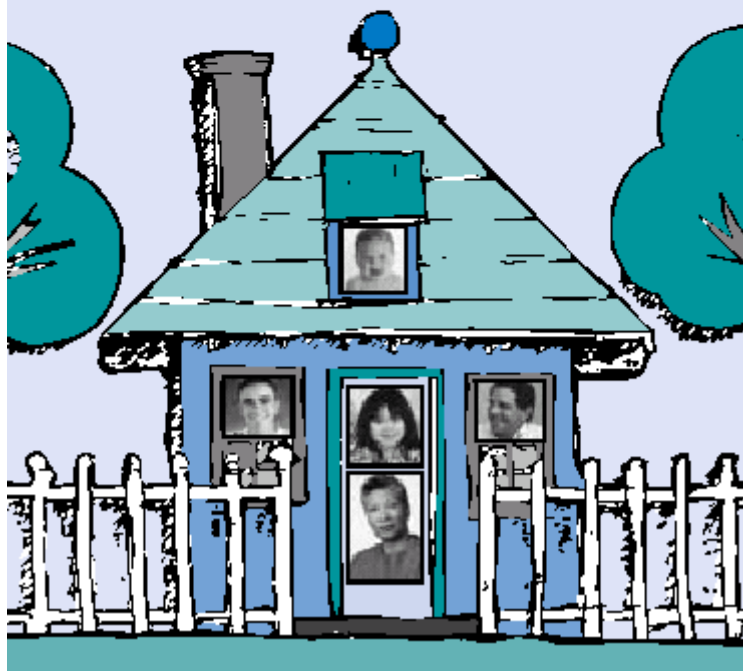


**Harris County
Protective Services for
Children and Adults
(HCPS)**



COMMITTEE REPORTS

April 2010

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**HARRIS COUNTY
CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES
REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

COMMITTEE: Children's Services Committee

MEETING DATE: April 5, 2010 12:00 pm
Room 2A17 Murworth

ATTENDEES

BOARD:

Marilyn DeMontrond
Ellie Sweeney

ATTENDEES

HCPS/DFPS STAFF:

Willie Nelson Kim Poré
Debra Andrews Janis Bane
Vanessa Shippard – DFPS
Beverly Pettway

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm.

RECOMMENDED ACTION :

Program Highlights: Each program director gave a brief status report of his/her program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS and EXCEPTIONS:

Beverly Pettway, HCPS Chief Financial Officer, presented a draft template for programs to utilize in developing their cost per service. The programs spent time discussing unique areas of their programs and how to fit them into the template. Ms. Pettway gathered everyone's input to take back to the Administrative Committee for finalization of the template. It is hoped that the final version of the template will be available for implementation early May.

State Programs

Ms. Alex was unable to attend the meeting, Ms. Shippard attended in her place. Unfortunately Ms. Shippard shared the news that over the weekend there were seven child deaths Region-wide. Four of the deaths involved parents co-sleeping with their children, one was a 14 year old that died of a gun shot wound, one was a shaken baby and the last one unknown. DFPS, if informed, will investigate all child deaths to rule out abuse and neglect.

Jerry Dowse was named the new Program Director for Special Investigators. They are currently interviewing for the third and final PD for the Special Investigators. The Region is still struggling with about a 50% vacancy rate for that program.

As Ms. Alex mentioned last month Family Based Safety Services (FBSS) completed its Rapid Response Initiative. The purpose of this initiative was to review FBSS cases that had been open 365 plus days in order to assess for child safety. Over 320 cases were

reviewed by a team that included FBSS PDs, PAs, the two Child Safety Leads and two of their staff. They will continue to conduct reviews and the next ones are scheduled for May and August.

BEAR-

BEAR began a trial period for their new inventory system in March. The new software was piloted to simplify the inventory process at the warehouse and to enhance accurate counts. New procedures were developed and April is the first “live” month.

The annual BEAR the Load luncheon is set for April 27th at the River Oaks Country Club. The theme is “Keys to making a Difference” and the guest author is Ron Hall who wrote “The same kind of Different as Me” and “What Difference Do it Make”. Luncheon tickets and sales have been very active with approximately 2/3 of the luncheon sold.

