

Child and Youth Services Committee Meeting

Douglas County, Nebraska

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

The meeting convened at 1:00 P.M. in Room 903 of the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is located on the wall near the entrance of the room. A notice of the meeting was published in the September 26, 2017, issue of *The Daily Record*. County Commissioner Chris Rodgers chaired the meeting. Others present at the meeting included Patrick Bloomingdale, Diane Carlson, Pam Murphy, and Catherine Hall, Administration; Brad Alexander and Mark LeFlore, Douglas County Youth Center; and Constance Mierendorf, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller's office.

A video recording of the meeting is available on the Douglas County Website:

<http://commissioners.douglascounty-ne.gov/board-meetings/videos>

Douglas County Youth Center

- Commissioner Rodgers noted that today is a day where there is a conflicting event. Members of the committee are attending the Through the Eyes of the Child 2017 Regional Conference, so there will be only one report from the Youth Center.
- Brad Alexander reported that there are 79 youth at the Center today with an average of 81 in September, down 10 from the previous month. The Home Program has 18 students and an average of 18.23 for September. The average length of stay is 28.25 days in September.
- The Youth Center staff are scheduled to make a presentation to the Board about the Dusk to Dawn Program on October 10. The program comes out of The Youth Violence Prevention Program at UNMC. Dr. Charity Evans, a trauma surgeon, presents a curriculum where at-risk youth go the emergency room and morgue where they actually hear from parents of a victim of a shooting and experience what families go through to save the life of a young person. Rondy Woodard, Deputy Detention Manager, attended one of the sessions and was very impressed with the program.
- Mr. Alexander said the staff is going to go through the Dusk to Dawn program on October 10. They are trying to make the program work for all of the youth at the Center as well as Home Program youth. Those in the Juvenile Penitentiary would not be able to participate, so the Center is looking at producing a video for those youth.

- The gang prevention program, You Turn, is set up. It is a 25-hour curriculum designed for 4th grade through high school youth. You Turn provides age appropriate activities that will help youth rethink some of the choices they have made. Pre-training for staff working in the program will occur on October 14.
- Mr. LeFlore said initially the program will be piloted. The strength of the program is having a gang curriculum to work with and partnering with UNMC. UNMC actually holds a class for the staff.
- The You Turn pilot will be given to gang-identified youth.
- Mr. Alexander said that the Children's Home Society would be introducing a program specifically for girls, Teen Chat Circle for Girls. The presenters will attend PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) training on October 14.
- Mr. Alexander said Joe Lorenz put together some numbers to work with to set the per diem rate for the Youth Center. The actual cost for 2015-16 was \$323.57. The County is being paid \$210.56.
- The forecast for 2017-18 is a cost of \$369.38. Mr. Alexander recommends the County propose a rate of \$323.57 per diem in its negotiations. Lancaster County's actual cost is \$400 based on their formula with Probation paying \$276 and Health and Human Services paying \$307. The rate is examined every couple of years.
- Commissioner Rodgers asked if the per diem could be increased by 2-3% each year.
- Mr. Alexander said this would have to be negotiated in the contract with Probation.
- Commissioner Rodgers said the County Board ultimately signs off on the numbers. Shakil Malik has been working on the contract.
- Commissioner Rodgers asked if the agreement with Dr. Pope had started.
- Mr. LeFlore said the contract is with the attorneys and they are waiting for signed copies, but they are ready to allow members of the CHI team to participate in MDT (Multi-disciplinary Team) meetings and then allow them to participate in discussions about MDT. Probation is the payee for the evaluation services; however, the Center allows them to bring in one or two of their fellows to observe the MDT so they can complete their evaluations sooner. The advantage to having fellows from Creighton participate at this point is getting them exposed to the Youth Center population.
- Getting evaluations done in a shorter amount of time is desirable since much of the delay in getting youth through the system is due, in part, to the length of time it takes to get an evaluation to the court. The Youth Center is asking for a 30-day turn around for evaluations in the contract.
- Mr. Alexander said Probation is responsible for evaluations. Creighton has a contract with Probation. The Youth Center agrees to participation in the MDT and provides space.
- Mr. LeFlore said the challenge of getting medications regulated by a psychiatrist is big. Some medications can be adjusted by a pediatrician at the Med Center, but the psychotropic drugs need to be adjusted by a psychiatrist.

- Commissioner Rodgers asked if the youth who are being evaluated could be identified by location--zip codes or districts--and race. He asked if Mr. Alexander and Mr. LeFlore had been interviewed for the Juvenile Justice space needs study.
- Mr. Alexander said he had been interviewed once.

The Meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.