

# State of Delaware Child Protection Accountability Commission Permanency for Adolescents Committee

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FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016 -- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

## **In Attendance:**

The Hon. Peter B. Jones (Co-Chair)  
Shirley Roberts (Co-Chair)  
Jennifer Kline, Esq.  
Tania Culley, Esq.  
Felicia Kellum

Kathryn Lunger, Esq.  
Rachael Neff  
Anthony Longo, Esq.  
The Hon. Barbara Crowell  
Brittany Willard

## **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Shirley Roberts, Co-Chair, welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from April 29, 2016 were approved.

## **III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Kathryn Lunger, Esq. reported on the 4 juvenile justice bills that passed. The Governor has signed the bill entitling all children to representation. The other 3 bills, juvenile expungement, civil citation and shackling, will be signed as a package. The Family Court has been receiving many expungement petitions under the old law, and the Office of Defense Services has been holding clinics to train attorneys and assist juveniles in the expungement process.

Tania Culley, Esq. reported on several child welfare bills that passed and a few that did not. This Committee was responsible for the normalcy bill and the extended jurisdiction bill which both passed and are awaiting signature. Other bills of interest to this committee are the CASA Program relocation into OCA which will go into effect in February or March of 2017, the relocation of the Investigation Coordinator and Erin's law. Several bills which did not pass were substance exposed infants, out of school suspensions, changes to mandatory reporting, and extended jurisdiction for mentally ill young adults.

## **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Implementation of P.L. 113-183**

A benchcard has been completed and distributed to the judicial staff. The IV-E chart has been finalized and was distributed to this Committee who should in turn share it with their agencies. The attorney questions were reviewed and Committee members wanted to provide some additional feedback to Jen Kline. Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 247 passed but has not yet been signed. A summary sheet of the new law was provided. Research by OCA and discussion with DOJ and DFS need to occur regarding the liability protections for foster parents. An update will be provided at the next meeting. DFS is finalizing its policies on the new law and will train staff and foster

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parents in the coming months. The Family Court is also organizing a training on the new law for all CIP attorneys, judicial officers and other who wish to participate.

b. Youth Transition Guide

Felicia Kellum led discussion about the youth transition guide. Ms. Kellum was able to obtain assistance in updating the guide. It is nearly complete. It just needs to be checked against other prior versions.

c. Sex Education and Pregnancy Prevention

Ms. Kellum reported that OCA has completed a draft of a resource manual for which she has provided input. This draft can be shared at the next Committee meeting. Foster parents received training at their annual conference but more training is needed. Upstream is holding a vendor table at YAC and will be training IL workers and then DFS workers before the end of the year. A training for youth still needs to be developed and Upstream will be a partner for this.

d. Youth Involvement in Court/ Court Observation

The Family Court continues to distribute youth folders in Court and more will soon need to be ordered. The Court's data analyst will be exploring how to measure youth involvement in Court. Discussion occurred regarding the options for youth participation in Court and all were reminded of the questionnaire and packages available to guide meaningful youth participation.

e. New Castle County Mural

The mural project occurred the week of June 27<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Delaware College of Art and Design. A date for the dedication and donation ceremony has not yet been identified.

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Permanency Options

No report from the workgroup was available. However, at the next meeting, dissolution may be requested. Better preparation of older youth for permanency by mental health providers was discussed. The workgroup should decide if it, or another group such as Interagency Committee on Adoption, should tackle this issue.

b. Self-Sufficiency Benchmarks

The Self-Sufficiency Benchmarks workgroup has met and made great progress. The workgroup hopes to complete its work by the end of the year and also develop training to assist in use of the benchmarks.

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## VI. DUAL STATUS YOUTH STATISTICS

### a. APPLA

The number of youth with the plan of APPLA continue to decrease as the cases are reviewed. In the last year, the number has plummeted from 99 youth to 57 youth, a decrease from 32% to 19%. Sussex County in particular has gone from 50% of its teens having APPLA to only 17%. This Committee should be commended for its dedication and hard work to reduce these numbers. Unfortunately, two children less than 16 who have had Court hearings still have a plan of APPLA. DFS agreed to provide an update, once they have it, as to how these violations impact federal funding.

### b. Extended Jurisdiction

The Committee agreed to remove charts 2.2-2.4 for the CPAC data dashboards, but to keep 2.4 for this Committee only. DFS, OCA and the Family Court will continue to partner to improve accuracy of this data.

### c. Juvenile Justice and Dual Status Youth

The Committee reviewed the statistics for dual status youth. 59% of OCA clients have juvenile justice involvement. OCA will clarify as to whether that is before entry into DSCYF Custody or after. 95% of its 17 year old clients are juvenile justice involved. OCA committed to analyzing the data for trends and coming back to this committee with the information so that a discussion can ensue regarding these numbers. A core function of this committee is to increase permanency for adolescents, and juvenile records are a significant hindrance. Entries into DSCYF custody from the juvenile justice and mental health systems is low across all three counties hopefully reflecting partner efforts to avoid foster care.

## VII. 2016 MEETING DATES

- October 21, 2016 - PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE

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 11:45.