The PAL graduation is set for June 10th and will be held at the Houston Community College building on 610 loop and Fournace. BEAR program staff are gathering information on the over 100 students who are expected to attend.

Back to school uniforms and supply orders were completed in March.

Medical/Dental Clinic

Clinic members were busy this month attending various Committees and coalitions on which they participate including the HCPS Safety Committee, the Houston Area Immunization Coalition and the monthly meeting of community partners in the Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC). Additionally they presented four classes for 135 foster parents on the “Disposition and Handling” of Psychotropic Medications.

DFPS may request that the clinic provide TB testing for some of their conservatorship staff as a result of licensing standard changes. Currently the clinic provides TB testing for all new DFPS hires and the Foster and Adopt staff. Ms. Andrews suggested that they check with training to pull old records since most of the conservatorship staff should have been tested when they came on board with the agency. We will have to look at the numbers closely since testing these additional staff was not factored in the clinic budget for the year.

Four C's

On March 12th, Ms. Pore', Ms. McMillan and Ms. Ross attended trainings sponsored by the Infant Toddler Court team this month. The first training was on Family Interactions and was conducted by Norma Ginther. The training focused on ways to maintain the parent/child bond while the child is in the foster care system. Ms. Ginther gave several models on how enhanced visitation can be accomplished, such as training foster parents to monitor the visit and act as parent coaches or set up visitation centers where parents can interact with their children in a home-like setting where monitors and coaches are present.

On March 18th Dr. John Lyons conducted training for the Infant Toddler team on the CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) model. Dr. Lyons refers to his model as a communi-metric model that allows for assessing and communicating individuals, families and systems' strengths and needs at given points in time. It can help measure progress as well as identify needs and gaps in services.

Audrey Deckinga, Assistant Commissioner for Child Protective Services, attended the Houston Harris County Child Fatality review team on March 25th. She reiterated Mr. Dixon's request for assistants in identifying the increase in the child fatalities in Harris County that are related to child abuse and neglect. The State has begun their analysis of the data. The State did find that there were a couple of large sibling groups that died, one as a result of a fire and the other from a motor vehicle accident, that may be a contributing factor in the increase in the numbers. However, they are still looking for trends to explain the large rise in deaths.

Training Institute

DFPS Program Highlights:

- HC/DFPS will host its annual staff retreat on April 16, 2010. The meeting will be used for strategic planning in preparation of the New BSD Model roll-out, in-service training, and a dialogue between TI and selected representatives from the DFPS. This year's retreat will be held at The Lucy Ruth Retreat in Point Blank, Texas.
- It is official, a pilot a of the BSD model roll-out on May 10, 2010 in Region 7. The model will roll-out to all regions on September, 1, 2010.

BSD Class Schedule:

<i>BSD Class Schedule</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Anticipated class size</i>	<i>Board Representative</i>	<i>Graduation Date</i>
<i>138</i>	<i>January 25, 2010</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>Phil Kunetka</i>	<i>April 27, 2010</i>
<i>139</i>	<i>February 8, 2010</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Larry Litton</i>	<i>May 11, 2010</i>
<i>140</i>	<i>February 22, 2010</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>James Olsen</i>	<i>May24, 2010</i>
<i>141</i>	<i>March 22, 2010</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>June 22, 2010</i>
<i>142</i> <i>New Class</i>	<i>April 12, 2010</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>July 13, 2010</i>

HCPS/DFPS Program Highlights:

Harris County TI activities for March 2010

- The second planning meeting for the 2nd Annual Dianne Bynum Administrative Support Services Conference was held March 30, 2010. This year's conference will take a more wholelistic approach to addressing the needs of our support staff by providing several training showcases designed to address not only their knowledge and skill development needs, but issues of health and well being, career planning, budget /finance, and stress management . Our keynote speaker

for this event will be Donna Stephans, Director of CLOE, DFPS, who is also one of our sponsors.

