PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2014
Sudley North Government Center – Jean McCoy Conference Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
George Orr
Hilda Barg
Margaret Covington
Hammad Khan
Mary Beth Michos
Kevin Raymond
Sandra Sale
Greg White

MEMBERS ABSENT:
None.

DEPARTMENT STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:
Janine Sewell
Kay Taylor
Charles Toothman
Phyllis Jennings-Holt
Levi Bass
Linda Meier

Chairman Orr opened the meeting at 6:35 PM.

MINUTES:
MOTION by Mrs. Barg and seconded by Mrs. Covington to approve the Minutes of July 1, 2014. After a brief discussion about a question Greg White asked about the Minutes, the motion to approve was passed by unanimous consent.

CITIZEN’S TIME:
Colin Davis, Executive Director, BARN Transitional Housing, Inc.
Ed Spall, BARN Chairman of the Board

Colin Davis came to speak on behalf of BARN and the HUD contract. Mr. Davis inquired about the June 3rd BOSS Minutes for they had not been posted when BARN came to the July 1 meeting. Mr. Davis received copies of emails between the State Housing Department and LoToya Blake and Levi Bass that seemed to indicate that decisions made may have been made without fully understanding what BARN does. Mr. Davis pleaded the case for BARN and said
that he has homeless families looking for help and has no way to help them.

Sandi Sale asked for a case presentation to understand how BARN handles homelessness. Mr. Davis explained that BARN assesses barriers, demographics; they take anyone-straight from a car to an emergency shelter. Mr. Davis provided an overview of BARN services.

Sandi asked about child care. DHC in Richmond administers rapid rehousing grant, but DSS earmarked $300,000 to DHC to help with child care. Greg White explained the child care money is designed to be a bridge to help families—it is temporary. Part of what he thinks gave us a lower score is that we did not give a coordinated response in our application for the Grant.

George Orr told the group that he had thoroughly reviewed the grant process and how it is distributed to recipients. George said that we received as much money as we could for the community. He has learned more about BARN and believes it to be a good organization. Hilda Barg and George want to get to know more about the CoC and find out how to do things better. George remarked that from every process we learn something and that the State made a statement that leads us (DSS) to believe that we have to support the decision.

Ed Spall said that he believed that the courtesy to be included in the Grant was not, in his opinion, extended. He thanked the Board for the opportunity.

**ACTION ITEM**
A-1 Staff Position Reclassification
Withdrawn from agenda.

**DISCUSSION TIME**
D-1 Winter Shelter Recap – Levi Bass
Last year we served 225 unduplicated clients. Due to the extreme weather conditions of last winter the Winter Shelter was open for extended time periods on 56 days during the season. The warrant checks were a success and there were only a few turn away days. Training for personnel for the next Winter Shelter will start October 1 and continue over 4 weekends.

Hilda Barg asked if Levi thought things were better. Levi believes that we had a better year because of the warrant checks which kept the criminal element away.

D-2 HBP/ACTS Quarterly Audit Update – Levi Bass
LoToya Blake and Levi went over to the Hilda Barg Shelter for their quarterly visit. Levi believes that things have improved. ACTS is getting the floors professionally cleaned. The personnel files are all up to standard and in compliance.
It is believed that there are some real training issues with the case management piece. There are 2 case managers and one supervisor. One was recently hired, one is relatively new and the supervisor is lacking some skill sets.

George Orr asked if ACTS has responded to the Cure Notice. Barbara DeChene returned the notice to the County but did not accept all of the items on the notice. There will be a with Dawn Gordon, Levi, and Barbara DeChene where they can review the Cure Notice and come to an agreement to move forward.

DIRECTOR'S TIME
DT-1 BOSS Schedule Fall 2014
Janine went over the meeting schedule for the rest of the year with the Board. Linda will send the schedule to BOSS.

DT-2 Foster Care Residential Placements
Janine informed the Board that she spoke with the CXO and explained that the County does not pay any money for the YFT unaccompanied alien children at all. YFT gets their money from the HHS. VDSS has no connection with them at all. Children are placed with a licensed facility like YFT. The average stay is 35 days. The goal is for kids to reunite with family or with a sponsor. The program receives funding for school and medical care.

DSS placed 4 children at YFT in FY14. One is currently there. We have 131 children at other facilities. We have 31 service agreements with other agencies like YFT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Phyllis Jennings-Holt: the Services Division is having the PWC Fatherhood Initiative Ice Cream Social on July 26th at Sudley North from 12-2. Mr. DJ Jordan has been working with the steering committee and will, hopefully, become a member.

Julie Blakely is the social worker of the quarter for the COG! She will receive her award on Monday in the Board Chambers.

Linda Meier—Next BOSS Meeting will be on September 2nd in the McCoart Building’s Powell’s Creek Conference Room.

BOARD MEMBERS TIME:
George Orr – has been reviewing the issue with BARN and has gone through in detail about how the grant process transpired. Each BOSS member should have received a copy of the letter he wrote to BARN. BARN staff are focused on the BARN and not on the real issues; which is the GRANT. The CoC seems unorganized and disjointed. Prince William is not looking well as a Continuum of Care Community so we have to work on that to make it much better.
Greg White - agrees with George’s assessment. There is a void in leadership at the CoC and we need to help them figure out how to solve this, move forward and work together as a community.

Hammad Khan – Concerned with the accusations made by BARN.

Kevin Raymond -- distributed information from the Neabsco District to the group.

Sandi Sale -- sent some information to Senator Deeds regarding the mental health initiative. Spoke to his office and they are going to have a first subcommittee hearing, with a small amount of time for the public to speak on Monday, in Senate Room B of the General Assembly Building on improving mental health services in Virginia.

Margaret Covington --first time in all her years on the BOSS that an issue with BARN has come up.

Hilda Barg --thinks that this has been a learning process. The partners need to all be singing on the same page when they are applying for that grant. DSS followed the rules.

**ADJOURNMENT:**
**MOTION** by Hammad Khan and seconded by Greg White to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

George H. Orr, Chairman
Prince William County
Board of Social Services

Janine M. Sewell, Director
Prince William County
Department of Social Services