

Child Welfare Team Meeting

July 27, 2011

The following attended the meeting: Judge Cynthia Raccuglia, Vicki Denny, Ed Kelly, CiCi Chalus, Elizabeth Rice, Cynthia Gonzalez, George Casford, Beverly Piccatto, Megan Spradling and William Pfalzgraf.

1. On a motion by Judge Raccuglia and second by Vicki Denny, the minutes of the June 1, 2011 meeting were approved.

2. Bill passed out information from Greg Hixon on the Streator Community Coalition. Since our last meeting, they have acquired a local phone number for the Coalition through the Salvation Army. The next step is to develop a referral document to gather information when calls are received. This is planned for September. The plan is to provide a strong prevention/early intervention network and form a plan of action on how to get this out to the Streator community.

3. At the request of Diane Farrell, Bill asked if the group felt there was value in having Kayla attend court. The feedback was very positive that she should continue if available.

4. Judge Raccuglia suggested that Bill contact Greg Hixon and schedule the next meeting for a day when he is available. We would like him to review the data he gave us a few months ago.

5. CiCi Chalus updated the group about CASA. They have several new casa’s who will need cases. Presently casa’s are appointed in cases where the children are at home. She asked that they be considered for foster care cases also. All adjudicated cases could be eligible.

6. George Casford reported that he will be part of a team doing “differential response” for cases reported to DCFS.

7. Beth Rice attended the National Parent’s Attorney conference in Washington, DC. She spoke about some of the sessions she attended and provided handouts. She also suggested Judge Patricia Martin from Cook County as a potential speaker at a future conference.

8. YSB has 50 new staff. They are now covering the Aurora, Elgin and Rockford areas.

9. The next meeting was scheduled for September 7, 2011 at noon. Members are encouraged to notify Court Services if they plan to attend. If the group seems too large for the jury room, it will be moved to the Sheriff’s Training Room.