- The fatherhood symposium held on March 5th at Depelchin Children's Center was an overwhelming success as evidenced by the participant feedback. There were more than 137 participants and 25 different public and private organizations and agencies from all over the state. TI was commended for introducing this all important topic to our community and for our outstanding selection of presenters.
- The first quarter, March-May, of the HCPS Training Institute Calendar listing the educational offerings is now posted on the HCPS website.
- The staff professional development strategic planning work group provided John Prior an overview and synopses of their work which involved reviewing and updating the professional development standards.

PITA

No representative this month

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45m.

The next meeting will be May 3, 2010 at 12:00 pm.

**HARRIS COUNTY
PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS
REPORT OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

COMMITTEE: Youth Services Committee
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MEETING DATE (S): April 5th , 2010

<p>MEETING ATTENDEES: BOARD MEMBERS</p> <p>Jade Johnson (youth) Phil Kunetka Aleyda Salazar (youth) Janet Stansbury Liliana Trejo (youth) Maria Villa (youth) Darryl Woods (youth)</p>	<p>MEETING ATTENDEES: HCPSCA/DFPS STAFF</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Robert Brewer</td> <td style="width: 50%;">James Castille</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deborah Colby</td> <td>Vanecia Gray</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Green</td> <td>Ginger Harper</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joel Levine</td> <td>Beverly Pettway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pam Schaffer</td> <td>Stanley Tarrant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pam Walker</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>CASE STAFF Avice Chambers</p> <p>GUEST Roberta Leal (Communities in School- Pasadena)</p>	Robert Brewer	James Castille	Deborah Colby	Vanecia Gray	Mary Green	Ginger Harper	Joel Levine	Beverly Pettway	Pam Schaffer	Stanley Tarrant	Pam Walker	
Robert Brewer	James Castille												
Deborah Colby	Vanecia Gray												
Mary Green	Ginger Harper												
Joel Levine	Beverly Pettway												
Pam Schaffer	Stanley Tarrant												
Pam Walker													

Youth on Board Report:

The youth present representing Pasadena 77506, United Minds- Gulfton and CYS Safety Net reported on their respective programs. The youth also showed a slide show of their recent events. Pam Schaffer invited all members to the Systems of Hope YAC Mental Wellness Summit on April 17th at the West End Multi-Service Center from 8:30 am – 2 pm. The event is a collaborative effort with the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services Healthy Adolescent Initiative. Also, the children’s mental health video that many YOB members participated in will debut at the Systems of Hope Mental Health Awareness Event on the evening of May 6th at the Children’s Museum. The Gulfton Community parade and festival to benefit the Houston Police Department

Storefront is scheduled for May 15th. United Minds collaborates with the planning committee and will have a float in the parade and a booth at the festival. CYS Safety Net members are serving on the collaborative planning committee and will be participating in the community wide 2010 REACH Summit on May 8th at the United Way Conference Center.

On March 26th, 13 YOYB members engaged in a discussion regarding Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness with Michael Owens, therapist with the TRIAD STAR Program. The youth have assembled and disseminated 1,168 of their 2,000 Blue Ribbon Project goal.

The YOYB members will meet with Mary Green to identify ways that they can assist the Fund Board in their fundraising efforts. The YOYB then plans to meet with Mr. Vic Samuels to present their ideas regarding fundraising activity.

CASE Partnership After-School Project:

Avice Crawford reported for the CASE Project. The Project currently has 1,622 students enrolled at 33 school sites. Case has posted the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 2010-2011 academic year. They will have a mandatory bidder's conference on April 28th. CASE held a successful After-School Fair on April 1st. The event attracted over 200 participants and 50 exhibitors. The CASE annual Ecobot challenge will be held at Reliant on April 17th. Groups compete for prizes by making robots out of legos and other accessories.

Unit Cost Methodology:

Beverly Pettway presented on the proposed methodology for unit cost calculation by program. The methodology shows a picture of unit cost over a fiscal year by taking into account the cost of staff providing a service and the cost per client served in a one year time period. The cost includes administrative and indirect expenses. The data is entered on a monthly basis. The methodology will be utilized by the programs in CYS and TRIAD that receive general fund support in Youth Services. The Kinder Emergency Shelter will utilize the cost report that is required by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). The methodology will be presented to the Administrative Committee for approval at their meeting later this month.

