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October 12, 2021

MINUTES

CAYUGA CENTERS

Ms. Jasmine Lawrence, Media & Community Specialist said that my position was created as a way to create transparency around our work and to develop relationships with the community. Our mission is to help children, families and individuals to grow as independent, healthy and productive citizens through counseling, out-of-home care and support services. We do this in partnership with those we serve, government agencies as well as other service providers. We were founded in 1852 so, overtime we have grown to be a national agency. But I'm based obviously in the New York City Office and I'm going to spend most of the time of this presentation solely talking about our New York City Programs.

Just to give you a snapshot of who we serve, we serve foster youth primarily in New York City and immigrant children and in our other offices Intellectual/Developmental Disability (IDD) populations and local communities. So, this number I quote from our Annual Report that we were able to serve 7, 158 people in 2020. We are currently working on our Annual Report for 2021 and once that's released, I'll also share that as well, this is a snapshot of where we have offices.

So primarily for New York City we have our Treatment Family Foster Care, our Family Foster Care and Transitional Foster Care for our UC Program and Long-Term Foster Care as well. So, for our Foster Care Programs in New York City we have two larger programs and then some programs within so, one of our contracts is with ACS and that is where we provide family foster care, which is evidence based foster care, where we provide a safe home with foster parents and they're assigned a Case Manager to handle their permanency plan. One of the programs that I'm very proud to share is our Fair Futures Program it's essentially a program for our older youth that are getting closer to college age to offer them additional support as they get closer to easing out of the system. That is college prep, that is life skills so, we are one of the participants of that here in New York. The other program we offer is Treatment Family Foster Care it is essentially family foster care. This is a program geared to children who have specialized needs or require additional behavioral support. So, they get in addition to being

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assigned a Foster Parent, Case Management, additional medical care, counseling and educational services. All the cases that we receive are from ACS so, they are deemed at-risk in their homes and then assigned to us for to provide a permanency plan for them. This is a snapshot of what that staff kind of looks like and what they're responsibilities are, I included this slide to kind of let you know the support system that is there in place in that particular program.

Also, important in the sense that we have a number of job openings almost 20 in New York City and 200 hundred in total. Also, this was something that I to share with you the number of job openings, in our Clinical Services Department and in our Therapy Programs.

So, with ACS for our Family Foster Care Program the goal is really permanency. So, I wanted to stress that the goal for a program like this is to ultimately transition this particular youth to a safe and nurturing discharge resource whether that is returning them to their biological parents, guardian or adoption but that is our primary purpose here to create a permanency plan so that ultimately this youth is out of the public system.

I am know moving to our second program which is our Unaccompanied Migrant Children, so that's our UC Program. So, we have three programs under that which is our Transitional Foster Care, Long-Term Foster Care and our Home Study Post Release Services. So, the population for this who are unaccompanied children the Federal Government defines unaccompanied children as minors under the age of 18 who do not yet have lawful migration status nor do not have an immediate identified guardian available in the United States to provide care. The goal of that particular program is unification in a sense so, our Case Manager's and the staff within those programs are responding directly to Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) which is the agency that the Federal Government has to handle this population. So, Cayuga Centers works with ORR to make prompt and continuous efforts towards family unification, so that means finding a guardian where this youth can stay with as they're working towards their migration or immigration status. Part of our process is also to find and do research into our sponsor that is looking for this UC youth and, it's a rigorous process to make sure that they're going to be placed in a safe home during this time. So, this is an additional snapshot of our Transitional Foster Care, being transitional because it's short-termed.

I wanted to give a timeline of what the process is for a UC minor that's in our care so, the first step is that they're arriving at the border they're then detained by Homeland Security, then transferred to ORR and that is where ORR has a network of providers in which Cayuga Centers is one of them where they then decide okay this youth is going to be placed, in this particular facility, prior to this process Cayuga Centers is not involved until the youth is assigned to our facilities. They then arrive at Cayuga Centers where we work to find their families or a sponsor

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whom they can be united with while they wait for their case to be processed and we aim to do this in the most expeditious way possible. We can accept UC children from all around the world. Ms. Jasmine Lawrence 347-434-7422, jasmine.lawrence@cayugacenters.org.

Questions and Answers

MEETING ADJOURNED