies who use the CAC could contribute toward the costs of hiring a full-time forensic interviewer. Mr. Williams stated that the idea was well-received and he provided the Rural Police Chiefs with information which they can use when they approach their boards/councils to request funding. Given the concerns about financing the relocation of the CAC, this matter will be tabled for the immediate future.

Mr. Williams announced that the web-based Mandated Reporter Training program developed by DCFS and the Chicago CAC is now available at www.dcfstraining.org. At the request of Regional Superintendent Judy Pacey, Mr. Williams and Lolita Dumas will be presenting the training program to a meeting of area school superintendents on May 10, 2007. Ms. Rietz indicated that she might also attend that meeting.

Mr. Williams reported that the CAC and A Woman's Fund are collaborating on a number of activities for National Child Abuse Prevention Month (April). Those activities will include the "Silent Witness" Campaign, a Kickoff Event at Market Place Mall on March 30th, and the Blue Ribbon Campaign. Mr. Williams described the Silent Witness Campaign for Board members.

Each of the Board members was provided with a Summary of CAC Activity for the month of February. During the month of February, 25 children were interviewed at the CAC, which included 16 children accepted for case management services and 9 non-victim siblings/witnesses. Thus far during March, 18 children have been interviewed at the Center, which includes 8 children accepted for case management services, one alleged juvenile offender for whom the CAC is not providing follow-up services, and 9 non-victim siblings/witnesses.

Communications

Mr. Williams reported that no communications had been received on behalf of the Board.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Mr. Williams announced that the next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 26, 2007. As noted earlier, the Board will hold a Special Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2007.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Lt. Gallo offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Townsend. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Williams
Executive Director