Program Updates and Status:

The Committee members did not have any questions regarding the program highlights that were sent prior to the meeting. The written highlights are below

Kinder Emergency Shelter Program Report

- During the month of March, the Kinder Emergency Shelter (KES) continued to support DFPS in its efforts to ensure that no foster youth had to spend a night in a caseworker's office due to the unavailability of a more suitable placement. As of

March 30, 2010, the Shelter had provided accommodations for an average of two youth per night. A total of two (2) youth over two (2) nights in March received overnight services which resulted in the Shelter exceeding its maximum occupancy.

- On April 6, 2009, the Kinder Emergency Shelter officially expanded its voluntary admissions policy to include non-adjudicated youth referred by the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (HCJPD). As of March 30, 2010, a total of 35 youth (duplicated count) have been referred to the Shelter; and 27 youth (duplicated count) have entered the program. (A duplicated count is listed as one youth was admitted to the Shelter on two separate occasions). To date: three youth have been declined admission to the Shelter due to issues involving psychotropic medication compliance and/or a significant history of physical and/or sexual violence; the parents of two youth declined to take advantage of the option to place their youth in the Shelter in lieu of continued incarceration of their youth at the Harris County Juvenile Detention facility; one caregiver failed to appear in court (resulting in the nullification of the Shelter placement option); one youth refused to enter the program during the admissions process; and the requested admission of one youth was withdrawn by HCJPD. Presently, of the 27 youth (duplicated count) who have ended their residence in the Shelter: 16 youth successfully completed their stay at the Shelter with no further court action; 1 youth was briefly remanded back to the Juvenile Detention Center before being re-admitted back into the Shelter; 5 youth were remanded back to the Juvenile Detention Center due to non-compliance with Shelter rules; 1 youth was remanded back to the Juvenile Detention Center due to his legal guardian failing to provide him with his prescribed psychotropic medication; 1 youth was remanded back to the Juvenile Detention Center due to the youth experiencing suicidal/homicidal ideations; 1 youth was remanded back to the Juvenile Detention Center due to a positive skin test result for past exposure to Tuberculosis; 1 youth was court-ordered to a drug rehabilitation facility; and 1 youth was placed on formal probation for one year.
- On March 24, 2010, the Youth Services Center Director attended the Women of Rotary Club of Houston's "Into the Garden" annual luncheon and fund-raiser. While there, Mr. Brewer gave a short speech on the purpose and operation of the Kinder Emergency Shelter, and thanked all of the members of the Women of Rotary for their very generous material and financial support of the Shelter for more than 20 years.
- Currently, the Shelter Administrative Team is working on completing the Shelter's Annual Self-Review, which will be presented to the agency's Quality Assurance Team in early April, 2010. Formal results and findings will be presented before this committee at a later date this year.

Community Youth Services Program Report

- All vacant positions have been filled in the school districts with temporary staff through Evins Personnel Consultants. The following staff was selected:
 - **Laura Hernandez** was selected as the new CYS worker in Spring ISD. Laura has a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology for state University of New York and a Master's of Science in Counseling from Mercy College. Laura's previous

experience includes an internship as a Bilingual School Counselor for the High School for Health careers and Sciences, and the Young Adult Barrows Center (alternative night school) Program at George Washington High School in New York, NY. Laura has also worked at Federation Employment and Guidance Services as a Service Coordination Specialist, and Unit Supervisor.

