



**Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center  
Governing Board  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, February 26, 2004  
1601 E. Main Street  
Urbana, Illinois**

***Minutes***

Members Present: Chairman John C. Piland, State's Attorney  
Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Kathleen Buetow, Carle Clinic  
Lt. Kris Bolt, Champaign County Sheriff's Office  
Mr. Matt Burgess, Provena Behavioral Health at Centerpoint  
Chief Dan Driscoll, Mahomet Police Department  
Ms. Gina Jackson, Champaign County Mental Health Board  
Lt. David Nelson, University of Illinois Police Department

Members Absent: Champaign Police Department  
Champaign County Probation & Court Services Department  
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
Rantoul Police Department  
Regional Office of Education  
Urbana Police Department

Others Attending: Michael Williams, Executive Director, CAC

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**Call to Order**

After finding a quorum present, Chairman Piland called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mr. Williams introduced Chief Dan Driscoll, who was recently sworn in as the Chief of Police for the Village of Mahomet. Mr. Williams welcomed Chief Driscoll to the Board.

## **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Buetow offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2004 Regular Meeting of the CAC Governing Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jackson. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

## **Welcome Guests From Krannert Center For the Performing Arts**

Mr. Williams announced that our guests from Krannert Center For the Performing Arts were unable to attend today's Board meeting. They will be invited to attend next month's Board meeting so that the Board can offer its thanks for the generous holiday donation received from Krannert Center's employees.

## **Approval of Cultural Competency Plan**

Mr. Williams reported that the draft Cultural Competency Plan tentatively approved by the CAC Governing Board in December had been approved by the Champaign County Mental Health Board on February 3, 2004, and he asked that the CAC Governing Board now formally adopt the Plan. Further discussion ensued. Ms. Jackson stated that the CCMHB was very pleased with the Plan submitted by the CAC and very much appreciates the effort by the CAC and other provider agencies in developing Cultural Competency Plans. Chairman Piland thanked Ms. Jackson for her comments and asked that she express the CAC's appreciation to the CCMHB Board.

Ms. Jackson offered a motion to formally approve the Cultural Competency Plan as submitted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Buetow. Ms. Jackson suggested that the Plan submitted by the CAC would serve as a model for other agencies. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

## **Renewal Application for Grant from Illinois Attorney General**

Mr. Williams provided Board members with a copy of the Grant Application for continued funding from the Illinois Attorney General. Mr. Williams reminded Board members that the Children's Advocacy Center has received an annual grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the Illinois Attorney General since January 2000. For the past several years, the proceeds of that grant have been used to offset a portion of the Executive Director's salary. The current Grant Application anticipates using grant proceeds in the same manner. Mr. Williams noted that, although the Grant Application is not due until tomorrow (February 27, 2004), in order to avoid any delay, which would result in rejection of the Application, he submitted the application by overnight courier on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Williams requested that the Board ratify the application as submitted.

Dr. Buetow offered a motion to ratify submission of the application for continued funding from the Illinois Attorney General. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jackson. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

### **Application for Continued Funding from the Champaign County Mental Health Board**

Mr. Williams provided Board members with a copy of an application for continued funding from the Champaign County Mental Health Board. Since FY 2002 beginning December 1, 2001, the CAC has received a \$350 payment from the CCMHB for each new treatment plan client it serves, up to an annual maximum of \$37,080. In the past, the proceeds realized under our Purchase of Services Contract with the CCMHB have been used to offset the costs of a portion of the Executive Director's salary, as well as fringe benefits for the Executive Director and certain operational/programming costs, including our support group program. The application for continued funding anticipates using the revenue realized pursuant to the contract to offset salary and fringe benefit costs and to pay membership dues to the National Children's Alliance, the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois, and the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. The application is due March 12, 2004 and Mr. Williams requested authorization to submit the application as presented.

