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State Superintendent of Schools

HB 1607-Juvenile Services Education
County Pilot Program-Workgroup Meeting
February 25, 2019

Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center
9925 Blackwell Road
Rockville, MD 20850

Regional Institute for Children & Adolescents (R.I.C.A.)
15000 Broschart Road
Rockville, MD 20850

Meeting Minutes

Work Group Members in Attendance: Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Ms. Shebra Evans, Mr. Gavin Patashnick, Ms. Kimberly Pogue, Ms. Chrisandra Richardson, Ms. Melanie Shapiro, Ms. Julie Stevens, Ms. Amanda White

MSDE Staff in Attendance: Ms. Deborah Grinnage-Pulley, Mr. Shane J. McCormick, Mr. Elliott Schoen

Members of the Public in Attendance: Mr. Nick Moroney, Ms. Antonia Reason, Ms. Grace Reusing

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center.

Overview of Noyes Center

- Ms. Antonia Reason, Noyes Superintendent and Ms. Kimberly Pogue, Noyes Principal, provided an overview of the Noyes Center.
- Highlights of the Noyes Center:
 - The Noyes Center is a co-educational facility and has a capacity of 57 residents. At the time of the meeting, it had 31 residents.
 - Ninety percent of residents at the Noyes Center are from Montgomery County.
 - Visitation days are held on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
 - The Noyes Center offers three different life-skill programs.
 - Presently, nine of the thirty-one residents have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
 - The Noyes Center operates on a 24-hour schedule. Saturdays include visitation hours, life skill development, and outside groups and speakers.
 - Ms. White asked whether students return to the Noyes Center after departing. Ms. Reason clarified that students do return; however, the rate of return is not presently known.
 - A question was asked about the use of seclusion as a discipline method. Ms. Reason stated that the Noyes Center does not use seclusion as a discipline method unless absolutely necessary, and that it is her preference to avoid using seclusion at all.

- The Noyes Center contracts with providers to assist students with IEP's in instances where Noyes staff are not able to fully do so.
- Ms. Pogue stated that she reviews every IEP that comes through the Noyes Center.
- A question was asked about the total number of students that come through during the course of the year. Ms. Pogue clarified that information is not presently known.

Tour of Noyes Center

- Workgroup members began a tour of the Noyes Center began at 9:20 a.m. Highlights of the tour included:
 - Ms. Pogue shared that there were four residential units at the Noyes Center;
 - The workgroup members observed one of the live-in facility units;
 - The workgroup members viewed the gymnasium/recreational hall, and two recreational trailers;
 - Recreational trailers included classrooms; one of the trailers included a computer lab and staff offices;
 - Ms. Pogue shared that all classrooms at the Noyes Center feature smart boards.

The workgroup members concluded the tour of the Noyes Center at 9:45 a.m. The members traveled to the Regional Institute for Children & Adolescents (R.I.C.A.) between 9:45 a.m. to 10:05 a.m.

Overview of R.I.C.A.

The workgroup reconvened at R.I.C.A. at 10:10 a.m.

- Mr. Joshua Munsey, Principal of R.I.C.A., welcomed the workgroup members and introduced other R.I.C.A. staff and those from the Maryland Department of Health.
- Mr. Munsey facilitated a presentation about R.I.C.A. to the workgroup members. Highlights of the presentation included:
 - R.I.C.A. is a partnership between the Maryland Department of Health and Montgomery County Public Schools.
 - R.I.C.A. is a special education school for elementary (Grades 4 and 5), middle, and high school students.
 - Mr. Munsey highlighted some of the types of behavior exhibited among students that are served at R.I.C.A.
 - Mr. Munsey highlighted some of the resources offered to students at R.I.C.A., including: family therapy, group therapy, medication management, and CPI/PMAB.
 - Mr. Munsey highlighted the eligibility requirements to attend R.I.C.A.:
 - Students must have a long-term and severe diagnosed mental disorder.
 - Applicants have treatment needs that cannot be met through available community-based programs.
 - For residential students, treatment can reasonably be expected to improve the applicant's condition or prevent further regression so that the applicant may return to the community.
 - The applicant must be under age 18 at the time of admission to participate in the residential treatment program.
 - The workgroup members inquired and discussed the approved use of seclusion and restraint approaches at R.I.C.A. Mr. Munsey clarified the R.I.C.A. school and the Department of Health policies on the use of seclusion and restraint.
 - Ms. Shapiro asked a series of follow-up questions regarding seclusion policies at R.I.C.A.

- Is data kept on how long student is kept in seclusion;
- How often is seclusion utilized;
- How long can a student be kept in seclusion?
- Mr. Munsey stated that data is available to answer Ms. Shapiro's questions. Mr. Munsey shared that Ms. Cheryl McAlister has access to the data. It was noted that there will need to be a determination regarding sharing of student data that complies with applicable policies/data sharing regulations
- Mr. Munsey shared data from the 2017-2018 school year. Highlights included:
 - 15 students graduated from R.I.C.A.;
 - 19 Advanced Placement (AP) tests were taken;
 - 23 students received acceptance into four-year colleges and universities.
- Dr. Lawson asked if data is kept on outcomes of graduates that enroll in post-secondary education. Mr. Munsey stated that data is not presently kept, but data collection will be a priority moving forward.
- Mr. Munsey shared an informational video about R.I.C.A. with the workgroup members.

Tour of R.I.C.A.

- Workgroup members began tour of R.I.C.A. at 10:42 a.m. Highlights of the tour included:
 - Members were shown one of the comfort rooms that is available to students;
 - Workgroup members viewed the cafeteria;
 - Workgroup members viewed the R.I.C.A. gymnasium;
 - Workgroup members viewed one of the residential cottages.

Workgroup Meeting

The formal meeting of the workgroup convened at 11:17 a.m.

- Dr. Lawson acknowledged and thanked Ms. Pogue & Ms. Richardson for setting up the visits to the Noyes Center and R.I.C.A.
- Dr. Lawson welcomed the newest member of the workgroup, Ms. Shebra Evans, President of the Montgomery County Board of Education, and asked the workgroup members to introduce themselves.
- Dr. Lawson distributed the recommendations of the workgroup and the established subcommittees.
- Dr. Lawson shared that MSDE staff have met with Delegate Eric Luedtke to request an extension on the deadline for the workgroup to submit its recommendations. The workgroup voted to approve requesting a deadline during its January 28, 2019, meeting.
- The following materials were distributed to the members:
 - Meeting Agenda;
 - Minutes from the January meeting;
 - Subcommittee sign-up sheets

A motion to approve the January meeting minutes as presented was made by Amanda White. The motion carried.

Separation into Subcommittees

Workgroup members separated into subcommittees at 11:25 a.m. The full meeting would reconvene at 11:30 a.m.

Reconvening & Adjournment

Full meeting was reconvened at 11:33 a.m.

- Dr. Lawson expressed her thanks to the members for their attendance.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gavin Patashnick. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.