- **Charletta Thomas** was selected as the new CYS worker in Goosecreek CISD-Baytown. Charletta has a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Master's of Arts in Sociology. Her previous experience was in Jefferson County Corrections and Supervision in Beaumont, where she worked as a Community Supervision Officer. Charletta has also worked for the Texas Department of Health and Human Services as a CPS investigator and at Texas Mentor.
- **Latasha Oakry** was selected as the new CYS worker in Sheldon ISD. Latasha has a Bachelor's degree in Health Science and a Master's degree in Marriage Therapy from Prairie View A & M University. She previously worked at Varnett Charter School as a third grade teacher and for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as a Family based Safety Services caseworker.
- Kashmere School-Based Wraparound Program (SWAP) is a collaboration Hogg Foundation grant between CYS, TRIAD, and Systems of Hope that will provide a continuum of school based mental health services and supports for the elementary, middle and high schools in the Kashmere Garden area. Two CYS workers have been hired to provide services in this target area.
 - **Deanna Alcalá** was selected for one of the positions. Deanna attended the University of St. Thomas where she received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology. She earned her Master's degree from the University of Houston –Clear Lake in Counseling. She has 4 years experience with MHMRA as a Children's Rehabilitation Clinician and as an Eligibility Coordinator. She also is an LPC Intern working on her license.
 - **Kesha Montgomery** was selected in the second position with the Kashmere –SWAP. Kesha has her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Baylor University and has 4 years of combined experience with CPS and MHMRA. She served as a CPS Specialist II with Family Based Safety Services Unit and a Rehabilitation Clinician at MHMRA.
- The CYS Assessment Form and Plan of Service have been integrated into the EVOLV data system. On March 31, 2010, Claudia Gonzalez, Program Manager trained all CYS staff on the electronic forms in EVOLV. The integration of these two forms in EVOLV gets us a step closer to having a complete electronic case record.
- On March 5, 2010, CYS conducted our quarterly case record review and peer record review and the program report has been submitted to the PITA team. The report indicated that CYS surpassed the benchmark of .95 by scoring an overall .98.

- CYS submitted a proposal requesting funding in the amount of \$5,000.00, to the Houston Junior Woman's Club. Due to budget constraints, external funding was sought to offset the printing cost of the CYS Resource Directory. We received notification that CYS did not receive the award; however, we are very appreciative to Mrs. Barbara Hermes (former CPS Board member) for promoting and advocating on behalf of CYS to the Houston Junior Woman's Club. As a member of Houston Junior Woman's Club, Mrs. Hermes submitted a follow up letter requesting that the members reconsider the CYS request if additional charitable funds become available. We salute Mrs. Hermes for all of her efforts in this endeavor.
- Vanecia Gray, Safety Net Coordinator, conducted the first Life Skills group in a collaborative effort with the shelter residents who are exhibiting at risk behavior that could result in running away. Ms. Sandra Jones, DePelchin therapist for the Kinder Shelter and Ms. Gray will conduct weekly groups with the youth addressing various life skills components.
- On March 4, 2010, the Parent/Teen Survival Program initiated the first group series with the Sunnyside Initiative grant under the System of Hope collaborative. Five parents and 4 youth have actively participated in group for the past 3 weeks. The groups are conducted at the Sunnyside Multi-Service Center and will run through the end of the grant year, August 5, 2010.

TRIAD Prevention Program Report

- TRIAD STAR has received the resignation of Genie Farias-Cano, a bilingual STAR PLL Therapist. Genie has been a pioneer in the STAR program providing the evidence based program while meeting all of the STAR paperwork requirements. Genie has had the ability to form strong therapeutic relationships with clients and has provided great PLL service to the Spanish speaking community.
- STAR is in the process of developing a Decision – Making curriculum based group to be presented in Pasadena. This is in response to a JP Court request for services on the east side of the county for youth with class C misdemeanor charges. This again is a collaborative project working with the Pasadena CYD, Juvenile Probation Department and TRIAD JP Courts.
- STAR is in the process of preparing a response to the initial monitoring letter that was received from the DFPS site visit in February. There were 17 pages of findings, issues and recommendations in the letter. In the process of responding to all of the items, Harris County Protective Services disagrees with majority of the items and is collecting the required data to support the disagreements. It is anticipated that TRIAD STAR will need to develop 2 or 3 corrective action plans to meet requirements such as the timeliness of action plan completion and documentation on one of the required state forms. Once Harris County Protective Services response is submitted, a final letter will be generated outlining the areas of required corrective action.
- During Spring Break the GIFTS program utilized the Baby Think It Over program (BTIO) for the girls. This component of the GIFTS program is designed to help prevent

