



**Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center
Governing Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 26, 2009
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
Lt. Roy Acree, University of Illinois Police Department
Tamela Atwood, Child Protection Supervisor, Illinois Department of
Children and Family Services
Sgt. Marc Beach, Rantoul Police Department
Jacque Chase, Chief Administrative Probation Officer, Champaign
County Probation & Court Services Department
Superintendent Jane Quinlan, Regional Office of Education
Captain Stuart Shaver, Illinois State Police, District 10

Members Absent: Champaign County Mental Health Board
Champaign County Sheriff's Office
Champaign Police Department
Mahomet Police Department
Mental Health Center of Champaign County
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 9:06 a.m.



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®

ACCREDITED
MEMBER

Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center
201 W. Kenyon Road, Suite 1 • Champaign, IL 61820 • Phone: 217.384.1266 • Fax: 217.344.1214

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Buetow made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Governing Board. The motion was seconded by Sgt. Beach. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved.

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

Mr. Williams provided Board members with a copy of an application for a Family Violence Prevention Grant from Target®. Mr. Williams stated that he has applied for a grant in the amount of \$2,850 to fund our child victim support group program. The online application was submitted to Target on March 5, 2009. Notification regarding the status of our application is expected by September 30, 2009. The CAC received grants from Target in 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2008. Each of those grants was in the amount of \$1,000. Mr. Williams stated that the CAC is not offering a support group this spring, in part because we were unable to obtain an intern from the University of Illinois to assist the group facilitator. Captain Shaver suggested that Illinois State University might be a resource for interns for the program.

Mr. Williams requested that the Board approve the Application for a Family Violence Prevention Grant from Target. Motion made by Superintendent Quinlan to approve the Application for a Family Violence Prevention Grant from Target. The motion was seconded by Dr. Buetow. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved.

Budget Report

Mr. Williams provided Board members with a copy of the Budget Report for the month ended February 28, 2009. Mr. Williams stated that there were no unusual expenditures to report for the month of February. Mr. Williams noted that the CAC had a negative cash balance of -\$9,993.50 as of February 28, 2009. This, in large part, is due to the delay in receipt of a \$30,828 payment from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. That payment was received on March 5, 2009. In addition, our Third Quarter payment from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in the amount of \$17,106.25 was received on March 19, 2009. Mr. Williams expects that the CAC will have a positive cash balance at the end of March.

Ms. Rietz reported that the subcommittee that was formed to examine budgetary issues has not yet met; however, she expects they will be able to get together within the next several days and she will provide the Board with a report at next month's meeting.

Director's Report

On March 6, 2009, State's Attorney Julia Rietz, Officer Dave Parsons of the Mahomet Police Department, and Mr. Williams attended a meeting in DuPage County to discuss credentialing of forensic interviewers and peer review. The meeting was facilitated by the Chapter Office of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI). As was discussed at last month's CAC Governing Board meeting, credentialing of forensic interviewers appears to be on the horizon. Once in place, courts may expect all qualified forensic interviewers to be credentialed. A cornerstone of the credentialing process will be peer review, which means interviewers will need to submit their interviews for peer review on a regular basis. The CACI has taken the lead on this issue and is hoping to offer statewide peer review for forensic interviewers. Their first step was to meet with CAC directors, prosecutors, interviewers and other MDT members from around the state to learn more about what is currently being done, to learn what is needed, and to garner ideas about how to organize a statewide process. Meetings were also held in Rock Island and Mt. Vernon. Tara Gilman, a Child Protection Supervisor with our local DCFS Office, attended the meeting in Mt. Vernon. Following those meetings, the CACI invited Ms. Rietz to serve on an ad hoc committee which will develop recommendations for implementing a statewide peer review process.

Further discussion was had on the development of an interviewer peer review process for Champaign County. The discussion centered on what such a process would look like, who would be involved, how often peer review would occur, etc. The process would not only focus on critiquing interviews, but would provide interviewers with feedback, validation, and helpful suggestions. The peer review process would identify which interviewers are doing a good job and alert supervisors to those who are experiencing problems. Given the relative lack of ongoing training for forensic interviewers beyond the initial 40-hour training program, the peer review process could also serve as an important training vehicle. On a related note, Ms. Atwood mentioned that she has obtained approval and funding for three DCFS investigators to attend the *When Words Matter* conference which will be held in St. Louis in May. Dr. Buetow stated that the National Children's Alliance is now requiring that medical exams also be submitted for peer review. The consensus of the Board was to allow Ms. Rietz to develop a peer review process for forensic interviewers at the Champaign County CAC.

During the month of April, the CAC will again be sponsoring the *Silent Witness Campaign* in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. For the third consecutive year, we will be placing plywood silhouettes of "Blue Kids" at prominent locations around the County. The silhouettes represent the known and unknown children in our community who have suffered as a result of abuse or neglect.

This year, we will also be participating in the first ever *Blue Kids Cards Campaign* to raise awareness about the issue of child abuse and to raise funds for the CAC. The CACI provided each of the CACs around the state with 1,000 Blue Kids Cards. The cards were provided at no cost to the CACs. These cards will be available for purchase for \$1.00 at each of the five *El Toro Restaurants* in Champaign, Urbana, St. Joseph, and Rantoul and at their affiliate, *Illini Grill & Pancakes* in Champaign. All of the proceeds from the sale of the cards will be returned to the CAC. Mr. Williams asked

Board members to thank our sponsors by patronizing these businesses and, while there, to purchase a Blue Kids Card. Mr. Williams will send an e-mail about the campaign to Team members later this week.

Mr. Williams reported that he is continuing to prepare for the upcoming *Champions for Children Walk*. Mr. Williams reminded Board members that the Walk will be held from May 14-17, 2009 and he encouraged Board members to raise pledges on behalf of the Children's Advocacy Center. Mr. Williams will be sending out an e-mail about the Walk to the Board, Team members and supporters of the CAC next week. Mr. Williams thanked Superintendent Quinlan for the generous contribution she made to the Walk earlier this morning.

Each of the Board members was provided with a Summary of CAC Activity for the month of February. During the month of February, 16 children and 1 adult were interviewed at the CAC. This included 9 new children accepted for case management services, 2 children for whom the CAC is not providing follow-up services, 3 non-victim siblings/witnesses, 1 child in a Ford County case, and a follow-up interview with a child who was initially interviewed at the CAC in July 2008. In addition, the Sheriff's Office interviewed an adult at the Center who reported having been sexually assaulted as a child. Thus far during the month of March, 10 children have been interviewed at the CAC, including 9 new children accepted for case management services, and a follow-up interview with a child who was initially interviewed at the CAC in March 2008. The latter case was re-opened for services. In addition, two children who were interviewed at the CAC in Coles County were referred to the Champaign County CAC for services because they now reside in Champaign County.

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 23, 2009.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Williams
Executive Director