



**Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center
Governing Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 28, 2008
201 W. Kenyon Road, Suite 1
Champaign, Illinois**

Minutes

Members Present: Dr. Kathleen Buetow, Secretary/Treasurer, Carle Clinic
(In Person) Lt. Roy Acree, University of Illinois Police Department
Ms. Lisa Benson, Intensive Outreach Services Manager, Mental Health
Center of Champaign County
Ms. Lolita Dumas, Child Protection Manager, Illinois Department of
Children & Family Services
Lt. Joe Gallo, Champaign Police Department
Interim Chief Jerry Gamble, Mahomet Police Department
Mr. Joseph Gordon, Director, Probation & Court Services Department
Lt. Bryant Seraphin, Urbana Police Department
Dr. Deborah Townsend, Champaign County Mental Health Board

Members Absent: Champaign County Sheriff's Office
Champaign County State's Attorney's Office
Rantoul Police Department
Regional Office of Education

Others Attending: Michael Williams, Executive Director, CAC
Valerie Krynski, Intern, Probation & Court Services Department

In the absence of State's Attorney Julia Rietz, Dr. Buetow served as Acting Chair.

Call to Order

After finding a quorum present, Dr. Buetow called the meeting to order at 9:05
a.m.



NATIONAL
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ACCREDITED
MEMBER

Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center
201 W. Kenyon Road, Suite 1 • Champaign, IL 61820 • Phone: 217.384.1266 • Fax: 217.344.1214

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Approval of Minutes

Lt. Acree made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Governing Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gordon. There was no further discussion. Motion approved.

Review and Approval of Application for 2008 National Children's Alliance Equipment Grant in the Amount of \$3,453

Mr. Williams provided Board members with a copy of the CAC's Application for a 2008 Equipment Grant from the National Children's Alliance. The NCA is making available approximately ten competitive grants in the amount of \$5,000 each for the purchase of equipment to benefit children's advocacy centers and chapter offices. Mr. Williams has applied for \$3,453 to replace the Center's three PCs; two of the PCs were purchased in 1999-2000 and the third was donated by the Illinois Attorney General shortly thereafter. The CAC has previously received two NCA equipment grants; the first was used to purchase a laptop and an LCD projector, and the second was used to upgrade the Center's cameras and to purchase the monitor in the child interview room. The RFP was released on February 1, 2008 and the deadline for submitting the online application was February 22, 2008. Notifications of grant awards are to be made by March 4, 2008 and all grant funds must be expended no later than March 31, 2008. In order to meet the application deadline, Mr. Williams submitted the application on February 14, 2008. Mr. Williams requested that the Board approve the application and ratify its submission.

In response to a question from Dr. Townsend about the brand of personal computers to be purchased, Mr. Williams stated that the equipment was recommended by the County's Information Technology Department and will be compatible with equipment already in place.

Dr. Townsend made a motion to approve the Application for a National Children's Alliance Equipment Grant in the amount of \$3,453 and to ratify its submission to the NCA. The motion was seconded by Ms. Benson. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved.

Budget Report

A copy of the CAC Budget Report for the month ended January 31, 2008 was provided to each of the Board members. Mr. Williams stated that there were no unusual expenditures to report for the month of January.

Mr. Williams reported that he recently received notice from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority that they are anticipating a reduction in federal VOCA funds for 2008. Accordingly, they are notifying all VOCA-funded grantees to expect a

20% decrease in funding for the next budget period. Our current grant with the Authority expires on October 31, 2008. Mr. Williams reminded Board members that all grant funds received from the Authority are used to contract with the Mental Health Center of Champaign County for crisis intervention services and he added that we are in a somewhat better position than those grantees that use VOCA funding to pay for direct services personnel. Many of the CACs who receive this funding will be renewing their grants on July 1, 2008, and Mr. Williams speculated that we may know more about the funding cuts at that time. That would give us some time to assess the impact of funding cuts before our current grant expires on October 31, 2008. Ms. Benson stated that she and Intensive Outreach Services Supervisor Amy Hurst have discussed the notice about possible funding reductions and they are looking at strategies to maintain the crisis intervention services program and to lessen the impact of possible funding cuts.

