

Child Advocacy Center – Multidisciplinary Team Advisory Board

Nydia Monagas, Chair
John Esmerado, Vice-Chair

April 5, 2019
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 P.M.
DCF Professional Center
Room 104
30 Van Dyke Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Minutes

In Attendance:

Gladibel Medina
Nydia Monagas
Debbie Riveros
Javier Toro
Elahna Strom Weinflash

Dorothy B. Hersh Child Protection Center
NJ Children’s Alliance
Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office
Hudson County Prosecutor’s Office
Office of the Law Guardian

By Telephone

Christine Beyer
Julia Glass

NJ Department of Children and Families
NJ Office of the Attorney General

Staff:

Daniel Yale

NJ Department of Children and Families

Guests:

Joseph Pargola
Pete Boser
Nija McQueen
Victoria Rutigliano

NJ Department of Children and Families
New Jersey Children’s Alliance
Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office intern
Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office intern

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order and the Open Public Meetings notice was read.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Board voted to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2018 meeting with the following edits:

On page 4 – remove the sentence beginning “Ocean County has a significant ...”

On page 5 – remove “...but not as strong” at the end of the sentence beginning “They are using the Multisystemic Therapy model”.

III. New Business

Review and vote on completed Annual Compliance Reviews

Nydia spoke about the two Annual Compliance Review documents that she emailed to the Board members. Nydia informed the Board that she sent these two as examples so that the members could

Child Advocacy Center – Multidisciplinary Team Advisory Board

Nydia Monagas, Chair
John Esmerado, Vice-Chair

review the document and determine if they were in agreement with the elements. The information contained in the Compliance Reviews will be what the Board bases their decisions on in regards to eligibility for future RFPs. Nydia asked if there were any questions or comments. Elahna asked if each of the items had to be marked “yes” for the center to be accredited. Nydia stated that, generally for the accredited centers, they must all be “yes” because once they are accredited, they must meet NCA standards. At that point, it is really about enhancing and improving practices, expanding services and programs, etc. For the developing centers, they will have less items marked “yes”. Nydia introduced Pete Boser and informed the group that he has been completing the case review observations and interviews for the Compliance Reviews so she invited him to the meeting in the event that there were specific questions about the information being gathered, or how it is being gathered, he would be present to address them.

- **Bergen County**

Nydia asked if there was anything missing from the Compliance Review or if there was any other information that was necessary to make decisions around eligibility for future funding. Nydia informed the Board that if there were no questions or concerns about the Compliance, the Board could make decisions around approving Bergen County for the next grant cycle. Pete explained that almost all of the “no’s” are things that, because they are working towards accreditation, they are catching up on paperwork.

Commissioner Beyer asked how the CACs develop their Board of Directors, who is responsible for taking the lead on identifying Board Members, and whether there are particular disciplines that they look for to participate on the Board of Directors? Pete explained that the advisory boards differ because the majority of the CACs are prosecutor based. Essentially, on the advisory boards, the goal is to have members that are “one level up” – decision makers – above the MDT case review team so that they are able to address systemic problems and strategic issues. Some smaller CACs have difficulties in that aspect as there aren’t many levels above those that are already “hands on”.

Commissioner Beyer also asked if the board members are participants from partner agencies or whether there are individuals from local and county government or private industry. Pete stated that there are members of private industry and local and county government on the boards of non-profit organizations. Nydia stated that, for the most part, the prosecutor-based CACs are made up of partner agencies, but the non-profit CACs have a more traditional board of directors that are made up of community representatives as well as partner agencies.

Commissioner Beyer stated that she was considering how we can educate more individuals in the community as this is a community wide issue in which we should all have a role in treating and preventing. Nydia stated that several CACs that are prosecutor based are developing “friends of” arms that are serving that purpose. Not only are they doing fundraising but are also the ambassadors of the CACs in sending that message out to the community.

Nydia asked if there were any other issues or concerns and receiving none, asked for a motion to approve Bergen County for future funding in FY20. Elahna made a motion to approve and Dr. Medina seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve Bergen County.

