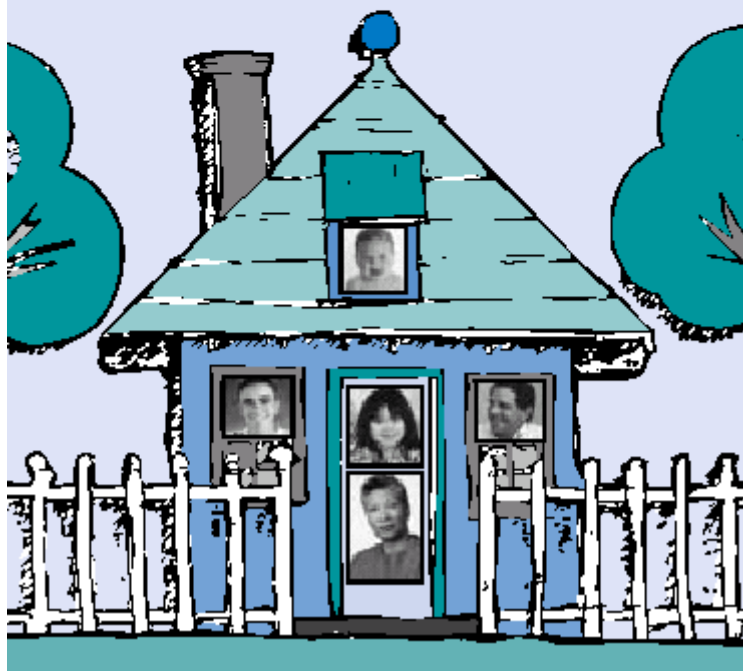


**Harris County
Protective Services for
Children and Adults
(HCPS)**



COMMITTEE REPORTS

June 2010

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

COMMITTEE: Children's Services Committee

MEETING DATE: June 7, 2010 12:00 pm
Room B65 Murworth

ATTENDEES

BOARD:

Ellie Sweeney

ATTENDEES

HCPS/DFPS STAFF:

Willie Nelson Kim Poré
Debra Andrews Janis Bane
Bella Alex

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:

State Programs

Bella Alex announced she will be retiring on July 2nd. Bella has worked for the State for 31 years and has been a part of the Children's Services Committee for 11 of those years. Bella will be taking a part-time job in the Social work department of Texas Children's Hospital. The Committee will miss Ms. Alex's participation and wishes her well in her new endeavors.

Ms. Alex's job was posted on June 4 and will only be open five days in the hope that the new person will be hired and ready to start July 5th.

This month there is a Statewide conference for Investigations and FBSS managers. The goal of the conference is to improve relationships and make things better for families.

The 2nd Rapid Response kick off is June 21, 2010 and will focus on cases that have been open 9-12 months. It is anticipated that they will review approximately 550 cases.

Finally Ms. Alex reported that she is working on getting the names of the employees that will be honored at this years Employee Appreciation event to be held on October 28th.

BEAR-

The PAL graduation is scheduled for June 10th and final preparations are underway. Over 100 youth have been sponsored with a great response from HCPS Board members. To date approximately \$10,000 has been raised to cover the cost of the party. The program includes Judge Ed Emmett, Clyde Drexler, and Jerome Gray. BEAR is expecting between 200 and 250 guests.

During the month of July will concentrate on the distribution of Back to School uniforms and supplies. El Paso Oil is doing a major drive for school supplies from June 21-July 9th and will have volunteers putting together packets of supplies from July 12th – July 15th. BEAR has also received a \$50,000 grant from the Medallion Foundation to cover the cost of uniforms.

BEAR is currently looking into why the usage of the BEAR rooms has been down since last Fall. They are visiting each room to make sure they are furnished with the necessary items. The preliminary statistics for May are showing an increase in the usage.

Medical/Dental Clinic

The Medical/Dental clinic attended a Vaccination meeting and learned they may possibly be dropping the age for the meningitis vaccine down to Middle School.

