



**Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center
Governing Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 24, 2004
1601 E. Main Street
Urbana, Illinois**

Minutes

Members Present: Chairman John Piland, State's Attorney
Secretary/Treasurer Kathleen Buetow, Carle Clinic
Lt. Kris Bolt, Champaign County Sheriff's Office
Investigator Oscar Gamble, Urbana Police Department
Mr. Joseph Gordon, Director, Probation & Court Services Department
Lt. Dave Nelson, University of Illinois Police Department
Regional Superintendent Judy Pacey, Regional Office of Education
Ms. Jill Tichenor, Field Services Manager, Illinois Department of Children
and Family Services

Members Absent: Champaign County Mental Health Board
Champaign Police Department
Provena Behavioral Health
Mahomet Police Department
Rantoul Police Department

Others Attending: Michael Williams, Executive Director, CAC

Note: *In the absence of Chairman John Piland, the Board elected Mr. Gordon to serve as Acting Chairman for the meeting. Chairman Piland joined the meeting in progress at 9:14 a.m.*

Call to Order

After finding a quorum present, Acting Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Tichenor offered a motion to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2004 Regular Meeting of the CAC Governing Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Buetow. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

Budget Report

A copy of the CAC Budget Report for the month ended May 31, 2004 was provided to each of the Board members. Mr. Williams stated that there were no other unusual expenditures to report for the month of May.

Mr. Williams provided each of the Board members with a draft of the CAC budget for County FY 2005, beginning December 1, 2004. The budget anticipates a 3% increase in salaries for FY 2005, which is consistent with the County Administrator's salary increase recommendation for other non-bargaining unit employees. In addition, we are anticipating sizeable increases in the costs of IMRF (up 46%) and health insurance (up 17%), as well as smaller increases for unemployment and life insurance. Lt. Nelson asked if anyone had an explanation for the increase in IMRF costs. Mr. Gordon stated that he recently attended a meeting where he learned that, although the regular IMRF fund is overfunded, the funds for SLEP and ECO are facing shortfalls. Mr. Gordon couldn't say whether those shortfalls are affecting regular IMRF rates.

Mr. Williams noted that he has budgeted \$6,000 in FY 2005 as the Center's contribution to the cost of paving the driveway and the parking lot at the CAC. Those funds are derived from our FY 2004 Contract with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and must be expended no later than June 30, 2005. Paving the parking lot will not only enhance the attractiveness of the facility for children and families visiting the Center, it will also improve safety by removing loose gravel and eliminating potholes. Elimination of gravel and dust from the parking area will also help us maintain the cleanliness of the facility. Investigator Gamble asked if a date had been set for completion of the paving project. Mr. Williams responded that it had not; however, the work must be completed no later than June 30, 2005.

The tentative budget is due to County Administrator Deb Busey on July 2, 2004 and Mr. Williams will review the tentative budget with Ms. Busey on July 7th.

Mr. Williams reported that he and Mr. Burgess held a conference call with representatives of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority on June 15th to discuss ways to enhance the crisis intervention program, which may include contracting for 12 hours per week of case management services. Mr. Williams reminded Board members that the original Request For Proposals issued by the Authority for Child Advocacy Center Services Programs included case management services among the activities eligible for funding. At the time the RFP was issued (spring 2002), the

Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center had only recently relocated to its permanent facilities and had hired its first Case Manager just a few months prior (in September 2001). As such, we were not experiencing numbers that would justify additional case management services at that time. However, the number of children and their non-offending family members receiving case management services has steadily increased to the point where Mr. Williams believes that additional case management services are justified. Those services would be paid for with existing grant funds awarded to the CAC by the Authority.

At the request of the Authority, Mr. Williams placed our proposal in writing and forwarded it to the Authority earlier this week. Mr. Williams will keep the Board apprised of further developments. On a related note, Mr. Williams learned earlier this week that our grant monitor with the Authority, Jamie Connolly, is leaving the Authority on July 8th to take a position as a Juvenile Detention Officer with the DuPage County Juvenile Detention Center.

In response to a question from Mr. Gordon, Mr. Williams reminded Board members that the Authority voted to continue funding the crisis intervention services program for the 12-month period beginning November 1, 2004. Mr. Gordon asked Mr. Piland if he knew anything about the prospects for long-term funding from the Authority. Mr. Piland responded that federal money being distributed to states is decreasing, in part due to funding of homeland security measures. Although this is not an immediate concern, funding reductions may be on the horizon.

