

Capital District Youth Center, Inc.
Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, 2017
Capital District Regional Planning Commission
One Park Place, Suite 102
Albany, NY 12205

Members Present: William Connors, Michael Morelli, Laura Bauer, Steven Bayle, Barbara Mauro

Members Absent: Lucille McKnight, Stan Brownell, Samantha Miller-Herrera

Staff: Mark Castiglione, Donna Reinhart

Advisory: Karim Abdul Matine, Facility Director

Presiding: Barbara Mauro, President called the meeting to order at 9:45am.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Gail Geohagen-Pratt from the Department of Children, Youth and Families was in attendance.

2. March 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were distributed before the meeting and no changes were made.

Action Taken

Laura Bauer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Bill Connors seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Financial Statement through April 30th

The financial statement represents activities through April 30, 2017. For the first four months, the actual revenues are at 37% and expenses are estimated at 66%. The higher percentage on the expense side is a result of the paper expense of transferring the facility to Albany County.

Action Taken

Laura Bauer made a motion to approve the financial statement and Mike Morelli seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Length of Stay Analysis

CDRPC staff prepared a length of stay analysis to provide additional context for the development of mental health services at the facility. The analysis demonstrates the short-term nature of stays at the facility but also reveals that while individuals with multiple admissions account for under 40% of total users, they account for nearly 70% of bed days.

An Overview of Trends at the Juvenile Detention Center and multiple tables were distributed to the Board for review.

5. Cost Savings Report Update

The Cost Savings Analysis was prepared a few years ago and had not been updated in some time. The updated analysis used a comparison of 2013 facility per diem rates and current personnel and transportation costs.

The outcome of the Cost Savings Analysis was that the Capital District Youth Center remains the most cost effective in New York State.

6. Mental Health Services Update

At the March 15th meeting, peers in the county mental health offices convened and agreed on the screening tools that will be used at the facility and came to a consensus on the process that would be used on intake. The screening tools that were selected are as follows:

- Trained shift supervisor completes Patient Health Questionnaire – PHQ-9 and the CRAFFT Screening Questions during intake. (All shift supervisors will need to be trained on using the evidence based assessment tools).
- Within 24-48 hours clinician/Social Worker completes Child Behavioral Check List 0 CBCL, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire-SDQ, and Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale

Karim reported that the physicians he works with do not participate in the CAPES program and cannot provide psychiatric services at the facility. Gail Geohagen-Pratt suggested discussing with Jim Dennis the possibility of acquiring psychiatric services through Berkshire Farm campus when needed. Mark will follow up with Jim Dennis and report back to the board.

Jim Dennis prepared a job description for the clinician which was reviewed by the committee and given to the Board prior to the meeting.

7. Conditions of Confinement Report

The Conditions of Confinement Report was presented at the March meeting by Lynn Tubbs, Child Welfare Clinical Director and Gail Geohagen-Pratt, Commissioner at Albany County Dept. of Children, Youth and Families. The Board received a copy of the report before the meeting.

The report is still open for edits at this time and Mark will forward to Gail Geohagen-Pratt once all edits are received. Gail will be discussing next steps with OCFS in anticipation of implementing the report.

8. Facility Usage: March & April 2017

Mark informed the Board that the second column heading on Memo #17-18 should be **2017** not **2016**.

The facility was operating in March at 77% which is lower than 2016 at 83.9%. For April, the facility was operating at 75% which is also lower than 2016 at 94%. Year to date the utilization is at 84%; higher than 2016 at 82.8%.

9. Expanded Role of the Office of the Ombudsman

A letter was sent to CDYCI, attention Board President Barbara Mauro outlining an expanded role for the Office of the Ombudsman. Karim has been involved in the discussions with OCFS about the process.

Karim informed the Board that two individuals from the Office of the Ombudsman (OOTO) toured the facility in February and came back for the first visit two weeks ago. The OOTO staff interviewed all the children in the facility and discussed their findings with Karim at the end of the visit.

Issues that were raised were quality of life issues such as getting haircuts, better food, and acquiring a chaplain. There were no complaints about the staff. Karim added that most of these issues can be fixed and he is in the process of finding a chaplain at this time.

Another issue that came up was the OOTO staff wanted to interview the children on camera, however there are no cameras in the rooms at the facility. Some of the interviews were done in the A Dorm which was unoccupied and does have a camera. The facility does not have cameras in every room and was never expected to. There are existing cameras at all exits, the outside yard, activity rooms and hallways. The staff person in the control room monitors all the cameras. The recordings are kept for 30 days.

Karim believes it would be a good idea to have more cameras in certain areas of the facility such as the boy's dorm, cafeteria and the interview room. Neither OCFS nor the Justice Center are advocating for more cameras in the facility.

Mike Morelli suggested Karim get an estimate for installing more cameras at the facility. Karim would also like to get an estimate for a swipe system to be put in place for visual checks. This system requires the person to swipe a card at each room verifying a check was performed. Karim also added getting an estimate for a new control board that controls the doors at the facility. Karim will contact OCFS to get information on vendors for the estimates mentioned.

10. Facility Operation/Agency Report

Karim informed the Board that he is in the process of filling two of the four staff positions that have been vacant. Karim is still in the process of looking to fill the full-time nurse position. He has started looking to hire per diem nurses until a full-time nurse is found. Information on the nurse position is consistently being advertised, however the salary offered is not competitive with other facilities in the area. There is a part time nurse at the facility now that has extended their hours to almost full time. There is back up with an urgent care group that provides the physicians assistants.

Mark will have a discussion with Jim Dennis about a salary increase for the full-time nurse position and report back to the board.

11. Other Business

With the new Raise the Age law being passed, an opportunity exists to have a larger population at the facility. New York State will no longer prosecute 16 and 17 year-olds as adults, instead youth involved in criminal justice systems will be provided with court processes, services and placement options that are developmentally appropriate.

The phase in process for 16 year-olds will take place by October, 2018 and for 17 year-olds by October, 2019. Karim believes it is very likely they will be placed in the Capital District Juvenile Detention Facility. Mark suggested there be a meeting with the CDYCI attorney to discuss the impact this could have on the facility. A memo will be prepared by the attorney for Board discussion.

12. Next Meeting Date

Mark informed the Board that the next meeting will be held on July 19 at the Albany County Sewer District's North Plant in Menands at 9:00am. Directions to the sewer facility will be sent out with the July meeting packets.

Adjournment

Mike Morelli made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Steve Bayle seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Reinhart
Office Manager

Reviewed and approved,

Barbara Mauro
Board President