The clinic has still been performing drug screens for over 300 clients per month. We have already maximized the billing for our State contract and are now utilizing Family Protection fee money to buy the testing supplies. At the current rate the testing supplies will run out before the contract renews in September. We are exploring other possible funding sources to carry them one or two months so that we do not have to suspend services.

Four C's

This month 4Cs focused on preparing for the Council on Accreditation site visit which is occurring this week. This is the first time that the 4Cs program has been included as part of the review since we only perform assessments and not on-going services.

Support Staff Supervisor Mona Ellis and our Children's Scheduler Andrenette Ray presented at the 2nd Annual Dianne Bynum Administrative Conference. Their workshop was entitled "Check Your Swag" and focused on personal confidence, encouraging staff to work on their own growth and development. The workshop was extremely well received.

The Children's Team made the decision in April to focus on age two and above in order to meet the increasing demand for services and to not duplicate services with Early Childhood Intervention (ECI). This has resulted in an improvement in getting children seen prior to their Permanency or Family Group Conference.

Training Institute

HCPS/DFPS Program Highlights:

The 2nd Annual Administrative Conference was held on May 14, 2010. There were 186 participants and the response was overwhelmingly positive.

The second quarter, June-August, of the HCPS Training Institute Calendar was released on May 29 and are posted on the HCPS website. Our plan is to scale back Core Course offerings for new employees to only 1 time per year due to hiring freeze.

The Training Institute is planning on increasing the number of Diversity Training classes for Shelter staff to accommodate new COA requirements.

The HCPS orientation was held on May 20.

The Training Institute completed the required reports and data collection for the COA site visit.

PITA

No representative this month due to Council on Accreditation site visit occurring this week.

The Committee spent some time discussing the State/County relationship and some of the affects of SB 6. Ms. Sweeney suggested spending time looking at the positive and negative outcomes from SB6 in order to make recommendations for the next Legislative session. The Committee will focus on this in our August meeting.

Ms. Sweeney will poll the new Board Committee members for the best day and time to meet for future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

There will not be a meeting in July, the next meeting will be in August with tentative date of the first Tuesday at 3:30pm.

**Youth Services Committee
June, 2010**

The Youth Services Committee did not meet in June so that committee members may attend the PAL Graduation Event. Program highlights are below:

Program Highlights

Kinder Emergency Shelter Program Report

- During the month of May, 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 May 20, 2010, the Shelter had provided accommodations for an average of 1.5 youth per night. A total of nineteen (19) youth over thirteen (13) nights in May 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 May 20, 2010, a total of 38 youth (duplicated count) have been referred to the Shelter; and 30 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 29 youth (duplicated count) who have ended their residence in the Shelter: 17 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; 1 youth was voluntarily discharged by her parents in order for the youth to be admitted into a local psychiatric hospital; and 1 youth was placed on formal probation for one year.

- On April 28, 2010, the Kinder Emergency Shelter underwent an “Announced Other” Monitoring Inspection by one Residential Child Care Licensing (RCCL staff member). No deficiencies were noted.

