

PRESS RELEASE

January 16, 2007

The Logan County Children's Services Board held its first meeting for 2007 on January 11th. There were two members of the public and two Agency staff (besides the Director) in attendance.

Rev. Ron Irick was unanimously re-elected President of the Board of Directors.

Jim Grove was unanimously re-elected Vice-President of the Board of Directors.

Karen Medaris was unanimously re-elected Secretary of the Board of Directors.

The guests indicated they wished to address the Board in regard to a specific child abuse case. The Board went into Executive Session to hear their concerns about a specific case. The guests were thanked for their input and encouraged to attend the entire meeting, which they did.

Director Holtkamp noted that in December,

- Investigations and Assessments were conducted involving 72 children.
- In-Home Services were being provided to 82 children at the end of the month.
- Out-of-Home Services (Foster/Adoption) were being provided to 11 children at the end of the month.
- The Neighborhood Outreach Centers served a total of 387 children in December. This is almost double a typical month's attendance due to Christmas.

The Chippewa Center had 200 children and adults come to their annual Christmas Party at the Moose Lodge. Everyone enjoyed sandwiches from Subway and decorating cookies until Santa arrived for pictures, Christmas Carols and gifts. Generous donations from the Moose Lodge, the Eagles, and Indian Lake Middle School made it all possible. Students from the Indian Lake Key Club and Youth Leadership Groups helped out with food, cookie decorating and served as Santa's helpers.

Family Activity Nights are now every third Wednesday of the month at Chippewa. Paula Shover from OSU Extension speaks about good nutrition and other subjects.

Ten Chippewa children were able to go on a field trip to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium to see "Wildlights" (over 2 million lights!).

The Western Neighborhood Center had almost 200 children and adults attend their annual Christmas Party at Metropolitan Housing. Everyone enjoyed snacks and Santa took a break from his busy schedule to stop in and hand out presents. Everyone got a Polaroid picture of themselves with Santa.

The Center's Angel Tree (with United Methodist Church) resulted in 76 children receiving Christmas gifts. An example of community members stepping up to make Christmas special for everyone.

A new program has begun at the Center. It will be held every Monday from 4:00 to 5:30 PM. The topics and speakers will be selected by the kids and their families (Internet safety, Drug Abuse, etc.).

The Board reviewed year-end finances for the Agency.

- Total expenditures were 5% lower than budgeted.
- Total Revenues were 5% higher than budgeted.
- The Agency finished the year with Revenues in excess of expenses.
- Director Holtkamp credited these positive results to the close attention given to maximizing revenue sources and exercising care with expenditures. He commended Melanie Engle and Audreau Coleman for their work with the Budget.

The Board approved policies for Independent Living and for Administrative meetings. The former addresses the need of youth in foster care for help navigating the transition to independence and adulthood. The latter policy spells out Managerial and Supervisory expectations.

Agency employees Shoan Nease and Jennifer Parnell presented on the Agency's Accreditation process and the Board's role. Board members were provided a *"Board Member's Survival Guide"* and a copy of a *"Governance Questionnaire."*

Director Holtkamp reported upon:

- Neighborhood Outreach Centers: Very positive reports from Community partners. Good media rapport. Plan to move ahead with purchase of WNOG property.
- Client Rights Handbook: Expect it to be used and remember that final step in Grievance procedure is three member panel: The Executive Director and two Board members.
- Court Case Flow Work Group to be combined with Permanency work group. Targets for Case Flow group met, Emphasis now upon resolving cases at the twilight of involvement.
- CASA Program: Meetings set up with Prosecutor's Office and with Judges to address issues.

- School Outreach Program: Collaborative program by Logan and Champaign County DJFS's and MHDAS Board to fund six school social workers in the elementary schools of the two counties.
- Renovations: Continue with private, confidential offices being developed for the Intake and In-Home Supervisors.
- Mandated Reporting: Concerns with Mary Rutan have been discussed and resolved.
- Help Me Grow: Currently administered by Family and Children First Council will most likely remain where it is.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be Thursday, February 8th, at 5:00 PM at the Agency's offices.

Questions may be directed to John Holtkamp, Agency Director at 599-7290.

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