



**Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center
Governing Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 24, 2008
201 W. Kenyon Road, Suite 1
Champaign, Illinois**

Minutes

Members Present: State's Attorney Julia Rietz, Chair
(In Person) Dr. Kathleen Buetow, Secretary/Treasurer, Carle Clinic
Ms. Lisa Benson, Intensive Outreach Services Manager, Mental Health
Center of Champaign County
Assistant Superintendent Barb Daly, Regional Office of Education
Ms. Lolita Dumas, Child Protection Manager, Illinois Department of
Children & Family Services
Lt. Joe Gallo, Champaign Police Department
Sgt. Jeff Wooten, Rantoul Police Department

Members Absent: Champaign County Mental Health Board
Champaign County Probation & Court Services Department
Champaign County Sheriff's Office
Mahomet Police Department
University of Illinois Police Department
Urbana Police Department

Others Attending: Michael Williams, Executive Director, CAC

Call to Order

After finding a quorum present, State's Attorney Julia Rietz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.



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MEMBER

Approval of Minutes

Lt. Gallo made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Governing Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Buetow. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

Review and Approval of Application for Family Violence Prevention Grant from Target Stores

Mr. Williams provided Board members with a copy of the CAC's Application for a Family Violence Prevention Grant from Target Stores. The CAC is seeking a \$3,000 grant from Target to help fund our child victim support group program. The CAC has received three previous grants from Target (2004, 2006 and 2007), each in the amount of \$1,000. Deadline for on-line submission of the grant application is May 31, 2008. Mr. Williams requested authorization to submit the application as presented.

Lt. Gallo made a motion to approve the Application for a Family Violence Prevention Grant from Target Stores and to authorize Mr. Williams to submit the Application. The motion was seconded by Dr. Buetow. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

Budget Report

A copy of the CAC Budget Report for the month ended March 31, 2008 was provided to each of the Board members. Mr. Williams stated that there were no unusual expenditures to report for the month of March. Mr. Williams did note, however, that training expenditures for March 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 four MDT investigators to the Pediatric SANE/SART Seminar held at Carle Foundation Hospital on February 26, 2008.

Director's Report

Mr. Williams announced that the forensic interviewing seminar being planned with the East Central Illinois Police Training Project will be held on May 15-16, 2008 at the Champaign Police Department. Law enforcement agencies will receive a training announcement directly from the Police Training Project within the next few days. Mr. Williams also forwarded a copy of the announcement via e-mail to law enforcement and DCFS supervisors earlier today. Copies of the announcement were also e-mailed to the State's Attorney's Office and to medical personnel working with the CAC. The Police Training Project obtained a federal grant for the training program, so there will be no registration fee. Mr. Williams encouraged Board members to register all investigators who are responsible for conducting child forensic interviews at the CAC. The deadline for registering is May 9th; however, space is limited and Mr. Williams urged everyone to submit their registration requests as soon as possible. Further discussion was held. Ms. Rietz suggested that we may want to look into more in-depth training in the future, which might include, for example, inviting a speaker with expertise in the area of working with developmentally delayed children. Ms. Rietz stated that she would discuss this issue with

Mark Edwards, the Director of the Police Training Project. At the suggestion of Dr. Buetow, Mr. Williams will contact the Police Training Project and ask them to include in the training evaluation form a question regarding additional training in which Team members might be interested.

Mr. Williams reported on the following other training-related activities:

- CAC Case Manager Elaine Carter attended the 4th Annual Prevention & Interventions Conference in St. Charles, Missouri, from April 2-4, 2008.
- On April 10, 2008, Urbana Police Department Investigators Duane Maxey and Shaun Cook attended “*How Not to Help the Defense Attorney in Child Sexual Abuse Cases.*” This videoconference seminar was held in Springfield and was sponsored by the Midwest Regional CAC and the Sangamon County CAC.
- On April 16, 2008, Mr. Williams was one of three facilitators of a Grant Writing Workshop sponsored by the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois.
- On April 23, 2008, Ms. Carter attended a diversity training workshop entitled *Creating an Inclusive Workplace: Steps for Valuing Diversity*. The workshop was held at Parkland College and was sponsored by A Woman’s Fund.
- Three MDT investigators (Marc Beach of the Rantoul Police Department, Shane Cook of the Sheriff’s Office, and Rebecca Goodwin of the Mahomet Police Department) along with Assistant State’s Attorney Stephanie Weber will be attending Finding Words Illinois in Springfield next week.

Mr. Williams reported that work was recently completed on our application for re-accreditation by the National Children’s Alliance and the application was mailed to the NCA in Washington, D.C. on April 17, 2008. Mr. Williams will keep the Board apprised of developments throughout the re-accreditation process.

Mr. Williams thanked those Board members whose agencies participated in the *Silent Witness Campaign*. A total of 30 Blue Kids silhouettes were distributed throughout Champaign County during April. They will be picked up next week. Thus far, six silhouettes have been stolen. Unlike last year, none of the remaining silhouettes has been vandalized.

Unfortunately, due to inclement weather on April 12th, *Kidapalooza* was cancelled. The CAC had been working with Rape Crisis Services to present *Kidapalooza*, a festival designed to celebrate our community’s children and to help raise awareness about child abuse prevention. Planners hope to revive the festival next year and will look for an indoor site that can accommodate the festival in the event of bad weather.

Mr. Williams reported that the final session in our current 12-week support group program will be held this evening. Laura Gelsthorpe, an Intern from the University of Illinois, has been assisting the support group therapist, Joanna Kling. Laura will complete her internship later this week. As her class project, Laura created a binder which contains detailed information about the support group program, including examples of letters sent to parents, surveys and various other forms used, as well as a

week-by-week breakdown of the topics addressed, suggested activities, recommended readings, etc. The binder will be a useful tool for planning and implementing future support groups.

Each of the Board members was provided with a Summary of CAC Activity for the month of March. During the month of March, 14 children were interviewed at the CAC, which included 10 children accepted for case management services; 3 children for whom the CAC is not providing follow-up services; and 1 non-victim sibling/witness. In addition, one child who was interviewed outside the CAC was referred to the Center for services. Thus far during April, 16 children have been interviewed at the Center, which includes 12 children accepted for case management services; a follow-up interview with a child who was initially interviewed at the CAC in February 2006; 2 non-victim siblings/witnesses; and 1 alleged juvenile offender. State's Attorney Julia Reitz also utilized the Center on April 23rd to meet with two families to discuss a pending investigation.

Communications

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

Old Business

Mr. Williams reported that plans are progressing for the "*Champions for Children Walk*" on May 16-19, 2008. Mr. Williams is planning to walk the entire route (approximately 55 miles) and to date he has received sponsor pledges for approximately \$30 per mile. Mr. Williams encouraged Board members to make a pledge and to solicit pledges from their co-workers, families and friends. Eighty percent of the funds raised locally will be returned to the Children's Advocacy Center. Mr. Williams also encouraged anyone who is interested in walking all or part of the route to contact him for details. Ms. Rietz and Lt. Gallo asked Mr. Williams to forward information to them about the Walk.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Mr. Williams announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2008. Mr. Williams also reported that he will be on vacation during the final two weeks of July and will miss the Board meeting scheduled for July 24, 2008. Further discussion was held. It was the consensus of the Board that July's CAC Governing Board meeting should be cancelled.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Williams
Executive Director