Community Youth Services Program Report

- Budget building letters for the 2010-2011 school year were mailed to the school districts and other entities that contract with Harris County for the Community Youth Services Program Youth Service Specialists. The school districts contribute 50% of the Youth Service Specialists (YSS) salary, fringe benefits, local mileage, cellular phone stipends and telephone cost. As the cost changes each year, a budget-building letter is sent during the time when districts are developing their budgets. The estimated cost to the school districts is \$33,284.90 annually and \$2,773.74 monthly per YSS. Due to budget constraints, many districts utilize different funding sources which include school districts general funds (State Compensation dollars), Title I funds and/or other external funding sources. This arrangement has enabled the county to provide prevention and early intervention services to “at risk” children and adolescents and their families thus saving tax dollars.
- Three Houston ISD youth will be attending the “Ordered Steps” Summer Training Camp at the University of Houston Wellness Center. CYS is sponsoring two of the youth utilizing donated funds. The third youth is being sponsored by the CYS-Houston ISD District-wide staff and their supervisor through their efforts of personally pooling their money to pay the \$100.00 camp registration. The youth will learn stepping techniques that promotes overall wellness and intellectual development. Teaching this concept to youth will promote their level of commitment, self confidence, self discipline, and understanding the value of hard work. The goal is to share their experience with other youth in order to expand this program and promote positive youth development.
- The CYS Parent-Teen Survival Program (PTSP) is a collaborative partner with the Systems of Hope Sunnyside Initiative funded by a Criminal Justice Grant to provide conflict resolution and mediation training groups for adolescents and their parents. The goal of the 5-week series is to increase positive family communication and problem-solving for youth experiencing parent/child conflict, poor school behavior and truancy, runaway, substance abuse and committing minor offenses. The following staff have been recently hired as facilitators to conduct the weekly groups:
 - **Alicia Youngblood** is a Houston native who presently works at Houston Achievement Place as a case manager with 11 years experience in the field of Social Work. She has a Master’s Degree in Social Work from University of Houston graduating May 2010. Alicia completed her graduate internship with the PTSP and gained experience co-facilitating at several site locations as well as coordinating the completion of group post surveys calls.

- **David Anderson** completed his undergraduate and graduate studies from Prairie View A & M University. He has a Masters Degree in Counseling and Guidance and has over 20 years experience in the field. David presently works at Texas Southern University as Managing Director of Student Housing and was Director of Student Life for 6 years at Prairie View A & M University. He brings a wealth of group experience and will be a good male role model for the youth in the Sunnyside Area.
- **Ronae Pratt** received a Masters Degree in Counseling from Prairie View A & M University and is a native of Sugarland TX. Her work experience over the past 7 years has been as a Project Manager with Communities In School-Houston, a resource teacher at Thompson Elementary School and most recently as a Student Advisor with Houston Can Academy.

TRIAD Prevention Program Report

- TRIAD has submitted a grant proposal to the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Division in response to a Youth Resiliency Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP required submission of an evidence based program to provide juvenile justice diversion services to youth in the community. TRIAD submitted a proposal to provide Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL). TRIAD already has the PLL program operationalized so feel very comfortable in working toward an expansion of services.
- In addition, the PLL program received their annual report card from Dr. Scott Sells, the program developer and congratulations are in order for a move to the “Stable” stage of program development. This means that TRIAD PLL program has 80% or more of the identified benchmarks attained: low family drop out rates (under 20%) full time staff at the correct productivity level, low staff attrition, having the right person hired, fidelity to the model as noted in clinical supervision and having enough referrals. This is a great step for a program that is only two years old!
- The resignation of STAR therapist Genie Farias-Cano has left both the STAR and PLL programs with one less therapist. (Ms. Cano was a STAR therapist assigned to the PLL program) This STAR position will not be rehired. The increased cost for the program operation along with the inability to get reimbursement for dependant health coverage has forced the program to request indirect costs for the first time; this will not allow for funding of a full time position. A model position will be requested to provide part time services and assist in running groups. A plan and budget change has been submitted however approval has not yet been received.
- The Girls Inspiring for Future and Timeless Success has expanded their services to girls referred from Judge Ridgeway’s JP Court. There has been very good attendance and the

girls have participated in mock interviews and a mother's day tea party. The program is currently planning their summer meetings and expects to have several educational field trips to visit colleges and historic monuments in the area.

- TRIAD Community Youth Development (CYD) has had a very busy month. Both Pasadena and Gulfton held their annual community festivals with mixed success. It was raining during the Gulfton festival which limited participation, however Pasadena had a great turnout and provided program information to over 500 participants. The Pasadena Community Collaboration Committee also completed the proposal reading and scoring for next year. At the end of the month CYD staff hosted a training on the Culture of Poverty which was well received and attended by both county and sub contractor staff. Everyone reported learning a great deal about the topic.