Director's Report

On February 7, 2008, the CAC began offering a child victim support group for girls ages 8-12. The 12-week group program is being facilitated by Joanna Kling, a local therapist and former representative of the Mental Health Center on the CAC Board. Joanna is being assisted by Laura Gelsthorpe, an intern in Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Illinois. Mr. Williams was pleased to report that six children attended last week's support group meeting.

Mr. Williams reported that the Children's Advocacy Center and the East Central Illinois Police Training Project are continuing their efforts to plan and present a two-day seminar to provide updated forensic interviewing training in Champaign County. The training has been tentatively scheduled for May 5-6, 2008. Once plans are finalized, a training announcement and registration information will be sent out by the Police Training Project. The Police Training Project is hoping to obtain federal grant funding from the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center to support the training program. In response to a question from Lt. Seraphin, Mr. Williams stated that the seminar will probably be limited to 30-40 participants and that priority would be given to law enforcement and DCFS investigators who are assigned to conduct interviews at the CAC. Because the Police Training Project has responsibility for counties other than Champaign, it is likely that investigators from those counties will also be invited to attend.

Mr. Williams reported on the following other training activities:

- On February 26, 2008, SANE Coordinator Patty Metzler and Carle Foundation Hospital presented a Pediatric SANE/SART Seminar. Eight members of the CAC Multidisciplinary Team attended the seminar.
- CAC Case Manager Elaine Carter will be attending the 4th Annual Prevention & Interventions Conference in St. Charles, Missouri, from April 2-4, 2008.
- CCSO Investigator Shane Cook, MPD Officer Rebecca Goodwin and RPD Officer Marc Beach have been registered to attend Finding Words Illinois (child forensic interviewing training) in Springfield during the week of April 28-May 2, 2008.

Mr. Williams reported that our DCFS grant monitor, Dr. Cheryl Peterson, conducted a site visit at the CAC on February 5, 2008. Mr. Williams felt that the site visit went very well. Contract materials for FY 2009 were received earlier this week and completed materials are due to DCFS by March 24, 2008.

Mr. Williams reported that work is continuing on our application for re-accreditation by the National Children's Alliance. Mr. Williams has put together a committee of Team members who have agreed to review the application. The Team plans to meet in March to review input, suggestions, corrections, revisions, etc. The application is due May 7, 2008 and the site visit is scheduled for November 7, 2008.

The Children's Advocacy Center will be participating in the Silent Witness Campaign again this year during the month of April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue plywood silhouettes of children will be placed at businesses and homes throughout the County to represent the known and unknown victims of child abuse and to raise awareness of this issue in our community. Lowe's of Champaign again donated plywood and paint for this project and the silhouettes are being crafted by the Industrial Arts classes at Mahomet-Seymour High School.

Each of the Board members was provided with a Summary of CAC Activity for the month of January. During the month of January, 13 children were interviewed at the CAC, which included 9 children accepted for case management services, 1 child for whom the CAC is not providing follow-up services, a follow-up interview with a child who was initially interviewed at the CAC in July and August 2007, a follow-up interview with a child who was initially referred to the CAC for services in October 2007, and 1 non-victim sibling/witness. Thus far during February, 19 children have been interviewed at the Center, which includes 13 children accepted for case management services, 1 child for whom the CAC is not providing follow-up services, 1 alleged juvenile offender, 3 non-victim siblings/witnesses, and a follow-up interview with a child who was initially interviewed at the CAC in February 2007.

Mr. Williams announced that the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI) is planning a "Champions for Children Walk" for May 16-19, 2008. The walk will be conducted in four parts beginning in Springfield on Friday, continuing in McLean and Will counties on Saturday and Sunday, and finishing at the Chicago CAC on Monday. Walkers will seek sponsorships and 80% of the proceeds raised by each walker will be returned to the CAC for which they are walking. The remaining 20% will be used to pay expenses related to the walk (i.e., insurance, promotion materials, etc.). Billie Larkin, the Executive Director of the CACI, is planning to attend the CAC Governing Board meeting in March to promote the walk.

Communications

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

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Mr. Williams announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2008.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Williams
Executive Director