Further discussion ensued. Ms. Jackson asked if \$500 in the membership dues line item was sufficient. Mr. Williams replied that that amount would cover the dues to professional associations in which the CAC holds memberships. Ms. Jackson also suggested that as the caseload at the CAC continues to grow, the CCMHB might need to take a look at additional funding. Chairman Piland stated that, absent the commitment of the CCMHB at the beginning of this project, the CAC would not have been able to get started. Chairman Piland noted that many other Illinois CACs receive funding pursuant to tax levies; however, the Champaign County CAC receives no funding from Champaign County other than from the CCMHB. The current Purchase of Services Contract arrangement with the CCMHB ensures that the money invested by the CCMHB has been well spent, and the CAC has managed to bring in additional resources to help address the mental health needs of its clients, most notably the Crisis Intervention Services Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Chairman Piland added that the relationship between the CCMHB and the CAC is wonderful as well as historical, and the continuation of that commitment is critical.

Dr. Buetow offered a motion to approve submission of the application for continued funding from the Champaign County Mental Health Board. The motion was seconded by Lt. Nelson. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

### **Budget Report**

A copy of the CAC Budget Report for the month ended January 31, 2004 was provided to each of the Board members. Other than training expenses, which totaled \$4,408.92, Mr. Williams stated that there were no unusual expenditures to report for the month of January. Expenditures for training included the costs of sending three members of the Multidisciplinary Team to the *Annual Conference on Child and Family*

*Maltreatment* in San Diego, as well as expenses incurred in connection with sending Investigator Greg Mills (CCSO) to *Child Forensic Interviewing Training* in Huntsville, Alabama, and the registration fee for Detective Alex Meyer (RPD) to attend *Sex Crimes Investigation* in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. Williams announced that he received the first installment (\$4,250) of our grant from the National Children's Alliance on February 18, 2004. Mr. Williams expects that the second installment will be received shortly after submission of the semi-annual report in July. Chairman Piland stated that our certification by the National Children's Alliance has two benefits. One, it is recognition by a national organization that we meet their standards. Secondly, the CAC will continue to receive financial support as a full member program. Chairman Piland noted that the initial financial support for the CAC was a competitive grant from the NCA in the amount of \$35,000. That grant was used to purchase equipment to get the Center started. We are now in a position where we will continue to receive annual funding from the NCA on a non-competitive basis.

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Williams reported that the Public Service Announcements being produced in cooperation with A Woman's Fund/Rape Crisis Services were filmed on February 11<sup>th</sup> and editing will begin next week. The rollout of the PSAs is planned for April 1<sup>st</sup>. In anticipation of that event, the CAC and A Woman's Fund are planning a Press Conference for Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. to be followed by an Open House at the CAC. The PSAs will be premiered for the media at 5:00 p.m. All of the people involved in the production of the PSAs will be invited to attend the Open House as our way of thanking them for their participation. Mr. Williams asked Board members if they would be willing to make donations to help defray the cost of food for the Open House.

Mr. Williams reported that he is continuing to work with a coalition of agencies, organizations and individuals who are planning events to commemorate Child Abuse Awareness Month (April). Those events will include the aforementioned Press Conference/Open House at the CAC, a Kickoff Event at Marketplace Mall on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, a candlelight vigil sponsored by CASA on April 4<sup>th</sup>, and a children's festival at Douglass Park on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Jackson stated that the American Legion, an organization for which she serves as a Post Commander, is actively involved in activities surrounding Child Safety Month (April), and she offered the assistance of the American Legion in planning, promoting, and staging Child Abuse Awareness Month activities. Mr. Williams thanked Ms. Jackson for her offer and is looking forward to hearing more from her.

The second annual Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Seminar was held at The Carle Forum on February 20<sup>th</sup>. This ½ day event provided participants with valuable information about the function and responsibilities of SANE personnel; male/female/pediatric anatomy and physiology; STD identification, treatment and collection; legal issues; and an overview of pediatric patients. In addition, Mr. Williams presented information about the CAC and the multidisciplinary response to allegations of child sexual and serious physical abuse in Champaign County. The CAC sponsored the

registration fee for 34 members of the Multidisciplinary Team and other professionals involved in the investigation and management of sexual assault cases.