- **Cape May County**

Nydia explained that Cape May is one of the furthest away from establishing a CAC because they do not yet have a facility. Nydia stated that they are just starting that process and getting community investment and involvement and are hoping to apply for FY20 funding to assist in the process. Elahna asked about the number of cases that a CAC is required to review per year. Nydia explained that 75%

Child Advocacy Center – Multidisciplinary Team Advisory Board

Nydia Monagas, Chair

John Esmerado, Vice-Chair

of eligible clients must be interviewed at the CAC. This number only applies to the number of children who had a forensic interview, not necessarily the number of children that were served by the CAC. Nydia stated that Cape May County has a much smaller number of cases than others as they are more rural. Nydia felt that once they develop a center and do community outreach, there will be increased reporting. Pete stated that there can be some guidance about the numbers of children served by the CACs.

Nydia asked if there were any other questions about Cape May. Nydia stated that Cape May did not apply for funding for the previous RFP but they are working hard to get community buy-in and will move forward regardless of funding. Debbie made a motion to approve Cape May County for future funding. Javier seconded the motion. The board voted to approve Cape May County.

Nydia stated that as the board had an opportunity to review the Compliance Review document and it met their needs, NJCA will send out the remainder of the Compliance Reviews through email so that members have an opportunity to review them prior to the next meeting. Pete stated that, to date, he has completed 13 or 14 case review meetings. All 21 counties are scheduled for meetings and all 21 counties will have Compliance Reviews completed by the next meeting in June.

Nydia discussed that the title of the document, “Annual Compliance Review” makes it sound as if they are making sure people are following a set of rules. Nydia asked the Board to consider renaming the document to “Annual Progress Review” or “Annual Review”, just taking out the “compliance” piece. The Board decided on “Annual Progress Review” as the title. Dr. Medina made a motion to change the title. Debbie Riveros seconded the motion. The Board voted to change the name of the document to “Annual Progress Review”.

2018 RFP Award discussion and feedback

Nydia asked if the Board had any additional feedback regarding the 2018 RFP or the RFP process. Nydia explained that the entire appropriation was awarded and all but 2 of the counties that applied received funding. The two counties that did not receive funding had follow-up meetings with DCF and felt that they received very positive feedback and understood where the weaknesses were in their applications. Commissioner Beyer stated that there were no problems or issues on the DCF side. Commissioner Beyer asked the Board to discuss what the priorities were for the funding in FY20 and whether the Board wants to put caps on funding amounts. Nydia stated that there are 3 counties left that need capital funding for developing centers. There was discussion about capping funding at \$750,000. Nydia informed the Board that the biggest issue with the previous RFP was that the grants did not allow a lot of funding for existing centers for new programs and services. This was an issue as several existing centers need to hire staff. These centers would like to expand programs and services as well as train medical people to have medical services on site. The initial recommendation was that funding could be used for anything that met the 10 standards. Nydia requested that the language be broadened so that anything that met the 10 standards would be allowable. Commissioner Beyer asked what kind of work or support will be needed from DCF to help those 3 counties. Nydia stated that NJCA has been working with those 3 counties. There will be a “Team Academy” in June in Atlantic, Cape May, Salem, and Cumberland counties. The “Team Academy” is a 2 day meeting which includes representatives from regional CACs that will assist in providing team building and team cohesion as well as preparation for accreditation. NJCA will provide support with applying for membership with the National Children’s Alliance and feedback regarding their grant applications. Nydia stated that they would also request that there is more time between the release of the RFP and when the RFP closes as the process for county-based centers can be lengthy.

Child Advocacy Center – Multidisciplinary Team Advisory Board

Nydia Monagas, Chair
John Esmerado, Vice-Chair

IV. Announcements

Debbie informed the Board that the Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center is coming up on their 10th Anniversary. They will be having a celebration on April 29th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Nydia stated that there will be open houses at most of the county-based CACs for Child Abuse Prevention month. There will be an open house in Middlesex County on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 and Deirdre's House will host an open house on April 15, 2019.

V. Adjourn

Next meeting Friday, June 7, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in New Brunswick.