PAL & HAY Center Report

- May has been both busy and exciting here at the HAY Center. We have been working diligently on program development for our most active summer quarter. We completed schedules for our *Lunch and Learn* series which begin in June. We anticipate that Lunch and Learns will again this year increase our monthly utilization and expose many of our younger youth to topics needed for successful transitions. We are also gearing up for our week-long *Mini-PAL* life skills trainings sessions which are conducted here at the Center as well as in many of the outlying counties. We have been working closely with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (Workforce Board) to identify foster youth in our region for their summer jobs program. We have identified and referred over 100 youth!
- The PAL Program has recently acquired new staff positions from DFPS. During the month of May, administration facilitated 4 training sessions for new and existing staff. The training was capped off by a town-hall style meeting conducted by Gaye Vopat, State PAL Lead from Austin. Staff had a very positive response to the training. Three staff and 2 youth attended the Texas Reach Conference in San Marcos. This conference provided a wealth of information regarding educational opportunities for foster and former foster youth. Finally, a group of former foster youth and staff attended the annual Texas Foster Care Alumni Picnic held on the capitol steps in Austin. This annual event was sponsored by Texas House and Senate members and, was an excellent advocacy forum for our youth.
- May also brought us much closer to obtaining a Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Self-Sufficiency Grant. We had a very productive meeting with Graham Moore, President of TD Industries, who is eager to work with us as the corporate partner. This is a tremendous opportunity to offer our youth a training program with real, meaningful employment as the outcome. TWC staff from state office will be coming to the center in June to meet with us, TDIndustries, and Houston Community College (training partner) to make this a reality.

- We are proud to announce we have identified 171 graduates for our upcoming graduation celebration. BEAR will sponsor this event again this year which will be held on June 10th at 6:00 pm at the Houston Community College S.W. Loop Campus.

Systems of Hope Project Report

- Systems of Hope hosted a Sustainability Retreat on May 7th and 8th, 2010. Participants included key stakeholders in the SAMHSA grant, community members, served families and SOH staff. We had about 50 attend both Friday night and Saturday.

The goal of the retreat was to have the participants look at which components they would like to see remain in the community and to be sustained at SOH. A list of seven components was presented to the group:

- Planning and decision making “structure” with all partners including families and youth
- Care Teams
- Family organization
- Systems of Care principles
- Youth group & youth empowerment
- Information and education to empower families to advocate for selves and others-family voice
- Administration and coordination functions/positions to keep all above coordinated

Each participant had an opportunity to “vote” for one component to narrow the list to five. Once the components were selected the group broke out into five teams to brainstorm and list actions that can be taken to sustain the components. Each group selected 3-5 actions and presented them to the whole group. One person was selected to be the goal champion. The assignments will go back to existing SOH work groups.

The components selected were:

1. Planning and decision making “structure” with all partners including families and youth. Goal Champion, George Ford
2. Systems of Care principles. Goal Champion, Pam Schaffer
3. Youth group & youth empowerment. Goal Champion, Stephen Williams
4. Information and education to empower families to advocate for selves and others-family voice. Goal Champion, Bonnie Cord
5. Care Teams/Care coordination. Goal Champion, Belinda Price

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Judge Michael Schneider of the 315th District court was our speakers. Both did an excellent job and praised SOH for the work already done in Harris County.

Region 6 Training Institute Report

- Region 6 Training Consortium Pilot: The Training Consortium second quarter calendar was released on June 1, 2010;
- May workshop totals: The HCPSCA Training Institute offered 3 CORE and continuing education classes.
- The BSD graduation was held on May 24, 2010 at the Murworth Annex. The next BSD Graduation is scheduled for June 22, 2010. PSTI held 5 classes in May 2010.
- The HCPS New Hire Orientation was held on May 20, 2010 @ the Murworth Annex, with 48 participants.
- The Admin Conference was held on May 14, 2010 @ the Harris County Department of Education on Irvington. There were 205 persons registered and 186 participants who attended.