Each of the Board members was provided with a Summary of CAC Activity for the month of January, which was prepared by Case Manager Jill Breen. During the month of January, 22 children were interviewed at the CAC. That number includes 13 children who were accepted for Case Management services, 1 child for whom the Center is not coordinating services, 3 non-victim siblings, 1 alleged juvenile offender, a trial preparation interview with 1 child, and two out-of-county courtesy usages of the facility during which a total of 3 children were interviewed. Thus far during February, 14 children have been interviewed at the Center. That number includes 11 children for whom the Center is coordinating services, 2 non-victim siblings/witnesses, and 1 alleged juvenile offender.

### **Communications**

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

### **Other Business**

None.

### **New Business**

Chairman Piland encouraged Board members to think creatively about ways to ensure the continued financial viability of the Center, especially in light of the uncertain economy. Chairman Piland cited the Crisis Intervention Services Program as a model pilot program and indicated that the services provided by that program are vital to the CAC and its clients. He stated that he worries how we would be able to continue to provide those services if our grant from the Authority is not renewed. Mr. Williams noted that the Authority would be conducting a site visit at the CAC on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Williams and Mr. Burgess will be meeting with our Grant Monitor, Jamie Connelly, to review the program. One topic of discussion will be generating additional revenue for Provena Behavioral Health. At the present time, revenue has fallen short of expectations, while matching contributions have exceeded projections. They will also explore whether or not funding for this project will be continued. Mr. Williams stated that initial impressions from the Authority are that they will continue to make funding available for CACs. As a member of the Authority's Governing Board, Chairman Piland will closely monitor this situation.

Further discussion about the Crisis Intervention Services program ensued. Chairman Piland asked Mr. Burgess for his assessment of the program. Mr. Burgess stated that the program is working well, however, we continue to see a higher lack of engagement rate than originally expected. Following the initial interview, many families do not engage in services. Mr. Burgess stated that this is due to a number of factors, including the chaotic, dysfunctional environments in which many of our families live. Many families seen at the CAC have so many problems with which they have difficulty

coping. Learning that their child has been sexually abused is just one more problem, and they oftentimes find themselves unable to address their child's abuse. Although we had hoped that the outreach component of the program would help overcome these circumstances, many families still are not engaging in services. Mr. Burgess added that, for those families who do engage in services, we are doing a good job of assessing their needs, stabilizing them and linking them with appropriate services. Mr. Burgess added that the Crisis Interventionists are helping to stabilize families in any way possible, and that many times that involves addressing basic needs such as housing, food, utilities, etc. Chairman Piland expressed dismay that many families are not addressing the sexual abuse of their children. Dr. Buetow stated that she sees similar problems with many parents who are trying to cope with chronic illnesses of their children, such as diabetes, who fail to get proper medical attention for their children, including medication. In many cases, the families are so overwhelmed by other problems that this is one more problem that is beyond their ability to cope. Ms. Jackson added that implementation of cultural competency plans will help address the basis mistrust of the system held by some.

Chairman Piland stated that he has discussed the Crisis Intervention Services program with Betsy Goulet, formerly with the Illinois Attorney General's Office and currently a site reviewer with the National Children's Alliance. Ms. Goulet is very impressed with the program and believes it could serve as a model of cooperation between CACs and mental health providers. Mr. Burgess added that he attended the Midwest Conference on Child Sexual Abuse in Madison, Wisconsin, last year and several conference participants were surprised to hear about the work we are doing and the level of inter-agency cooperation demonstrated by the program. Chairman Piland suggested that we might want to prepare a paper touting the Crisis Intervention Services program for possible publication in the NCA's newsletter.

### **Announcements**

Mr. Williams announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. Buetow offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m. The motion was seconded by Lt. Bolt. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Williams  
Executive Director