teen pregnancy and to demonstrate the difficulties financially and life altering changes of being a teen mother. At the end of the workshop, several girls are selected to take a baby home and care for it for at least 4 days. The baby is programmed to cry, ask for a feeding, ask for a diaper change or is just cry because it's just plain fussy like a real baby. The youth is instructed to go to their local store such as Wal-Mart or Target and price a list of items that are essential to the baby's first year of life. This will give them a view of how expensive it is to care for a child and even more so without an education. When the doll is brought back, we evaluate the how the student did with the doll.

- On the last weekend of March, the high school girls' traveled to Sam Houston State University to participate in Saturday at Sam. They were exposed to the college atmosphere as they got a tour the campus, different colleges and dorms. They also received information on scholarships and financial aid. This trip is sponsored in hopes of inspiring them to continue their college education. Thanks to the 4 C's for the use of their van to assist in this activity.
- The Boys to Men Shop Talk Mentor Workshop hosted 40 active juveniles during it's monthly on going program. This month the boys were asked to write on a piece of paper what their plans were for Spring Break 2010. Most wrote that they would enjoy time at home with their families but a few had no clue of what they were going to do. The group then focused on a variety of issues and topics to encourage those boys to create something positive for their spring break. It was a productive and supportive workshop.
- Triad Mental Health still has a .5 LPHA Therapist position open. It was briefly filled in February but became open again after the part-time Court Assessment worker position came open and the newly hired, .5 TMH Therapist transferred over to the Court Assessment position.
- The Hogg Kashmere SWAP Therapist Position was recently filled by Tricia Novotny. Tricia has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Texas A & M University and a master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Sam Houston State University. For the past 6 years she has been working at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a Mental Health Clinician. Tricia has her LPC and began work on March 1st. In her off hours she enjoys time with her family and two black Labrador retrievers.

PAL & HAY Center Report

- On March 11, Commission Alcantar (TWC), Regan Miller and Larry Temple (ED,TWC) visited the HAY Center to tour the center and learn more about our programming. The visit went very well and the HAY Center received very positive feedback from all three guests. Commissioner Alcantar took time to visit with each youth who were present during their visit and made each of them feel important and valued.
- On March 19th, DFPS concluded their audit and case reading for the PAL contract. The visit went well with only one or two minor requests made for follow up. In particular the readers were impressed with the level of organization shown to them in regards to the financial records.
- On March 26th, Lisa Curtis (contract manager TWC), Gena Hernandez (financial

manager TWC) and Richard Ocha made a site visit to the HAY Center. They toured the center, visited with staff and youth and attended the HAY Center Advocacy Group meeting. The visit went very well and they stated that they would recommend continue funding for the HAY Center. Also in attendance was Beverly Pettway who made a presentation to the committee in regards to the in-kind contribution the HAY Center receives from HCPS.

- On March 29th, myself and Richard Funderburk met with the incoming president of the Houston Bar Association, Mike Kelly and the Executive Director Ms. Sim in regards to the HBA including the HAY Center as one of their official projects. The HBA will be assisting the HAY Center in the following ways:
 - Assisting youth with criminal records by either working towards sealing the records or expunging them. There will be four law firms including Vinson and Elkins who will rotate on a pro-bono basis working with the youth.
 - Providing the staff with training
 - Organizing an inkind drive for the emergency supply room
 - Continue to hold the law clinic series
- In March 4 PAL staff attended PEAKS camp with 10 youth and everyone enjoyed it very much. Also progress is being made on the HAY strategic plan with the first sub-committee meeting held to address Advocacy Group policies and procedures.
- The PAL graduation event hosted by BEAR will be held June 10th at HCC from 6 to 9. Donors are needed to purchase gifts for the youth, help pay for the youth's guest to attend and donations of door prizes are also needed.