Department of Family and Protective Services Report

- DFPS showed appreciation to their Foster Parents on the evening of May 28, 2010. The event took place at 2525 Murworth. The Key Note Speaker was Timothy Barlack, Associate Minister of Silver Lake Church.
- DFPS will be celebrating as well as congratulating workers that were selected for the Hall of Fame for this quarter. The event will be hosted on June 1, 2010 in our Murworth location. We are expecting state Office officials to be in attendance
- The federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 was signed into law on 10/7/2008. "Fostering Connections" will improve the lives of children and youth in foster care and increase the likelihood that they will be able to leave the foster care system to live permanently with relative caregivers or adoptive families. The law accomplishes this by extending and providing services for relatives, children in foster care, and adoptive families.
- Region 6 will be providing Fostering Connection training "On How It Affects Kinship Placements" to all DFPS staff, supervisors, and other community partners. Since Fostering Connections focus is on improving the lives of children and youth in foster care, it is import we all have a good understanding of how Fostering Connection affects Kinship placements. This training will be co-facilitated with a FAD representative, a CVS representative and a Kinship representative. The multidisciplinary approach will allow for questions to be appropriately answered and allow for collaboration between the programs. Our goal is to move the training around the Region to the different office locations so it is accessible to all staff and to our local community partners.

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

COMMITTEE: GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: June 2, 2010

ATTENDEES

BOARD: Marilyn DeMontrond, Charlene Hunter-James, Kim Szeto

HCPS STAFF: Jan McLaughlin, Sharae Cole, Brian Baxendale

APPROVE MINUTES:

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

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE:

Ms. McLaughlin shared a handout regarding the Guardianship Monthly Statistics for May 2010. The handout detailed a list of activities during the month such as the number of cases, case weights and staffing. The list consisted of a breakdown revealing:

- Number of Cases (per Units/Courts)
- Case Weights (per Units/Courts)
- Rep Payee Program Statistics
- Administrative Staffing
- Rep Payee Staffing
- Case Management Staffing
- Other Staffing

Ms. McLaughlin discussed the difference between the Representative Payee Program and the Guardianship Program. She stated that Representative Payee clients are generally referred to the Rep Payee program through Adult Protective Services (APS), Social Security Administrations, or other Social Service agencies. The committee continued to discuss the differences in the two programs in detail.

Ms. McLaughlin stated that the program will host the 1st Vendors Meeting with personal care home providers on Friday, June 25th, 2010 in Room D36. The ultimate purpose and goal for conducting this meeting is to review and discuss a revised contract that reflects a combined contract resulting in one agreement for all.

A discussion of licensed and unlicensed facilities followed.

PROBATE COURT UPDATE:

None at this time

FINANCIAL REPORTING CONTENT/BUDGET STATUS UPDATE:

Mr. Baxendale stated that all of the Guardianships budget line items even out, which appears to be a good outlook.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. McLaughlin informed the board members of (2) Listening Sessions regarding Elder Services and Elder Care.

1. The first session will be held: Thursday, June 10th 2010 from 1p to 3p
(Town Hall Meeting about Issues Effecting Older Americans.
2. The second session will be held: Monday, June 14th, 2010 from 10:00a to 11:30a
(A Listening Session: To solicit public input on older persons service needs)

Ms. McLaughlin announced that the National Committee for Prevention of Elder Abuse will be conducting a conference in Houston, Texas in October 2010.
More information will follow.

ITEMS TO REPORT TO THE BOARD:

- Guardianship Program Vendor Meeting
- Guardianship Program Monthly Statistic Report (May 2010)

The next meeting is scheduled for 12 pm August 4, 2010 - 2525 Murworth,
Conference Room 128