

Child Welfare Team Meeting

September 7, 2011

Kevin Caufield from the News-Tribune was present before the meeting to meet the team members and ask questions about child abuse and neglect. He asked if there was anything that he could do to assist with our efforts. It was mentioned that there is always a need for foster homes. Kevin will contact Greg Hixon for more information to do a story.

The following attended the meeting: Judge Cynthia Raccuglia, Vicki Denny, CiCi Chalus, Elizabeth Rice, Beverly Piccatto, Gregory Hixon, Leila Siena, Joseph Burrows, Mark Jenkins, Susan Jensen, Stephanie DeMoss and William Pfalzgraf.

1. On a motion by Judge Raccuglia and second by Vicki Denny, the minutes of the July 27, 2011 meeting were approved.

2. Greg Hixon updated the group on the Streator Community Coalition. They have acquired a local phone number for the Coalition through the Salvation Army. Greg passed out copies of the flyer they have developed. Their next meeting is in October. Greg stated that the mayor of Streator has shown an interest and wants to be involved. They hope to have services set up before the end of this year.

3. Greg Hixon reviewed DCFS FY11 data for LaSalle County. This included the number of entries into care, permanency goals, wards assigned to DCFS or POS, wards by placement type, wards by age, gender and race, allegation status, source of reports, perpetrators and reported child victims. Greg asked if we would like to see information on wards and the length of time since the case was opened. After discussion, it was agreed that everyone knew and understood why some cases have been open a long time and that it wouldn’t be necessary to have that report.

4. CiCi Chalus introduced Joseph Burrows. He is the new Advocate Supervisor for CASA.

5. Judge Raccuglia returned to the subject of foster home recruitment that was mentioned to Kevin Caufield. Discussion followed that indicated that there was a need for a new local marketing effort. It was noted that at the present time, there are just two sources for foster homes because Catholic Charities is not accepting cases. Judge Raccuglia suggested that Greg Hixon chair a committee to lead this effort.

6. The next meeting was scheduled for **November 9, 2011** at noon. Please note this is a change from the date discussed at the meeting due to a conflict for Bill Pfalzgraf. Members are encouraged to notify Court Services if you plan to attend and please let us know if you will be eating lunch. If the group seems too large for the jury room, it will be moved to the Sheriff’s Training Room. Ideas or suggestions for lunch are encouraged.