Systems of Hope Project Report

- Systems of Hope completed our first training on wrap around fidelity on March 25th and 26th. Dr. Rosalyn Bertram, Social Work Professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and member of the National Wraparound Advisory Board, was our trainer. This was a great start to improving our fidelity in the wrap around process.
- Systems of Hope have a scheduled Sustainability Retreat planned for the evening of May 7th and all day on May 8th. Our guest speakers for to kick off of this event is Ed Emmett, Harris County Judge and John Phillips, Judge for the 314th Juvenile Court (he also has the Mental Health Court where SOH has Care Teams placed). This event will get feedback from our partners and families on what the community feels is the most important aspect of SOH to sustain. Once this meeting is held the work will return to workgroups to work on the details.
- We currently have graduate students doing their field placements under the leadership of Pam Schaffer. This is an additional way that SOH gets assistance in getting the work done and also the students gets the opportunity to learn about SOH and the wraparound process. This is a great experience for SOH and the

student.

- Magno Guillen our Youth Engagement Specialist will begin work part time for SOH in April. He has decided to advance his education and will be going to school working toward his PhD. We consider ourselves fortunate to be able to keep his expertise in house with SOH and also work with him to advance his learning.
- Remember Children's Mental Health Day (including our Green Ribbon Video presentation) will be May 6th at the Children's Museum. All are invited.

Region 6 Training Institute Report

- March workshop totals: The HCPSCA Training Institute offered 3 CORE and continuing education classes.
- The next BSD graduation is scheduled for April 27, 2010 at the Murworth Annex. PSTI held 5 classes in March 2010.
- The next HCPS New Hire Orientation will be held on May 20, 2010 @ the Murworth Annex, Room D36.
- Upcoming Events for Training: The Admin Conference planning committee host met on February 4th and March 30th. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2010. The conference is scheduled for May 14, 2010 @ the Harris County Department of Education on Irvington

Department of Family and Protective Services Report

- The month of April has been set aside for the Prevention of Child abuse. There will be numerous events taking place to observe, bring about awareness and to show appreciation to those that have dedicated themselves to the prevention of such abuse. Please note that this month will be recognized by the wearing of a blue ribbon. Many staff members have also purchased blue DFPS shirts to wear and to help their communities to be aware of child abuse and to make the call to the Statewide Intake Hotline when necessary. "Child abuse is everybody's business"
- All DFPS programs such as Investigations, Conservatorship, I See You units and other staff member have joined together to assist our Family Base Safety Service (FBSS) units with vacant workloads. Each program agreed to assist by working vacant workloads for the next 6 months. This will insure the safety of our clients (children and families) that are in need of our assistance. This project will also reduce the stress for the existing FBSS caseworker and allow them more time to work with their families.
- On April 01, 2010 we will begin piloting our new child death unit. This unit will specialize in working cases where a child death has occurred in Region 6. This unit will be directly connected with the County attorney's office and law enforcement. The Program Administrator will be Cheryl Triplett and the Unit

Supervisor will be Rosie Crystal.

- The County Attorney's Office is now training all DFPS staff members in how to write a good affidavit .There will also be some ongoing training between the two on other subject matters.
- Now is the time to make suggestions for legislative issues that would include statutory changes. Please share any ideas, suggestions or recommendations for legislative changes at the Youth Services Committee meeting. I am sorry for the short turn around but I need to make my report to Scott Dixon Wednesday noon.

*The next Youth Services Committee Meeting will be held on **Monday, May 3rd, 2010 at 6 PM.***

CASE APRIL 2010 BOARD REPORT

DISTRICT	SITE NAME	STUDENTS
Aldine ISD	Goodman Elementary	97
4 Sites	Raymond Academy	73
	Reece Academy	41
	Stehlik Intermediate	67
	Total	278

Charter Schools	Alief Montessori Community	27
3 Sites	KIPP Shine Preparatory	64
	Zoe Learning Academy	68
	Total	159

