



**Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center
Governing Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 24, 2005
1601 E. Main Street
Urbana, Illinois**

Minutes

Members Present: Acting Chairman, Chief Daniel Driscoll, Mahomet Police Department
Mr. Matt Burgess, Clinical Specialist, The Mental Health Center
Lt. Joseph Gallo, Champaign Police Department
Mr. Joseph Gordon, Director, Probation & Court Services Department
Ms. Gina Jackson, Champaign County Mental Health Board
Lt. David Nelson, University of Illinois Police Department
Superintendent Judy Pacey, Regional Office of Education
Ms. Jill Tichenor, Field Services Manager, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Members Absent: Carle Clinic
Champaign County Sheriff's Office
Champaign County State's Attorney's Office
Rantoul Police Department
Urbana Police Department

Others Attending: Michael Williams, Executive Director, CAC

In the absence of Dr. Buetow, the Board selected Chief Daniel Driscoll as Acting Chairman.

Call to Order

After finding a quorum present, Acting Chairman Driscoll called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Jackson offered a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2005 Regular Meeting of the CAC Governing Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tichenor. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

Budget Report

A copy of the CAC Budget Report for the month ended February 28, 2005 was provided to each of the Board members. Mr. Williams highlighted the expenditures for Non-Employee Training which totaled \$3,017.17. Those expenditures represent the final expenses in connection with sending four members of the MDT to the San Diego Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment in January. Mr. Williams stated that there were no other unusual expenditures to report for the month of February.

Mr. Williams advised Board members that he submitted our application for continued grant funding to the Champaign County Mental Health Board on March 4, 2005. Our application includes a request for additional funding to pay the increased costs of crisis intervention services being provided to CAC clients under our contract with the Mental Health Center. It is expected that final funding decisions will be made by the CCMHB in June. Ms. Jackson stated that she had spoken with CCMHB Executive Director Peter Tracy and, although he is sympathetic to our request, the limited amount of funding available and the demands for that funding make it unlikely that increased funding for the CAC will be approved. Ms. Jackson indicated that she will fully support the CAC's request when it is considered by the CCMHB.

Mr. Williams noted that this is the time of year when many funding agencies and organizations are concerned about possible budget cuts. The Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois recently expressed concern that the line item in the DCFS budget used to fund CACs throughout the State might be cut. As such, CAC directors were asked to contact their legislators. Mr. Williams reported that in response to his letters, he received telephone calls from State Representatives Naomi Jakobsson and Chapin Rose and a note from State Senator Dale Righter. Mr. Williams is grateful for the support they expressed.

Director's Report

Over the past two weekends, students from the Key Club at Centennial High School have been painting cartoon characters on the walls of our Secondary Waiting/Support Group room. A total of 15 students have worked on the project so far. Mr. Williams expects that the project will be completed this weekend. Mr. Williams encouraged each of the Board members to take a look at the work in progress before leaving today's meeting.

As in years past, the CAC is involved in planning local activities in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month (April). This year's activities include the month-long Blue Ribbon Campaign, a Kick-Off Event scheduled for April 8th at Market Place Mall, and *Kidapalooza* (a festival celebrating the community's children) on April 30th at Douglass Park. Mr. Williams encouraged Board members to attend these events if at all possible.

Mr. Williams reported that he, Case Manager Jill Breen, and Intern Jessica McMeyer recently attended the second in a series of trainings on cultural competency sponsored by the Mental Health Agencies Council. That session was entitled *Cultural Competency Training: African Americans and Mental Health* and was facilitated by Maryam Ar-Raheem. Ms. Ar-Raheem was assisted by graduate students from the University of Illinois. Over the next few months, the CAC will sponsor the following training opportunities for staff and members of the Multidisciplinary Team:

- CAC Crisis Interventionist Nancy Barnes of the Mental Health Center will attend *Basic Clinical Practices: Treating Child Sexual Abuse Trauma*, to be held in Huntsville, Alabama, from April 4-8.
- CAC Case Manager Jill Breen, CAC Crisis Interventionist Paula Hetzel, and Assistant State's Attorneys Michelle Brooks and Robin Stoller will attend the *Downstate Conference on Child Abuse* to be held in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, on April 20th and 21st.
- Urbana Police Department Investigator Cory Koker will attend *Finding Words Illinois* (a 5-day child forensic interviewing training program) in Springfield, Illinois, during the week of May 23-28.

Mr. Williams reminded Board members that the CAC has established child forensic interviewing training as the priority for available training dollars. If anyone has a newly-assigned detective/investigator who needs to complete child forensic interviewing training in order to conduct interviews at the CAC, they should contact Mr. Williams and he will assist them in arranging for that training.

Each of the Board members was provided with a Summary of CAC Activity for the month of February. During the month of February, 21 children were interviewed at the CAC. That number includes 13 children accepted for case management services, 2 children for whom the Center is not coordinating services, and 6 non-victim siblings/witnesses. Thus far during March, 15 children have been interviewed at the Center, which includes 10 children accepted for case management services, 3 non-victim siblings/witnesses, and 2 alleged juvenile offenders. During March, the CAC also accepted one child for services who was interviewed outside the CAC. Mr. Williams reminded Board members that the recently revised Protocol requires that any agency interviewing a child victim outside the CAC contact the CAC so that the CAC can offer follow-up services to the child and his/her family.

Communications

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

Other Business

None.

New Business

Ms. Tichenor announced that two members of her staff, Investigators Camille Rodriquez and Carol Davis Hargest, would be leaving DCFS. Ms. Tichenor indicated that, with these resignations, the local DCFS office will be down to 5 investigators at the end of April and she asked for everyone's patience until those vacancies can be filled. Mr. Williams commented that the CAC has enjoyed working with Camille and Carol and that they would both be missed.

Announcements

Mr. Williams announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2005.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Superintendent Pacey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gordon and the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Williams
Executive Director