

State of Delaware Child Protection Accountability Commission Permanency for Adolescents Committee

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015 -- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

In Attendance:

The Hon. Peter B. Jones (Co-Chair)
Rachael Neff, Family Court
Kathryn Lunger, Esq., OPD
Tania Culley, Esq., OCA
Gwen Stubbolo, CASA
Robert Croce, DFS

Felicia Kellum, DSCYF
Julie Miller, Esq., DYOI/DCJ
Donna Thompson, Esq., DAG
Theresa Sedivec, Esq., DAG
Lauren Brueckner, CASA
The Hon. Barbara Crowell

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Judge Peter Jones, Co-Chair, welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from January 9, 2015 were approved with one minor change.

III. WORKGROUP REPORTS

a. Permanency Options

Lauren Brueckner reported on the Permanency Options workgroup. The workgroup has not met in the last few months. The Permanency Options and Best Practices training was presented at the Protecting Delaware's Children Conference. It will also be offered at the foster parent conference in May. The training should be available online in the next month or two. The workgroup will set a next meeting to take on its next set of tasks.

b. Extended Jurisdiction

Gwen Stubbolo and Ms. Brueckner reported on the Extended Jurisdiction workgroup. The workgroup's documents on best practices have been distributed and are being utilized in a variety of venues.

Forms have been developed for filing for Extended Jurisdiction. The form Petition has been created and is being used now. There is no fee. The workgroup with the help of OCA and Family Court shall finalize a bill to change from motion to petition. The bill should address who the parties are and any other matters that flow from it now being a Petition. The workgroup should next analyze the data provided by OCA on EJ use and provide other recommendations for improvement.

Training on Extended Jurisdiction and other related issues was presented at the Protecting Delaware's Children Conference. The training was videotaped and will be available online in the next month or two. The group suggested a modified version for

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presentation to the Judges at a retreat or CIP meeting.

c. APPLA

A confidential review of individual cases occurred in January focusing on youth ages 11-13 with a permanency plan of APPLA. The workgroup then reviewed the findings and developed an action plan. The plan was approved and will be attached to these minutes. The plan added back in a recommendation that Family Court should review youth with a permanency plan of APPLA at least twice per year.

The workgroup will continue to monitor the action plan and report back. In addition, it will begin to review HR4980 and work with partners to develop a plan for training and alternatives on this new federal law.

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- a. Non-Relative Placements (SB 99) – At the last meeting, the Family Court was still working on a draft procedure for handling non-relative guardianship petitions in a uniform manner statewide. There was no update. Hopefully the final procedure will be presented to this Committee at the next meeting in July.
- b. Rights of Youth in DSCYF Custody – At the time of the meeting, the bill had passed the House and was in the Senate.
- c. Juvenile Expungement – a complete re-organization of last year’s draft bill has occurred and has been presented to the Department of Justice for comment and feedback. No further update is available.
- d. Child Protection Registry (SB 181) – The law took effect on January 15th. Training on the Registry was provided on March 16th to a sell out crowd of 60 persons. It was also videotaped and will be available online in the next few months.

V. CROSSOVER YOUTH STATISTICS

a. APPLA

The Committee reviewed the statistics. It was noted that there are 103 youth with a permanency plan of APPLA. No new youth less than age 14 have had this plan assigned. This is good news. OCA and DFS continue to compare data. DFS pulls its data from the Plan for Child in Care. Over the next several months, DFS and OCA will partner with the Court for further quality assurance on this data. Sussex County continues to have the largest percentage of APPLA youth. The APPLA action plan will hopefully begin to address these numbers.

b. Juvenile Justice and Expungements

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Ms. Culley indicated that about half of OCA clients aged 11 or older are involved with the juvenile justice system. This number has not changed since statistics began. OCA continues to monitor JJ outcomes and push for expungements as youth become eligible.

- c. Extended Jurisdiction.

Statistics will be provided at the next meeting.

VI. OVERSIGHT/COORDINATION UPDATES

- a. Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative (DYOI)

Julie Miller reported a Job Shadow Day will occur on May 5th. If your agency would like to sponsor a youth, ages 16-21, for a 3 hour time block, please contact her. It is hoped that at least 20 youth will have job shadow opportunities. More volunteers are needed in Kent and Sussex. Orientation is on April 14th. There were two Youth Involvement in Court workshops at the Protecting Delaware's Children Conference. One will be available online in the next month or two.

- b. Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

YAC met last on March 18th. About 25 youth regularly attend. There was a presentation on the DYOI Housing Workgroup and then feedback was solicited. The Rights of Youth in DSCYF Custody bill was also discussed. Judge Crowell raised a concern about youth leadership development and hopes this can be addressed. There has also been turnover in the YAC Advisors and there are no funds left to pay Instructional Advocates.

- c. Juvenile Justice Collaborative and DFS placement resources and stability

No reports.

VII. 2015 MEETING DATES:

July 10, 2015

October 9, 2015

All meetings will take place from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in both Wilmington and Georgetown.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30.