Houston ISD	A.A. Milne Elementary	48
19 Sites	Atherton Elementary	25
	Bastian Elementary	17
	Briscoe Elementary	31
	Burnet Elementary	40
	DeZavala Elementary	51
	Emerson Elementary	23
	Hartsfield Elementary	44
	Herrera Elementary	79
	Jenard Gross Elementary	40
	Kate Bell Elementary	20
	Park Place Elementary	36
	Roosevelt Elementary	20
	Ross Elementary	60
	Scroggins Elementary	163
	Walnut Bend Elementary	23
	Wharton Elementary	70
	Whidby Elementary	39
	Young Elementary	63
	Total	892

Pasadena ISD	Frazier Elementary	38
7 Sites	Kruse Elementary	83
	Matthys Elementary	34
	Morales Elementary	34
	Pomeroy Elementary	24
	Richey Elementary	32
	South Houston Elementary	48
	Total	293

Student counts are for the month of February

Total Sites	33
Total Students	1,622

HARRIS COUNTY PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS
REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE: GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: April 7, 2010

ATTENDEES

BOARD: Marilyn DeMontrond

HCPS STAFF: Jan McLaughlin, Sharae Cole, Beverly Pettway

APPROVE MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 2010 meeting were approved as read.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE:

Ms. McLaughlin shared information with the board regarding Ms. Louvenia Posey's 110th birthday celebration. Ms. Posey is a ward of the Harris County Program. The celebration took place at the nursing home where she resides. Attendants were friends and residents of the nursing home, her case worker, staff of the Guardianship program and a board member. Ms. Posey was pleasantly surprised and enjoyed her birthday celebration.

Ms. McLaughlin reported that the Village Healthcare Center has voluntarily given up their Medicaid and Medicare certifications. They are also downsizing 50 residents. We are in the process of moving all of our 27 wards to other facilities. As of today all have been moved except 5 wards. We are diligently working on placing 3 wards out of the 5 into the community based alternative situations.

Ms. McLaughlin stated that she plans to make visits to nursing homes with low scores according to the quality report system for the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). The visits will be made to nursing homes housing 10 or greater wards scoring below 50.

STAFFING:

Ms. McLaughlin stated that the program had an All Staff meeting on Tuesday, April 6th, 2010. She stated the entire program received Policy and Procedure manuals. The purpose of the meeting and manual is to understand job functions, policies, procedures and standards.

Discussion topics at the All Staff meetings were:

- Budget/Hiring 2010 Fiscal Year presented by Jan McLaughlin
- Handbook (Policy & Procedure Manual) presented by Lanita Nickerson
- Vendor Meeting/Contract presented by Yaksha Shah
- COA (Council on Accreditation) presented by Lisa LeVrier

A copy of the policy and procedure manual was distributed to the board.

PROBATE COURT UPDATE:

None at this time

FINANCIAL REPORTING CONTENT/BUDGET STATUS UPDATE:

Ms. Pettway reported on the increase in the transactions on the debit card since the increase in staff. She concluded that the number of transactions and dollar amounts have increased significantly over the year.

A break down of the transactions for regular shopping is as follows:

- January 2009 64 transactions totaling \$9,000.00
- January 2010 97 transactions totaling \$14,000.00

A break down of the transaction for the Holiday shopping is as follows:

- 2008 199 transactions totaling \$51,000.00
- 2009 278 transactions totaling \$78,000.00

It is easily concluded that the increase in staff has resulted in more needs being met for the wards.

A discussion regarding budget costs, transactions and spending continued.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jan shared information regarding the Guardianship Certification Exam. She stated that testing will take place on April 14th, 2010 at 2525 Murworth. There will be a total of 22 staff testing.

Mr. Clifford Walker who is a Master Certified Guardian for the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) in Austin, Texas will proctor the test and offer training the day before the test. The training is open only to our staff and DADS staff and is not open to the public. We are very fortunate that DADS is willing to share this great resource with our staff.

The program is eager and appreciates the opportunity of having Mr. Walker return for the training.

ITEMS TO REPORT TO THE BOARD:

Ms. Louvenia Posey's 110th Birthday Celebration

The next meeting is scheduled for 12 pm May 5, 2010 - 2525 Murworth,
Conference Room 128