

DCYF Advisory Board
Dolloff Building, SOPS Campus
May 15, 2023

Attendance: Mike Adamkowski, Rep. DeSimone, Tessa Dyer, Lori Hebert, Rep. Long, Sandra McGonagle, Dolly McPhaul, Patricia Stolte, Joe Ribsam, Beth Margeson, Marie Noonan and Missy Wardner

Excused: Rep. Seidel **Absent:** Rep. Raymond and Sen. Avard

April Minutes: Sandra McGonagle made the motion to approve the minutes with a minor change. This was seconded by Patty Stolte and Lori Hebert. Tessa and Rep. DeSimone abstained. All others approved.

Before the Director arrived for updates, the Board discussed what they knew of the SYSC transition. Rep. DeSimone said there was a meeting in regards to the logistics of the new facility. She indicated that it will be a very calm, relaxed setting as if they are home. Classrooms will look like classrooms. Rep. Long mentioned that he was keeping an eye on the budget and how the Division wanted to create an Impact Team in order to assist District Offices (DO) when they are low on staff and need assistance.

SYSC Update:

- 45 youth counselors are what is needed and currently there are only 22
- Moving to the Hampstead campus will save on operational costs – such as not needing to hire an overnight nurse as there will already be nurses there
- Converting to trauma-based – create a clinical team, train them and then they can train the youth counselors (once we have about 30)
- Hoping the July raise for all staff across the state will help with hiring.
- Currently working on reclassifying the Youth Counselor positions to put them on a better pay scale (a more professional pay).
- The design work has been put out to bid. Supposedly the architectural work will start this winter. Administration is hoping to have it opened by the summer of 2025. They only have until 2026 to spend the ARPPA funds.
- Discussion about staff transition
 - Obviously we will lose some staff (many live in Manchester) but others will make the travel work
 - Maybe a mileage reimbursement? Would have to put a limit on it and only for staff that are already working there (grandfathered) not for newly hired staff
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Items to keep an eye on

- Kinship Care Program
 - The contract has gone out to bid
 - They will research to find a relative
 - Identify them
 - Support them
 - Determine how the relationship is
 - Complete licensing with relative so that they can get a subsidy

- Residential Care
 - Connecting with supports and services
 - FAST Forward
 - Discussion about different programs out there to assist families. Step Up Parents helps with \$500

- Workforce
 - we always need more field staff

- Community Resource Guide
 - It's a guide for individual's to see if the issue they are concerned about is reportable or if community resources can be of assistance
 - It will go live in a year to 18 months
 - They are currently looking for testers – anyone in the community- they need about 500 people
 - Joe will send the memo/link to register as a tester

Reviewed the Data Book

Rep. DeSimone would like a list of all the SYSC positions that are needed (whether they are filled or not).

Dolly brought cake for Joe's good bye.

Meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm