



**Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center
Governing Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 27, 2008
201 W. Kenyon Road, Suite 1
Champaign, Illinois**

Minutes

Members Present: Dr. Kathleen Buetow, Secretary/Treasurer, Carle Clinic
(In Person) Lt. Roy Acree, University of Illinois Police Department
Ms. Lisa Benson, Intensive Outreach Services Manager, Mental Health
Center of Champaign County
Tara Gilman, CPS Supervisor, Illinois Department of Children & Family
Services
Lt. Ed Ogle, Champaign County Sheriff's Office
Superintendent Jane Quinlan, Regional Office of Education
Lt. Bryant Seraphin, Urbana Police Department
Ms. Janet Wells, Supervisor of Adult Probation Services, Champaign
County Probation & Court Services Department

Members Absent: Champaign County Mental Health Board
Champaign County State's Attorney's Office
Champaign Police Department
Mahomet Police Department
Rantoul Police Department

Others Attending: Michael Williams, Executive Director, CAC
Marcia Milliken, Director of Training & Education, Children's
Advocacy Centers of Illinois

In the absence of State's Attorney Julia Rietz, Dr. Buetow served as Acting Chair.

Call to Order and Introductions

After finding a quorum present, Dr. Buetow called the meeting to order at 9:07
a.m. Introductions were made.



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MEMBER

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Benson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Governing Board. The motion was seconded by Lt. Seraphin. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

Presentation on “Champions for Children Walk” by CACI Director of Training and Education Marcia Milliken

Ms. Milliken described the *Champions for Children’s Walk*, which is being planned by the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois. The purposes of the walk are to raise public awareness about the work being done by Children Advocacy Centers around the State and to raise funds for CACs. The walk will be held in four stages as follows:

Friday, May 16 – Springfield (15 miles)
Saturday, May 17 – Bloomington (17 miles)
Sunday, May 18 – Joliet (17 miles)
Monday, May 19 – Chicago (10 miles)

The walk will begin each day at 9:30 a.m. and walkers should be finished before 5:00 p.m. Eighty percent of the monies raised by walkers will be returned to the sponsoring CAC. The remaining 20% will be used to help offset expenses. Lt. Governor Pat Quinn will preside at a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the beginning of the walk and Attorney General Lisa Madigan and DCFS Director Erwin McEwen are expected to join the walk in Chicago. Ms. Milliken is hopeful that the walk will generate significant media coverage.

Ms. Milliken provided pledge sheets and registration forms. Mr. Williams indicated that he plans to walk each of the four days and he encouraged Board members to solicit donations benefiting the Champaign County CAC.

Review and Approval of Illinois Department of Children & Family Services FY 2009 Program Plan

Mr. Williams provided Board members with a copy of the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services FY 2009 Program Plan. The CAC received the Plan materials in February and the deadline for submitting the completed Plan to our DCFS Grant Monitor, Dr. Cheryl Peterson, was March 24, 2008. Mr. Williams submitted the Plan prior to the deadline. Although State FY 2009 funding allocations have not yet been finalized, it is anticipated that the Champaign County CAC will again receive \$68,425 from the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services. Mr. Williams did note that our DCFS contract is the primary source of revenue for non-personnel expenses (e.g., rent, utilities, telephone, etc.). In order to meet rising salary and fringe benefit costs, as

well as unanticipated insurance costs, the line item for training in our DCFS budget will be greatly reduced in FY 2009.

Mr. Williams requested that the Board approve the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services FY 2009 Program Plan and ratify its submission.

Superintendent Quinlan made a motion to approve the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services FY 2009 Program Plan and to ratify its submission. The motion was seconded by Lt. Ogle. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

Review and Approval of Champaign County Mental Health Board FY 2009 Agency Program and Financial Plan

Mr. Williams provided Board members with a copy of the Champaign County Mental Health Board (CCMHB) FY 2009 Agency Program and Financial Plan. As was reported by Mr. Williams at the January meeting of the CAC Board, the CCMHB voted in December 2007 to extend our current contract (which expires June 30, 2008) to June 30, 2009. A revised Agency Program and Financial Plan must be submitted to the CCMHB no later than May 1, 2008. The CAC's annual allocation from the CCMHB will again be \$37,080 and those funds will be designated for salaries, fringe benefits, and membership dues. Although information in the FY 2009 Agency Program and Financial Plan has been updated where applicable, the FY 2009 Plan is substantially similar to the current Plan.

Mr. Williams requested that the Board approve the Champaign County Mental Health Board FY 2009 Agency Program and Financial Plan and authorize its submission to the CCMHB.

Ms. Benson made a motion to approve the Champaign County Mental Health Board FY 2009 Agency Program and Financial Plan and to authorize Mr. Williams to submit the Plan to the CCMHB. The motion was seconded by Superintendent Quinlan. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

Budget Report

A copy of the CAC Budget Report for the month ended February 29, 2008 was provided to each of the Board members. Mr. Williams stated that there were no unusual expenditures to report for the month of February. Mr. Williams did note that training expenditures for February totaled \$1,435. Those expenditures were related to sending SANE Coordinator Patty Metzler to the 2008 International Conference on Child & Family Maltreatment held in San Diego in January, and three investigators to Finding Words Illinois, which is scheduled for the week of April 28-May 2, 2008.