Mr. Williams reported that the Champaign County Mental Health Board met on June 1, 2004 and allocated \$37,080 to the Children's Advocacy Center for Champaign County FY 2005. Mr. Williams noted that CCMHB awards for the FY 2005 contract year exceed available revenues and that the CCMHB decided to use funds held in reserve as gap financing to assist in maintaining services faced with continued reductions in state and federal support while addressing identified needs in the community. The CCMHB has notified providers that the FY 2006 allocation process will require a reassessment of the Board's ability to continue to bridge the funding gap, while realigning services to meet consumers' needs in the most effective manner.

Mr. Williams recently learned that the National Children's Alliance has been awarded an additional \$1.5 million in funding for the grants budget this year. Accordingly, NCA Program Support grants for FY 2005 beginning January 1, 2005 will be restored to \$10,000 (up from \$8,500 in FY 2004).

Director's Report

***Note:** Mr. Piland assumed Chairmanship of the meeting.*

Mr. Williams announced that the Children's Advocacy Center along with the Champaign Public Library and Salt & Light will be featured by WDWS/WHMS Radio during The Taste of Champaign-Urbana on June 25th, 26th and 27th. During the past week, WDWS/WHMS has provided on-air promotion of the CAC and the other agencies. Mr. Williams will also be a guest in the WDWS/WHMS tent at The Taste of Champaign-

Urbana on Friday, June 25th, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. This is a terrific opportunity to highlight the work being done at the Center and to publicize our mission to the community. Mr. Williams encouraged Board members to stop by the WDWS/WHMS tent in West Side Park.

Mr. Williams reported that he and other members of the CAC Multidisciplinary Team are continuing to work on a brochure to explain the sexual assault medical examination to children and their parents. The costs of printing the brochure will be paid for with the proceeds of the Vitamin Anti-Trust Settlement grant received from the Illinois Attorney General and the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois in 2003. Mr. Williams hopes to have that project completed in the next month. That grant also paid for three members of the MDT to attend the San Diego Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment in January. Those individuals will present a workshop for other members of the MDT on August 9th from 9:00 a.m.-noon. The workshop will be held at the Champaign Police Department. A preliminary announcement was sent to Team members in June and will be followed-up with a specific agenda.

Mr. Williams reported that three members of the MDT would be attending a conference entitled "*Investigation and Prosecution of Child Fatalities and Physical Abuse*" in Chicago from July 26-30. Three members of the Team will also be attending *finding words Illinois* in Springfield from July 19-23.

Each of the Board members was provided with a Summary of CAC Activity for the month of May, which was prepared by Case Manager Jill Breen. During the month of May, 18 children were interviewed at the CAC. That number includes 16 children accepted for Case Management services and 2 non-victim siblings/witnesses. Thus far during June, 23 children have been interviewed at the Center, including 14 children accepted for case management services, 7 non-victim siblings/witnesses, and 2 children from Ford County.

Chairman Piland stated that he recently received a telephone call from a parent of a child who had been interviewed at the CAC. Although the parent was pleased with the CAC and the investigators, she was somewhat concerned that statements made by an investigator to her child might have been perceived as threatening. Chairman Piland cautioned that interviewers need to be especially careful not to make any statements that could be perceived as a threat or a bribe. Mr. Williams mentioned that he has heard investigators tell parents that it is their "personal opinion" that a case would or would not be charged. Mr. Williams stated that investigators would do well not to offer their "personal opinions" or assessments as it creates expectations in the minds of parents and/or their children which may or may not be met. Dr. Buetow added that children should never be told that they are not going to receive shots as part of a medical examination. In many cases, shots are a necessary part of the testing/treatment process and children who receive shots after having been told that they would not perceive those shots as punishment for "telling."

Mr. Williams stated that these issues would be discussed at the in-service training on August 9th and he urged Board members to encourage their staff, particularly investigators, to attend.

At its meeting in May, the Board considered a draft resolution supporting the creation of a Developmental Disabilities Board. At the request of the Board, Mr. Williams spoke with Dale Morrissey, Executive Director of the Developmental Services Center and coordinator of the referendum campaign, to inquire whether a decision with respect to re-allocating CCMHB funding currently allocated to developmental disabilities services would be made prior to or after the referendum. Mr. Morrissey stated that the timing of re-allocation decisions is not known. Further discussion followed. Chairman Piland stated he believes it is important that decisions such as this be made in advance of the referendum. It was the consensus of the Board to take no further action on the resolution at this time.

Communications

None.

Other Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Mr. Williams announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Lt. Bolt offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 a.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Buetow. There was no further discussion, the motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Williams
Executive Director