

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, October 5, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

Brookens Administrative Center, Lyle Shields Meeting Room

1776 E. Washington, Urbana

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anderson, Carter, Gladney (Chair), James, Nudo, Rosales, Sapp, and Smucker

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Patricia Avery (CACJS Vice-Chair), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Leon Bryson (Extended Care Lead Therapist, Parenting with Love & Limits), Jennifer Putman (CACJS Member), Kay Rhodes (Administrative Secretary), Peter Tracy (Mental Health Board Director), James Warren (Front-end Lead Therapist, Parenting with Love & Limits), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair)

CALL TO ORDER

Gladney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call established a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Carter to approve agenda; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Carter to approve Justice & Social Services Committee September 9, 2009 minutes; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

OMNIBUS MOTION by Rosales to receive and place on file Animal Control August 2009; Public Defender July 2009; Probation & Court Services August 2009; and Emergency Management Agency September 2009 reports; seconded by Carter.

Nudo asked if it was normal to receive departmental reports a month or two behind the October meeting. Busey explained that the October agenda is prepared before the month of September ends, so receiving an August report is normal. **Motion carried.**

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Peter Tracy, MHB Director, explained the Mental Health Board contracts with Prairie Center and the Mental Health Center to administer the Parenting with Love and Limits program. He introduced Leon Bryson, the PLL Supervisor at Prairie Center. The PLL program at Prairie Center is for extended care of youth who have had serious involvement with the juvenile justice system or other behavioral issues. Tracy explained that James Warren is the lead therapist for front-end care at the Mental Health Center. Tracy stated the extended care and front-end care therapists have gone through extensive training. He explained part of the therapist's training is working directly with the youth and their families.

Bryson explained how the program works in detail. There are three extended care therapists. There are also three co-facilitators; one of them is Marla Elmore at the Juvenile Detention Center. The program standards are extremely strict. The therapist's work with the families is monitored. Therapists provide parents a coaching handbook, which contains specific information on some of the core issues families are facing, such as truancy, curfew, and lack of communication. These handbooks need to have up to date information and are reviewed frequently by supervisors to ensure this. The meetings are video taped for documentation purposes and the therapist's supervisor frequently reviews these videos. The therapists and co-facilitators also hold bi-weekly team meetings. Bryson distributed a summary of responses to focus questions by teens and parents of group six. As evidenced by some of the responses, the teens and the parents are gaining a great deal from the program. He stated they plan to graduate at least 103 families from PLL by June 30, 2010. There are many requirements in order for a family to successfully graduate from the PLL program. Examples of these are living in the home and obeying curfew, asking permission before leaving the home, school attendance, involvement in extra curricular activities and no further violations. The teen must also follow at least 80% of their behavioral contract set in place by PLL. Bryson stated PLL continues to receive referrals from many schools. Bryson has a meeting scheduled with numerous school administrators on November 10, 2009.

Warren spoke about the front-end program of PLL at the Mental Health Center. Warren stated the front-end part of the PLL six-week program deals with families who have issues but the teens have not been involved in the juvenile justice system. PLL assists teens and families to write contracts based on what issues they want to work on. One example of a contract would be if the parents wanted more help around the house, specific tasks were listed for the teen to accomplish everyday. There are motivational rewards built into the contract, so the teen receives a reward as tasks are completed. Warren explained when specific expectations are in writing; it clears up any miscommunications.

Tracy added that both Bryson and Warren are Masters level therapists and received intense specialized training for this program. Tracy explained that part of the PLL program provides for an independent research study. An outside evaluator reviews the amount of recidivism and other statistics over a period.

Sapp asked if the program is running at full capacity and if there are any costs to families. Bryson explained they have not turned anyone away from the program and there is no cost to families.

Anderson inquired if the schools provide information on truancy. Bryson said the schools do provide this information. PLL therapists work with any agency involved with the family in order to gather accurate information.

Rosales asked if any demographical information was available for review such as race, gender, income, or single parent homes verses both parents in the home. Warren said they do not have any specific numbers for these categories. Tracy explained this data is being collected. Tracy stated most of their referrals come from either law enforcement agencies or the Juvenile Detention Center.

Smucker asked what specifically makes this program succeed where other programs have not. Warren explained the PLL program is a streamlined six-week program as opposed to those that last 6 months and beyond. They only focus on the resolution of one or two issues. This provides families with basic tools to address other issues in the future.

Weibel asked how the SAMHSA Grant interfaces with the PLL program. Tracy explained the grant allows for expansion of the PLL program. It is also required that 75% of youth in this grant are PLL graduates.

MOTION by Carter to receive and place on file a summary of responses to focus questions by PLL participants; seconded by Anderson. **Motion carried.**

CHAIR'S REPORT

Gladney introduced Patricia Avery, Vice Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection. Avery distributed the final version of the update report provided to the committee from the Chair of CACJS. **MOTION** by Sapp to approve and place on file the final version of the CACJS update report; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Avery reviewed the highlights of the CACJS update report for the committee. The committee changed some of the wording on the jury selection questionnaire. The revised questionnaire will be available soon. Avery stated Judge Difanis and Roger Holland, Courts Administrator, raised a total of \$900.00 to help pay for radio ads promoting jury service. The Champaign County Bar Association contributed more than half of this amount. Avery stated Chair Ammons contacted Kimberlie Kranich, at WILL to assist in the development of a court instruction video that would feature well-known community figures to reach out to the African-American population. Avery stated Jury Commissioner; Wanda Adams invited the committee to attend the next jury commission meeting on October 14, 2009. Avery extended an invitation to the members of the Justice & Social Services Committee to attend the next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection.

Putman distributed a communication from a recent potential juror who did not have a good experience in the jury selection process. Judge Difanis and Roger Holland, Courts Administrator received a copy of the communication as well.

Rosales asked if the complaints from the potential juror had been addressed. Gladney stated that the Courts Administrator contacted this person and sent a formal letter of apology.

Nudo felt the key to greater participation in the jury selection process by the youth of the community is education. Nudo said a DVD created to appeal to the youth in the community is a good idea and Jane Quinlan, Superintendent of the Regional Office of Education, is willing to set this up in all Champaign County schools.

Rosales thanked CACJS for their work.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items designated for the Consent Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Rhodes
Administrative Secretary

Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.