Director's Report

Mr. Williams updated the Board on the "brush up" forensic interviewing seminar being planned with the East Central Illinois Police Training Project. The Police Training Project is attempting to secure federal funding for the planned two-day seminar, which

has been tentatively scheduled for May 15-16, 2008. A decision on that funding is expected within the next week and a training announcement will be sent to Team members as soon as plans for the training are finalized.

In response to a question from Lt. Seraphin, Mr. Williams and Ms. Milliken discussed the three-day Advanced Forensic Interviewing Training program that is being planned by the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois. Earlier this week, Mr. Williams sent an e-mail describing the program to law enforcement and DCFS supervisors. This is a pilot program funded by a grant from the Illinois Attorney General's Office and will be held in Springfield from June 2-4, 2008. The program is limited to participants who have completed a Finding Words training program and preference will be given to teams (i.e., a law enforcement investigator, a DCFS investigator, a prosecutor and/or a CAC forensic interviewer). Two teams will be selected from each of the four regions of the State (southern, central, northern and Cook County) and total participation will be limited to 28. Some of the topics to be discussed include: modifying the RATAC protocol for cases other than child sexual abuse (e.g., child witnesses to homicide and physical abuse cases); issues specific to young children; interviewing adolescent victims; vicarious traumatization; and the use of interview aids. Participants will also complete a practice interview. Some of these topics will also be covered in the training being planned with the Police Training Project, although that training will not include an interview practicum. Mr. Williams stated that he has discussed the Advanced Interview Training program with State's Attorney Julia Rietz. It is uncertain whether we will apply to send a team to the pilot training in June; however, Mr. Williams hopes that the program will be continued and that we will be able to send team members to future trainings.

At last month's meeting, the Board approved the Center's application for an Equipment Grant from the National Children's Alliance. Mr. Williams had hoped to obtain funding to replace the CAC's personal computers. Unfortunately, the application for funding was declined by the NCA.

Mr. Williams reported that work is continuing on our application for re-accreditation by the National Children's Alliance. A committee of Team members reviewed the application over the past month and met in person yesterday to provide input and offer suggestions for corrections, revisions, etc. Mr. Williams stated that the Team was very helpful and has a good understanding of the re-accreditation process, which will be very beneficial during the upcoming site review. The application is due no later than May 7, 2008 and a site review has been scheduled for November 7, 2008. Mr. Williams will keep the Board apprised of developments throughout the re-accreditation process.

Beginning tomorrow (March 28, 2008), the CAC will be erecting blue plywood silhouettes of children at approximately 30 businesses and homes throughout the County. These silhouettes are part of the Silent Witness Campaign in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The silhouettes represent the known and unknown victims of child abuse and will help raise awareness of this issue in our community. Lowe's of Champaign again donated plywood and paint for this project and the silhouettes were crafted by the Industrial Arts classes at Mahomet-Seymour High School. Channel 3 aired a story about the campaign on March 13th and Mr. Williams has done

telephone interviews with the News Gazette, the Daily Illini, and WDWS Radio. A news release was sent to all local media outlets earlier this week and Mr. Williams has received additional interest from Channel 15 and the Parkland Prospectus. In response to a question from Ms. Benson, Mr. Williams indicated that he will be providing information sheets to the homes and businesses displaying the silhouettes. These information sheets can be passed out to those who have questions about the "Blue Kids." The information sheet will describe the campaign and will encourage those who believe a child has been abused or neglected to contact the DCFS Hotline or their local law enforcement agency.

State's Attorney Julia Rietz and Mr. Williams will be participating in a panel discussion on UPTV on Friday, March 29th, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The panel will be discussing the effects of domestic violence on children.

The Children's Advocacy Center is working with Rape Crisis Services and several other community organizations to present *Kidapalooza*. *Kidapalooza* is a festival designed to celebrate our community's children and to help raise awareness about child abuse prevention. The festival will be held in Urbana's Crystal Lake Park on Saturday, April 12th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. *Kidapalooza* was held in Douglass Park in 2003, 2004 and 2005 and Rape Crisis Services is spearheading this year's revival of the festival. We are planning several activities for children and their families, including music, games, educational workshops, and much more.

Each of the Board members was provided with a Summary of CAC Activity for the month of February. During the month of February, 23 children were interviewed at the CAC, which included 15 children accepted for case management services; 1 child for whom the CAC is not providing follow-up services; follow-up interviews with 2 children who were initially interviewed at the CAC in February and November 2007, respectively; 4 non-victim siblings/witnesses; and 1 alleged juvenile offender. Thus far during March, 13 children have been interviewed at the Center, which includes 9 children accepted for case management services, 3 children for whom the CAC is not providing follow-up services, and 1 non-victim sibling/witness.

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 Board meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2008.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Williams
Executive Director